



**St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community**  
A Ministry of the Paulist Fathers

Dear Parents and Godparents,

Congratulations on your decision to have your child baptized here at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community! For some of you, this might be your first child/godchild, and for others, this might not be a foreign experience to you. Regardless, we are very happy for you as you begin this wonderful journey. And please know that we are here to support you.

As Catholics, we believe the baptism is the sacrament that incorporates a child into the community of believers. And it is through this sacrament that we are joined as one family – the family of God. In time, your child/godchild will take more steps to become a fully initiated member of the Catholic community through first communion and confirmation.

Because you are making a commitment on the part of the child to raise him/her as a Catholic, living out the Christian faith, one of the requirements of the church for a child to be baptized is for the parents and sometimes godparents, to undergo a preparation process.

Here at St. Paul's, this preparation is normally done with the priest or deacon who will be the celebrant of the baptism. After you have indicated the date of baptism you are interested, you will be placed in touch with the clergy for the date to coordinate a time to meet. It is our desire that these meetings take place with other parents who are also bring their child for baptism on the same day. In this meeting, you will have some discussion on the role of Christian parents, the role of faith in the family, and being part of the bigger community of disciples. You will also learn about the Catholic rituals for baptism so you would be prepared for the big day.

We do also ask that your godparents to go the same preparation process. We understand that sometimes godparents are coming in from out of town and may take the baptism class at another parish. We simply ask that a copy of the certificate of completion be forwarded to us.

One of the common question surrounding baptism is the cost. Baptism is a sacrament of the church, and as such is freely offered just as the salvation of Christ was freely offered to us. However, if you would like to make a donation, a suggested amount of \$100 is recommended. We also recommend a \$50 donation if you are seeking to go through the preparation process as godparents or to be baptized at another Catholic parish.

Again, congratulations and we look forward to your child/godchild becoming a member of the church and a member of the Body of Christ.

Sincerely,

Fr. Daniel McCotter, CSP  
Pastor

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*Wherever you are on your faith journey you are welcome here*

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