

## St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

### ***Requirements for Baptism of Infants:***

- **Active Parish Membership:** The family must be registered in the parish a minimum of 3 months prior to the proposed baptism date.
- **One Parent Must Be Catholic:** At least one of the parents of the child to be baptized must be practicing the Catholic faith as evidenced by attendance at Mass each Sunday.
- **Setting the Date:** The date of the baptism must be approved by the pastor. Baptisms are normally scheduled by appointment for English-speaking families, and on the last Sunday of the month for Spanish-speaking families. Exceptions may occur when other parish and/or diocesan activities are in conflict with the usual time.
- **Baptismal Preparation:** Both parents must attend the required Baptismal Preparation. Spanish-language baptismal preparation classes are usually held in the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, and English-speaking preparation is done by appointment. Parents may complete their preparation at another parish, but it must have been within 12 months, and the following requirements must be met:
  - a) A written letter of verification is needed from the church/parish at which the preparation was completed.
  - b) Exceptions are made for those parishioners who have had their other children previously baptized at the parish.
  - c) Other exceptions based on special circumstances must be approved by the pastor.
- **Emergency Rescheduling:** If the family has an emergency that requires them to reschedule the baptism, they must do so via the parish secretary, who will coordinate with the pastor.
- **Paperwork:** All paperwork (baptismal information forms, required letters of verification, etc.) must be turned into the parish office by the Wednesday prior to the baptism date.

### ***Godparents:***

- **At Least One Must Be Catholic:** At least one of them must be a practicing Catholic.
- **Marriage:** Godparents do not need to be married to one another, and they actually do not have to be married at all. Single people are welcome as godparents. However, any Catholic godparent who *is* married must be married "in the Catholic Church."
- **Gender:** The two godparents may not be of the same sex/gender.
- **Baptismal Preparation:** Godparents must receive Baptismal Preparation. They are excused if they have received it within the past 6 months. In the event they received preparation at another parish, they must have a written letter of verification from the parish where they received the preparation.
- **Proxy:** A proxy (substitute; stand-in) for the actual ceremony is allowed, though the official baptismal certificate will note the name of the godparent(s) and not of the proxy. Space on the certificate allows for the names of only two persons.
- **Mass Attendance:** Attendance at mass on the date of the baptism is required. Exceptions are made in regard to baptismal dates that do not fall on a Sunday and require the approval of the pastor.

### ***On the Day of the Baptism:***

- **Reverence:** Out of respect for the Most Blessed Sacrament, please remember (and remind children) that we maintain a spirit of quiet and reverence during all liturgies, masses, and sacramental celebrations, including during baptisms. Small children are not allowed to run freely. Also, they are not allowed to eat in church.
- **Promptness:** Parents/godparents must arrive at the church no later than 15-minutes prior to the baptism. Failure to do so may result in the loss of any reserved seating and/or inclusion in the sacrament.
- **Cameras:** Cameras (video and still-photo) are not allowed in the sanctuary or in the main aisles during mass, though greater flexibility may be allowed when the sacrament is celebrated outside mass.