

The Sacrament of Baptism

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s),

Congratulations on your child's upcoming baptism! Baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime event. It is a time of birth, the moment of new life, a beginning of a destiny that can only be fulfilled in eternity. The day of your child's baptism is a day of hope, a day of promise, and a day of joy. It is a day of joy, not only for you and your family, but for the entire Christian community. Through Baptism your child begins to share the life of Christ with all other Christians.

We at Our Lady of Fatima/St. Paul's RC Church are here to assist you to prepare for this first sacrament. In this brochure, you will find the answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the sacrament of Baptism here at Our Lady of Fatima/St. Paul's RC Church. If at any time you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call or email us for assistance. We look forward to assisting you and supporting you as you fulfill your sacred duty to keep the light of Christ burning brightly in your child's life.

With prayers and best wishes,
The Priests and Staff at
Our Lady of Fatima/St. Paul's RC Church
Rev. Msgr. George Brubaker, JV, Pastor

According to Church law:

Godparents must meet all the following guidelines. Please check them carefully before considering your child's godparent(s):

You may select one or two godparent(s). If two are selected, one must be male and one must be female.

- ⤴ Godparent(s) must be baptized Catholics in good standing and be registered parishioners in a Catholic parish. They must provide to the office a sponsor certificate from the parish they are registered in. This document must be received before any confirmation of the baptism is made.
- ⤴ Godparent(s) must be at least 16 years of age.
- ⤴ Godparent(s) must have received both the sacrament of First Eucharist and the sacrament of Confirmation.
- ⤴ Catholics who have attempted marriage in a civil or non-Catholic ceremony are not eligible to be godparents. They should correct their standing with the Church as soon as possible, thus making themselves eligible for this honor at another time.

Please remember that the godparent(s) should be practicing Catholics in good standing in their registered parish. Godparents must provide a sponsor certificate from their parish. The godparents can have their parish send the certificate directly to Our Lady of Fatima/St Paul's RC Church. Parents should make certain that the person being considered to be a godparent meets the above conditions before asking them. The role of the godparent presumes a significant influence in the future life of the child. It is fitting that this person may eventually be chosen for the Confirmation Sponsor.

A baptized non-Catholic may stand as a witness with a Catholic godparent.

A parent cannot be the godparents for his or her child.

CHECKLIST FOR PARENT(S) /LEGAL GUARDIAN(S)

- ⤴ Email the parish office at stpaulsdecity@verizon.net for instructions on the baptismal preparation class.
- ⤴ Prayerfully select godparent(s).
- ⤴ Supply your intended godparent(s) with the checklist for the information they must supply before the Baptism.
- ⤴ Have godparent(s) provide Our Lady of Fatima/St Pau's RC Church with a "Sponsor Certificate" from their home parish. This certificate must arrive prior to the actual Baptism.
- ⤴ Email your completed Baptismal Certificates to the respective parish office
- ⤴ Call or email the respective parish office to schedule baptism.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is there a baptismal preparation class, can't we just show up and have our child baptized?

Baptism is a major event and thus careful preparation is needed. Baptism places serious responsibilities and demands upon parents and godparents. You have a right to know about these responsibilities and the baptismal preparation program will provide you with the answers.

When and where is the baptismal program?

There is an online Baptism PREP class required for parents and godparents if you have not taken a class within the last two years. Click on the link below:

<https://ascensionpress.com/products/belonging-baptism-in-the-family-of-god-certification-course>
The cost for the class is \$9.95. Once everyone has taken the class, forward your certificates to stpauldecity@verizon.net

What can we expect to learn from the baptismal preparation program?

Parents and godparents will be given practical guidance in introducing their small children into our Catholic faith as well as discussing the lifelong commitments of Christian parenting. You will also learn about the elements of Baptism, as well as the ritual, signs and symbols of the sacrament.

Do both parents have to attend the program?

No, only one parent must attend, but it is highly encouraged that both do.

Do the godparents have to attend the program?

No, but they are invited and encouraged to participate throughout the entire process.

Can other family members or friends attend?

Yes. The entire family and significant friends of your family are welcomed to attend and participate.

What are the requirements to be a godparent?

See the **GODPARENT CHECKLIST** below for details. All requirements must be fulfilled.

What do we need to do after we participate in the preparation class?

Simply call or email the respective parish office to schedule your child's baptism. It can be scheduled at Our Lady of Fatima or at St Paul's RC Church. Please make sure that the chosen godparents meet all the requirements before choosing them.

When is the sacrament of Baptism celebrated?

At Our Lady of Fatima, Baptisms are celebrated on the second Sundays of the month at 1PM in Church. At St Paul's RC Church, they can be celebrated at any time a Presider is available.

How must does a baptism cost these days? The church does not charge for sacraments, so there is no fee. Expenses for baptismal candles, garments, etc. Are covered by the parish so your weekly support of the collection is crucial and greatly appreciated.

GODPARENT CHECKLIST

Congratulations on being chosen as a godparent. The utmost consideration has been given to you on being chosen and your ability to model the Catholic faith for this child.

As a godparent you must supply Our Lady of Fatima/St Paul RC Church with a letter of eligibility from your parish. Please call or email your registered parish and request this form.

For your convenience, the following checklist should help you obtain such a letter. If you do not meet all of the requirements, you must inform the parents of the following:

- ⤴ Must be a baptized Catholic in good standing and be a registered parishioner in a catholic church.
- ⤴ Must be at least 16 years of age.
- ⤴ Must have received both the sacrament of First Eucharist and the sacrament of Confirmation.