

# ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH CLIFTON, NJ



## The Sacrament of Baptism

---

*Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."*

—Catechism of the Catholic Church—

---

# **GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATION**

## **1. MEETING WITH A PRIEST OR DEACON**

Call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment with the Priest or Deacon to discuss arrangements for your child to be baptized and to complete the necessary paperwork.

## **2. DOCUMENTS**

At your initial meeting with the Priest or Deacon, please bring the following required documents:

- a. **ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE** of the child to be baptized.
- b. **GODPARENTS NAMES.**
- c. **SPONSOR LETTER.** If the Godparents are not registered parishioners at St. Paul R.C. Church, they must bring a Sponsor Letter from their own Parish stating that they are active parishioners.

## **3. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- a. **BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS:** It is a Diocesan requirement that both Parents and Godparents attend one Baptismal Preparation Class here at St. Paul prior to the Baptism, which will be scheduled at the initial meeting.

The classes are held once a month and can be attended any time prior to the scheduled Baptism date. You will receive an informational package from the Parish.

- b. BAPTISMAL PREPARATION CLASS OUTSIDE OF ST. PAUL:** If the Parents or Godparents are unable to attend the Baptismal Preparation Class here at St. Paul's, they must provide the Baptismal Preparation Class Certificate from the Parish where they took the class.
- c. DONATION:** The Church is usually the least expensive part of your Baptism, yet it is the most important part. However, it is customary to make a donation to St. Paul's on the occasion of the Baptism of your child. Cash or Checks are acceptable and checks are to be made payable to St. Paul R.C. Church. Your donation can be given to the Deacon at the time of the Baptismal Preparation Class.

#### **4. BAPTISM SCHEDULE**

Baptisms are celebrated at St. Paul's at our regular weekend Masses: 5:30p.m. on Saturday in English; Sunday at 9:30a.m. or 11:30a.m. in English; or Sunday at 1:00p.m. in Spanish. Baptism Ceremonies can also be scheduled outside of Mass at 1:00p.m. on the second Saturday of each month (English) or the fourth Saturday of each month (Spanish).

Please be in the Church one half hour before the Baptism Ceremony.

## **5. ATTENDANCE AT BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION**

The session starts promptly at 7:30p.m. in the Parish Hall located downstairs in the Church at 124 Union Ave., Clifton, NJ 07011. Please call our Parish Secretary at 973-340-1300 no later than one day prior to the session to confirm your attendance or to cancel the appointment.

Your attendance as Parents and Godparents at this session is an absolute necessity if you wish to have your child Baptized on the date you have chosen. Sessions are only held twice a month (Second Wednesday of the month in English, and fourth Wednesday of the month in Spanish).

Also, we ask that you do not bring your child/ children to the session. There are usually a number of couples attending each session and, if everyone arrives on time, the session should be over by 9:00p.m.

## **6. GODPARENT**

The Godparents must be practicing Catholics, baptized and confirmed. Traditionally, Godparents consist of one male and one female, but parents can also choose two females or two males.

We realize that it is the custom of some nationalities to have more than one set of Godparents. Although this is permitted, only the names of two Godparents will appear on the Baptismal Certificate.

## **7. BAPTISMAL CANDLE AND WHITE GARMENT**

The child should be dressed at home and in a white garment. There are no changing facilities at St. Paul R.C. Church.

The baptismal candle and white garment are provided by the Church as a reminder of the special day of your child's baptism.

## **8. DRESS CODE FOR PARENTS, GODPARENTS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Parents, Godparents, family and friends, remember the presence of Jesus Christ in Church, in the Sanctuary, and in the Eucharist by being conscience of your attire. Please dress appropriately for Mass and the Baptismal Ceremony.



## **9. SEATING FOR BAPTISM**

Please be in the Church one half hour before Mass on Sunday or Saturday Baptisms. For Saturday Baptisms, please sit in the pews behind the Baptismal Font on the right side of the church and the pews across from the Baptismal Font on the left side of the Church. Parents, Godparents and Baby are seated in the first pew behind the Baptismal Font. If the Baptism is celebrated during Mass on Sunday, seats will be reserved in the front of the Church on the right side for Parents, Godparents and Baby; the pews behind the Baptismal Font will be reserved for guests and families.

## **10. PICTURES**

The lighting in the Church is sufficient for pictures. As a common courtesy, we ask you to maintain the dignity of the Sacrament. It is the responsibility of the Parents to make sure the photographer and videographer are aware of the following procedures at St. Paul R.C. Church: pictures and video recording are permitted during the Sacrament provided that the photographer does not disturb the ceremony. The photographer and videographer must consult with the Priest or Deacon before the Sacrament begins.

No equipment may be set up in the middle aisle.

## 11. FOLLOWING THE SACRAMENT

Following the Sacrament, pictures may be taken in front of the Altar if time permits. If there is a service scheduled in Church following your Baptismal Ceremony, you must vacate the Church no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Baptism.

