



Preparing for Baptism

Jesus of Nazareth commanded his followers to baptize people who were seeking a new life in God through Christ. Ever since baptism has been the way that the church celebrates the new relationship with God through Christ. To be baptized is to know God's forgiveness, to receive the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit and to become a full member of Christ's community, the church.



Baptisms of Infants & Children

A Sacrament of Thanksgiving, Commitment & Belonging

We recognize God's love in a special way when we welcome a baby into the world and into our lives. In the gift of a child our hearts are awakened to a new sense of gratitude. In baptizing children we give thanks for the gift of new life and reaffirm God's love and forgiveness in their lives.

The birth of a child also wakes us up to new responsibilities. When we baptize an infant we promise to introduce them to the love of God, to the practice of prayer and worship and service in Christ's name. Baptism of a child is a sacrament that captures both the awareness of God's love and the responsibility to raise that child in Christian faith and practice.

A parent desiring baptism for their child should contact one of the clergy to arrange a time to meet and discuss baptism. We normally expect that the parents will be active members of St. Paul's, or in special circumstances practicing members of another Christian Church.

Four dates are usually set apart especially for baptism: The Sunday after All Saints Day (First Sunday in November), The Feast of the Baptism of Jesus (normally the second Sunday in January), The Great Vigil of Easter (the Saturday before Easter), The Feast of Pentecost (seven weeks after Easter). A fifth date, in late summer, is often set as well.

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Adult Baptism

To choose to be baptized as an adult is to respond to God's call to become a full member of the Body of Christ. By the time you are considering baptism, the Holy Spirit has already been leading you and guiding you. Preparation for baptism will acquaint you help you take the next steps in your faith journey and introduce you Christian ways of understanding and living.

Adult candidates for baptism are encouraged to meet regularly with their chosen sponsor (the adult version of a Godparent) to engage in deep conversation about their inward faith and outward behavior as Christians.

Here at St. Paul's we celebrate baptism for adults most commonly at Easter, but also on other appointed days throughout the year.

If you have already been baptized into a (Trinitarian) Christian denomination, and you wish to celebrate a renewed commitment to Christ, we would love to celebrate your reaffirmation of faith and welcome into this church fully. Please speak to one of the clergy.

St. Paul's Clergy

The Rev. Thomas Skillings, Rector tskillings@stpaulsburlingame.org
The Rev. Sally Boelter, Assoc. Rector for Building Connections sboelter@stpaulsburlingame.org
The Rev. Julie Graham, Assoc. Rector for Children's Ministry jgraham@stpaulsburlingame.org

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