

ST. JOHN - ST. PAUL COLLABORATIVE BAPTISMAL REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS

"The Christian community welcomes you with great joy."

These are the words of the priest at the beginning of Baptism, so it is fitting for the community to be gathered to welcome these new Christians. As such, baptisms are celebrated communally at the St. John-St. Paul Collaborative, either together with other families or with the parish community at Mass.

Communal Baptisms (*with up to four babies*) are celebrated on the **1st Sunday of the month at St. Paul**, and on the **2nd Sunday of the month at St. John**, at **1:30pm**. A baptism (with one family) may also be celebrated at a regularly scheduled Sunday 9:00am Family Mass with the parish community

Preparation

A baptismal preparation meeting is required for all parents who have not had a child baptized previously. The preparation is required for both parents. It is recommended but not required for the godparents to attend.

Godparents

The mission of the godparent is, with the parents, to present the child for Baptism. They are to help the parents of the child in passing on the practice of the Catholic faith by helping the child grow in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ, in understanding of the beliefs of the Catholic faith, and in familiarity the rituals, prayers, and practices that accompany those beliefs.

A child to be baptized must have at least one godparent, but may have two - one godfather and one godmother. According to the universal law of the Church, to be admitted to the role of a godparent, a person must be Catholic, at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and not be the father or the mother of the one to be baptized. A baptised non-Catholic Christian may participate as a Christian Witness to the baptism in addition to a Catholic godparent.

Requesting Baptism for Your Child

To request baptism for your child, please complete the form on the following page and return it to us as soon as possible, **but ordinarily no later than one month prior to the requested Baptism date.**

(Please Note: The Baptismal Request Form is a fillable PDF form. It can be filled in online, saved, and then emailed or printed. Alternatively, the blank form can be printed out and filled in by hand.)

To request a **Sunday 1:30pm Baptism**, please select the church (*St. Paul or St. John*) and let us know your preferred date (*be sure to choose a 1st Sunday of the month for St. Paul or a 2nd Sunday of the month for St. John.*)

A Baptism is celebrated at the Family Mass at each parish generally once a month, with one family baptism per Mass. If you would like to celebrate your child's Baptism with the parish community at a **Sunday 9:00am Family Mass**, please select the church (*St. Paul or St. John*) and let us know your preferred dates/date range. Once we receive your form we will contact you to discuss available dates.

Completed forms may be emailed to Anne Mears, *Collaborative Pastoral Care Coordinator*, at anne.mears@sjspwellesley.org, or brought/mailed to the parish office:

St. John the Evangelist Parish | 39 Washington St. | Wellesley, MA 02481

St. Paul Parish | 502 Washington St. | Wellesley, MA 02482

Once we receive your Baptismal Request Form we will contact you to discuss baptismal preparation and confirm the requested date.

