



Baptism at St. Paul's, L'Amoreaux

Baptismal Information

What is Baptism?

Baptism is the beginning of a new life of faith. The newly baptized person enters into a relationship with God centred on love, and into a relationship with God's family, the Church.

Christian baptism is administered with water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is a symbol to us of God's presence in our lives. It is an affirmation of the faith of the family and the faith community. We believe and we know by experience that God is at work in our lives and brings to us the gift of His life-giving Spirit. Baptism is a sign of our Christian calling. It is the sacrament of Christian initiation into the church and symbolizes God's openness, His cleansing and His forgiveness.

What Baptism is not

Baptism is not an isolated event separate from community, neither is it a magic charm that will protect a child for life. Baptism is not simply a nice celebration for family and friends.

What happens at Baptism?

When an adult is baptized they will be asked to make promises before God, turning away from sin and accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. When a child is baptized, the parents and sponsors will make those same promises on the child's behalf. They will promise to be responsible for ensuring that their child is nurtured in a prayerful Christian home and in the life of the Christian community. If the parents of a child cannot honestly make these promises and do not intend to continue to worship regularly with the child, they are most strongly urged to postpone baptism until the child is able to make his or her own decision.

At St. Paul's, each baptism is a festival and is celebrated within the context of a public service of worship. Baptisms are ordinarily held on five feast days during the year: the Baptism of Our Lord (January), Easter, Pentecost (May), Holy Cross Day (September) and All Saints Day (November).

Preparation

Since Baptism symbolizes entrance into the Church, we want parents to experience worship within our Church. Before requesting an application, please attend a worship service at St. Paul's. If you are comfortable at our church, we ask that you continue worshipping with us on a regular basis. During that time the incumbent will make an appointment to meet with you, and to go over the application form.

Parents and Sponsors are expected to attend preparation classes before the Baptism. At these sessions, the meaning of baptism will be discussed, as well as the responsibilities of the Sponsors. A rehearsal will be held in the church. The incumbent will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Sponsors

In selecting Sponsors (Godparents) please invite people who are baptized, model a Christ-like life, will support and guide the person being baptized in their spiritual growth and well-being, and will be present in the Christian community as it gathers for worship. We encourage you to share the enclosed material with the Sponsors as they will be making important promises on behalf of the baptismal candidate.

Application Form

Please complete and return as soon as possible (please print clearly).

Child's Name in full: _____
(male/female)

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Date to be Baptized: _____

Father's Name in full: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Religious Affiliation: _____ Baptized (yes/no) _____

Mother's Name in full: _____
(with maiden name)

Address (if different): _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____

e-mail: _____

Religious Affiliation: _____ Baptized (yes/no) _____

Sponsors' Names in full:

1. _____

Religious Affiliation: _____ Baptized (yes/no) _____

2. _____

Religious Affiliation: _____ Baptized (yes/no) _____

3. _____

Religious Affiliation: _____ Baptized (yes/no) _____

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Parents Undertaking

It is our intention to continue to bring our children to Church for worship and instruction. We will endeavour to help them in the development of their Christian lives by our prayers and by our example. We ask that our children may be baptized and received into Christ's Church.

SIGNATURE OF FATHER: _____

SIGNATURE OF MOTHER: _____

We have read the information sheet: _____

We have attended worship at St. Paul's: _____

We will attend Baptismal classes: _____

Please return to: The Anglican Church of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux
3333 Finch Avenue, East,
Scarborough, Ontario
M1W 2R9
Telephone: (416) 499-1545
Facsimile: (416) 499-5007
E-mail: stpl@stpl.ca
Website: www.stpl.ca

