

On The Day of Baptism

The congregation of St. Paul's United Church is very pleased that you have made a decision to have your child baptised.

When you arrive at church, on the day arranged for your child to be baptised, please feel free to sit anywhere in the sanctuary except the balcony. Early in the service the minister will invite parents to bring their child forward (please bring the Bulletin that the usher handed you as well so that you may follow the litany reading). If you have other children they, too, may be with you. You will stand with the other parents before the minister. At this time, everyone will be invited to read from the Bulletin responsively. However, at one point the minister will address the parents specifically with the following questions:

MINISTER: Do you desire to have your child baptised?

PARENTS: I do, by the grace of God.

MINISTER: Will you accept the responsibility of acting and speaking on your child's behalf? And will you endeavour to show your child the Christian life and to grow with him or her in the faith?

PARENTS: I will, God being my helper.

MINISTER: Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you turn away from the forces of evil and renounce their power?

PARENTS: I do, by the grace of God.

MINISTER: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as Saviour and Lord of your life?

PARENTS: I do, by the grace of God.

MINISTER: Do you commit yourself to the mission and Ministry of Christ's Church.

PARENTS: I do, by the grace of God.

After the complete Baptism Litany has been read the minister will invite one family at a time to come to the Baptismal Font. After your child has been baptised you will rejoin the other parents.

When the Sacrament of Baptism has concluded and you are back sitting in the pew, the young people of St. Paul's will be going to Junior Congregation downstairs. You are certainly welcome to take your older children, and those of your guests, to this fun filled experience as well. The nursery is available, with a very capable adult to watch over your newly baptised child, if you so desire.

Godparents

If your child has godparents they too are welcomed to join you at the front of the sanctuary. However, in the best interest of space, if we have more than five families having baptism, please invite the godparents to remain in the pew. Check the bulletin for the number of families involved in the baptism.

Photos

Please make this very clear to your family and friends! There will be no photos taken during the Sacrament of Baptism. If photos are a desire, the minister will be more than pleased to be available **after** the church service has been completed. If someone wishes to use a video camera they are welcome to sit in the balcony, which happens to be the best vantage point.

May this day of your child's baptism be a very special one. But may you teach your child that baptism is only the beginning.

May God's peace be yours this day and always!

Note:

Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available downstairs each week and is staffed for the entire service. Sunday school is offered for children ages 3 and older. Leaders and participants go downstairs together following the children's sharing time in the service.