

What Is Baptism?

It's wonderful that you want to have your child baptized!

Baptism marks the beginning of a person's Christian journey, as they begin to live as a follower of Jesus.

The Christian life is like being in the 'School of Jesus'. A church community like St. Paul's is a group of students learning to follow Jesus together, with you and your child as fellow students.

A child's education begins long before they enter school. You may enrol your child in preschool, read to your child, show educational videos, or even play classical music to an unborn baby! All are ways loving parents may hope to give their child a head start in education.

Choosing to have your child baptized is same parental instinct to want the best for your child. It is early enrolment in the 'School of Jesus', promising to teach your son or daughter about Jesus from day one. Your child will learn by watching and listening to you, and from other Christians as a part of St. Paul's. Baptism is a sign that your child is 'enrolled', and is the church's way of welcoming a fellow student.

At St. Paul's we understand Baptism to be a significant Christian commitment. **Baptism is your promise, supported by your family, friends and the entire congregation, based on your faith and membership in the church, to raise your child to be a Christian, a faithful follower of Jesus.** We want to help you be ready to make those promises for your child through our Baptism preparation process.

Steps Toward Baptism

- ❑ **1. Have a cup of coffee on us!** Call or email Jenny Andison (contact info on back) and enjoy a cup of coffee while we get acquainted and talk about baptism. The dates for baptism at St. Paul's are set in advance. Ask Jenny, or check our web site and plan ahead so you have time for the following steps:
- ❑ **2. Regularly attend worship at St. Paul's.** You will have a clearer sense of whether you would like to be a part of our church family, will be strengthened and encouraged in your faith, and will be better equipped to teach your child about following Jesus. Childcare is available at our 9:30 and 11 AM services.
- ❑ **3. Register for and participate in the 5 week Christianity 101 course.** We want you to be confident about the promises you make. The Christianity 101 course deals with the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The five sessions include a teaching time, small group discussions and time for questions. Christianity 101 is offered several times a year on Sunday mornings from 10:30—12:15pm (with brunch and childcare provided) and Thursday evenings from 6:30—8:15 pm (with supper provided). Contact Jenny to register.
- ❑ **4. Complete & return a Baptism Request form**

Steps Toward Baptism

- ❑ **5. Attend a preparation and rehearsal session.** This Sunday morning session is essential for the immediate family, and sponsors/godparents are also urged to attend. Childcare and snacks are provided.
- ❑ **6. Be presented to the congregation** on a Sunday morning a couple weeks before the baptism. We will introduce your child and ask for the church's prayers and support as you take this important step.

It is our hope that each element of preparation will help you and your family prepare for a truly meaningful Baptism experience.

Baptism signifies
- through the symbol of water -
that God wishes to cleanse us
from all those things that keep us far from God. This
promise of cleansing from sin,
along with the promise of a new life,
is offered to all those who put their trust in God
and his Son Jesus Christ.

- from the Service of Baptism at St. Paul's Bloor Street



We are so pleased that you are seeking Baptism for your child. The gift of faith is the most precious gift that you can give your child. At St. Paul's we are committed to helping you prepare for Baptism so that it is a meaningful experience and the beginning of a life long relationship with Jesus. If you have any questions, please contact The Rev. Jenny Andison or Janet Earle, Children's Minister.



There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope
of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and
Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.

- Ephesians 4:4-6

For more information about Baptism contact:

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416-961-8116 x232

For more information about Children's Ministry contact:

Janet Earle
children@stpaulsbloor.org
416-961-8116 x241

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St. Paul's Church Office
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St. Paul's Bloor Street



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Transforming the world through the power
and grace of Jesus Christ

Baptism *of* Infants *and* Children