

## **Baptism Customary St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

The purpose of the customary is to help bring clarity, unity and efficiency to the baptism of new members at St. Paul's. Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church. All baptisms must follow the rubrics concerning the service found in the Book of Common Prayer on pages 298 and 312-314.

Those who wish to be baptized or have children baptized are required to make an appointment with the Rector no later than one month before the desired date. It is recommended that the scheduled appointment be made so that planning can be done in advance.

The appointed days for baptisms are: The Day of Pentecost, All Saints' Day or the Sunday following, and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. Additional days may be added as necessary.

Baptisms do not occur during Lent.

Prior to planning a baptismal service the interested party should:

1. Call the church office and schedule a meeting with the Rector through the Parish Administrator.
2. Following the meeting with the Rector, a date will be scheduled.
3. Please fill out the appropriate information sheet and return it to the office no later than one week after being received.
4. Any changes to the normal service schedule must be done at least six weeks prior to the service (altar flowers, prayers or readings done by lay persons rather than regularly scheduled Lay Readers).
5. The choice of baptismal font is optional for the baptismal party.

The Rector of St. Paul's

Worship Committee Chairperson

*Updated: March 2016*