

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. Because Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into the Church all baptisms must conform and adhere to 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 or youth 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. At this meeting with the Rector, the head of the Worship Committee and the head of the Altar Guild will be present.

The recommended seasons for baptisms are: The Day of Pentecost, All Saints' Day or the Sunday following, and the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. Baptism is also appropriate for the visitation of the Bishop.

Baptisms will not be held 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. The appropriate information sheets must be filled out and returned 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: November 2014