

**CELEBRATING
THE
SACRAMENT
OF
BAPTISM**



St Philip the Apostle Church
151 S. Hill Ave
Pasadena, CA 91106
626-793-0693

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Philip the Apostle Parish.

Dear Parent[s]:

The St. Philip the Apostle Parish Community rejoices with you at the birth of your child. Since all life reflects the creative hand of God our loving Father, this truly is a time for us all to rejoice and celebrate in this wondrous gift.

As Catholic Christians, new life is celebrated in a special way through the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is the beginning of a journey that celebrates God's life-giving grace in a child as he or she is embraced by the community of God's Church. Hence, Baptism should never be seen as an isolated moment but rather the beginning of that lifelong journey of growing in faith and living that faith within the Catholic Tradition.

As you prepare for the Baptism of your child, this parish community stands ready to help you as parents, "the first teachers in the ways of the faith" to support this new life in your child.

In preparation for this important sacramental celebration, we ask that you carefully read over the following instructions:

Who May Be Baptized?

Any child may be baptized as long as there is a well-founded hope that this child will be raised in the Catholic Faith. Minimally, to be raised in the Faith means that the child should be afforded the opportunity to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation as they mature. Your witness as a parent is critically important for the faith formation of your child. When there is no well-founded hope that a child will be raised in the Catholic Faith, then the Baptism must be delayed until such time that this assurance can be given by parents.

Where Should a Child Be Baptized?

Since the Church building is an important symbolic place where God's people gather to praise and thank Him, Baptisms take place in the Church. Baptisms cannot be scheduled for private homes. Baptisms normally take place in the parish Church of the parents. This is why we ask you to be a registered member.

What Are the Requirements for Godparents?

The tradition of the Church requires that together with parents, a godparent or godparents be present for the celebration of the Sacrament. The role of the godparent is to assist the parents in witnessing to the integrity of the Catholic Faith and to support the child in living that faith. For this reason, the following are required of godparents:

- A minimum of one Catholic godparent is required for Baptism. The godparent need not be the same sex as the child. Where there are two godparents, one must be male and one female.
- The godparent[s] must be at least 16 years old and have received First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

- At least one godparent must be a practicing Catholic, that is living the Catholic faith, participating in Mass faithfully each Sunday, and be willing to share the faith with his/her godchild.
- A sponsor who is married must be married in accord with the laws of the Church.
- The godparent[s] cannot be the mother or father of the child to be baptized.
- The use of proxies for godparents, while permitted, is discouraged.

Non-Catholics may not act as godparents. However, together with a Catholic godparent and for sufficient reason, a baptized non-Catholic may act as a “Christian Witness” to the baptism.

Is There Preparation for The Baptism of Our Child?

Parents are called to be the first teachers in the ways of the faith for their children.

St. Philip the Apostle Parish offers the opportunity for parents and godparents of children to be baptized to reflect on the meaning of their Faith and the importance of the sacrament. Prior to the Baptism celebration we ask the following:

- Parents are required to fill out parish forms. Bring the forms to the office a month before the desired date of Baptism.
- Parents and Godparents are required to attend a one-time pre -baptismal instruction. This session is led by our Baptismal team who are trained lay catechists of the parish. This session is mandatory and part of parental preparation for taking part in this important sacrament. If godparents belong to another parish, they should immediately make plans to attend

baptismal class in their respective parish before the date of the Baptism.

- English and Spanish Pre-Baptismal Classes are held once a month, prior to the Baptism. (Please call the office for date and time).

When Will the Baptism Take Place?

Baptisms in English are celebrated on the Fourth Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

Baptisms in Spanish are celebrated on the Second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

What Is the Registration Cost?

A minimum donation of \$50 helps defray the parish expenses

How Do I Enroll My Child for Baptism?

Please read these guidelines carefully and call the parish office to register at 626-793-0693.

Baptism Forms can also be found online at stphiliptheapostle.org (Under Sacraments).

God bless you on this very special undertaking!

Questions?

Please contact the parish office at
(626) 793-0693 ext. 101