

WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS

Weddings

Weddings are arranged by the couple themselves (not their parents) by calling the Parish Office (516.935.1880 ext. 100) and making an appointment with the pastor. Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance. At least one of the two people being married must be a parishioner of St. Paul the Apostle Parish when a Wedding is requested here. This is not because we do not want to serve people, but because the pastor is the only Priest assigned to this large parish and so he must make it a priority to serve his parishioners. Weddings of non-parishioners are not permitted so that the dates may be available for our own parishioners.

Weddings are celebrated at St. Paul the Apostle on Friday evenings (no later than 6.00PM) and on Saturdays and Sundays. The earliest time for a Saturday wedding is 11.00AM and the latest time slot is 3.00PM. The earliest time for a Wedding on a Sunday is 2.00PM and the latest time slot is 4.00PM. Please note that all Sunday Weddings must be ceremonies, *i.e.*, there are no Nuptial Masses on Sundays. It is always necessary to allow two hours between Weddings in fairness to both Wedding parties. *Please check availability of your date at the Church before engaging a Reception Hall.*

The parish publishes a fine book *Your Wedding at St. Paul the Apostle Parish* which is given to couples when they first arrange for their wedding here and it contains much useful information. We also have a Parish Pre-Cana Program. The Pre-Cana Program (either of the parish or diocese) is mandatory.

Baptisms

Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Sunday of each month at 1.00PM. and on the second and fourth Saturday of each month at 12.00 noon. Please call the Faith Formation Office at 516.938.4530 to schedule the baptism of your child. Attendance at the Pre-Baptismal Class is mandatory. The class need only be attended for the first child.

In our experience, sometimes people are misled by what others tell them. Some may say: "The priest will not baptize your baby because..." Don't listen to what others may tell you! If you are in doubt, always call the priest who will help you if he can.

Godparents for baptism must be at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. If they are married, they must have been married in the Catholic Church. Godparents who are not parishioners of St. Paul must get a *Sponsor Certificate* (note, not a baptismal certificate, birth certificate, confirmation certificate, social security card, etc.) from the parish to which they belong at present. (That means the parish in whose boundaries they are living).

Naming your children

Please remember that the Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church obliges pastors to be sure that children are not given names *contrary to Christian sentiment* at baptism. Name your children after family members so that they will have a sense of *connection* in a fractured and broken world! The Church asks us to give children the names of Saints for the same reason: so that they may have special intercessors in Heaven and may have a *Heavenly* friend to learn about and imitate. In today's world, your children need all the help they can get: give them the beautiful names of the Saints and family members and you will be giving them a great treasure indeed!