

BAPTISM

Your Child's Baptism

We look forward to a special day in the life of your family – your child's baptism day! I'm so glad you have decided to share this gift from God with your child.

- ❖ **Are Sponsors or Godparents required?** This is a personal decision for your family. Sponsors are not addressed in the Bible but are a tradition that goes back to the early church. The intention is to select people who you are confident will be Godly examples for your child and, should something happen to you, make your wishes known that they be raised Christian.
- ❖ **What about the Baptismal Blessing?** The Baptismal Blessing is an important part of preparing for your child's baptism day and leading them on their spiritual LIFEjourney. Please e-mail your blessing to Julie at jlorenz@stjstl.net at least one week before the baptism. Also, let us know if you will be reading it or would like the Pastor to do so. (See "Baptismal Blessing" sheet for more information.)
- ❖ **And the certificate?** At the baptism, you will receive a certificate for each child being baptized, including the sponsor(s) name(s) and the blessing you have written. It is sized 8"x10" so you can frame if you'd like. Sponsors also receive a keepsake certificate of their own.
- ❖ **How do I schedule the Baptism?** In order to schedule the baptism service, just fill out the form and either drop it off at the Ministry Center Reception Desk, bring it to the orientation with your or mail it to the address below. Once the form is received, a confirmation of the date and time will be sent to you.
- ❖ **When can baptisms be done?** Baptisms can be done during most non-communion services as well as after one of our services—5:00pm Saturday, 9:00am Sunday or 10:45am Sunday—most weekends. Communion services are the first and third weekends of each month. If necessary, other times for a private baptism can be discussed.
- ❖ **Does it matter if I have it during or after service?** This is a personal decision for your family. In making this decision, keep in mind that our worship services, including baptisms during the service, are projected on the Sanctuary and Lobby screens. Our 9:00 and 10:45am Sunday services are also live streamed at www.stjstl.net. Please share this link with family and friends who are unable to be there but may want to celebrate with you online. We also have special stage displays at times to enhance the worship experience—these will be in place during the baptism as well. If the baptism is during the service, we will need you and your family to be in the Sanctuary 20 minutes prior to the service. Our Worship Director and Pastor will make sure you know how to walk up and where to stand.
- ❖ **Who can attend?** Relatives, sponsors, and friends are all welcome! Please arrive early and introduce yourselves to one of the First Impression Members before service. They will seat you and your guests near the font. If the baptism is during service, a staff member will lead you and the sponsors up to the font just prior to the baptism.