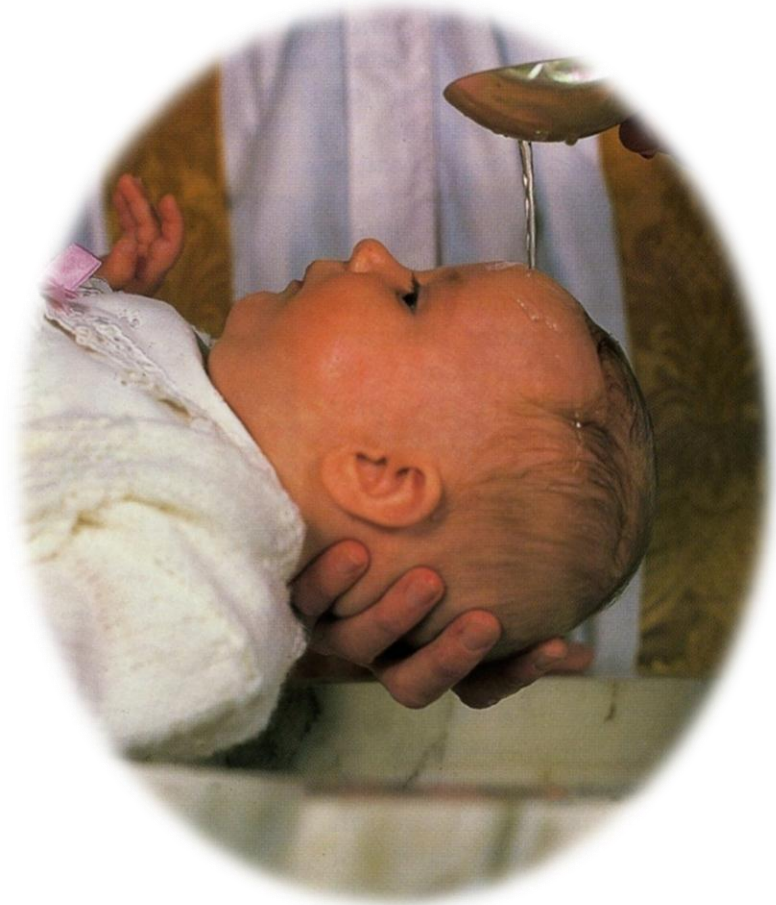


TOGETHER IN BAPTISM



ST. PHILIP NERI

ST. ALBERT THE GREAT PARISH

ALAMEDA, CA 94501



Dear Parents of St. Philip Neri - St. Albert the Great Parish,

We welcome you to the Parish Community of St. Philip Neri - St. Albert the Great pre-baptismal program. The Lord has blessed you and our parish community with a beautiful gift - Your Child - the visible sign of your love for each other. You have played a very important part in God's plan of creation, and with Him have given life to a new member of His family. What more beautiful way can we welcome your child into God's family than through the Sacrament of Baptism!

Throughout the history of our Church, preparation for Baptism has extended from no preparation at all to years of instruction for catechumens. The Second Vatican Council separated the rite of Baptism into two different rites for adults and for children. Consequently, the rite for children calls for preparation on the part of the parents for the baptism of their child.

Through pre-Baptism Program here at St. Philip Neri - St. Albert the Great, we hope to deepen your understanding of the sacrament of Baptism and make you ever more aware of the importance this sacrament plays in your life as a family of God. We also will begin to form a basic Christian community with one another and develop a sense of celebration about your child's Baptism.

As parents, we prepare long and well for the arrival of our baby. Now we need to prepare ourselves to help our children for the life they will lead as a child of God - the lifetime commitment of a Catholic Christian. We look forward to sharing with you in this important and joyful time of preparation.

Fr. Joy Kumarthusseril, mf

## **Steps to prepare for Baptism:**

You should start preparing for your child's Baptism about two months before the desired month of Baptism. These are the steps that you should follow:

**Step 1:** Contact the Rectory (510 373 5201 or 510 373 5202) to schedule and interview with one of the parish priests.

**Step 2:** Both parents attend the interview. At this time you will learn the specifics of Baptism at St. Philip Neri - St. Albert the Great Parish and will complete the necessary Baptism Registration Forms. You may also go to the parish website [www.saspn.org/baptismform.php](http://www.saspn.org/baptismform.php) and fill in the information, print it out and bring it along with you when you come.

**Step 3:** Attend the Pre-Baptism sessions for which you've registered. There are two community building sessions in which the team couple and the priest come together with the parents for prayer and discussion centered around topics relating to Baptism, parenting and Christian community. These sessions are usually offered on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM and the following Sunday after the 9:00 AM Mass at St. Philip Neri Church. We try to avoid three day weekends. Child care for older children may be provided if needed.

**Step 4:** Participate in the Rite of Welcome. This is held at a Sunday Liturgy usually on the Third Sunday of each Month. This is a brief ceremony in which the children being baptized the following Sunday are welcomed into the larger parish community at both locations.

**Step 5:** Celebration of Baptism. The St. Philip Neri - St. Albert the Great Community celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism for children under the age of seven once a month at the Baptismal liturgy. This is usually held on the fourth Sunday of the month at 10:30 AM at St. Philip Neri Church and at 11:45 AM at St. Albert the Great Church.

**General**  
**Information:**



**Clothing**

Children receiving the Sacrament of Baptism need not be dressed in white but if not, they should have a white garment to be placed on them during the ceremony. A white shirt or sweater is sufficient. You may also procure a Baptismal dress from the religious store.

**Pictures**

Cameras are welcome but **pictures are not allowed during the ceremony** so that the rite itself will not be disturbed. Pictures may be taken before and after the ceremony. The priests will be available and happy to take pictures with you and help in any way they can to make this event a real celebration. The ceremony may be videotaped from a stationary position, without special lights.

**Godparent - Guidelines**

You are only required to have **one godparent** for your child's Baptism. However, it is customary to have two (in this case it is encouraged that there is one male and one female). At least one of these God parents must be **14 years of age or older**, and be **an active, practicing Catholic**. The second godparent need not be a Catholic but must be a **practicing, baptized Christian**.

**Godparents - Proxy**

If you select Godparents who live a great distance away, they do not have to be present at the Baptism. You may have a proxy fill in for the official godparents. More "godparents" may be included in the ceremony, but only two will be officially placed in the Church's Baptismal Register as God parents.

## **God Parents - Preparation**

God parents are encouraged to take the preparatory classes together with the parents, when due to distance or other reasons the participation in the preparatory class is not possible, they may attend at their own native parish and send the certification with them.

## **Number of People**

There is no limit to the number of people you may invite to your child's Baptism. You are encouraged to invite relatives and friends to share your joy and welcome your child into our Christian community.

## **Offering**

On the occasion of a Baptism, it is customary to give a donation to the Parish, usually \$100.00. Checks are made payable to "St. Philip Neri - St. Albert the Great Parish" and not in the personal name of the priest performing the Baptism.

## **Baptisms on non-scheduled days**

If due to circumstances, your child is to be baptized on a different day other than the usual monthly schedule, you need to receive a special permission from the Pastor and specific extra expenses may apply. Please contact the office for details.

## **Special Circumstances**

If you do not presently live in Alameda or Oakland and are not registered in SPN – SA and wish to have your child baptized at St. Philip Neri - St. Albert the Great parish in Alameda, you must have a letter from one of the priest of the parish where you live, giving permission for this baptism to take place at St. Philip Neri - St. Albert the Great parish in Alameda.

## **Baptismal Certificate**

A Baptismal Certificate will be mailed to you within two weeks of your child's baptism. Please keep this for your records. A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate will be necessary when they prepare to receive their First Holy Communion or Confirmation.

## **Reception after Baptism**

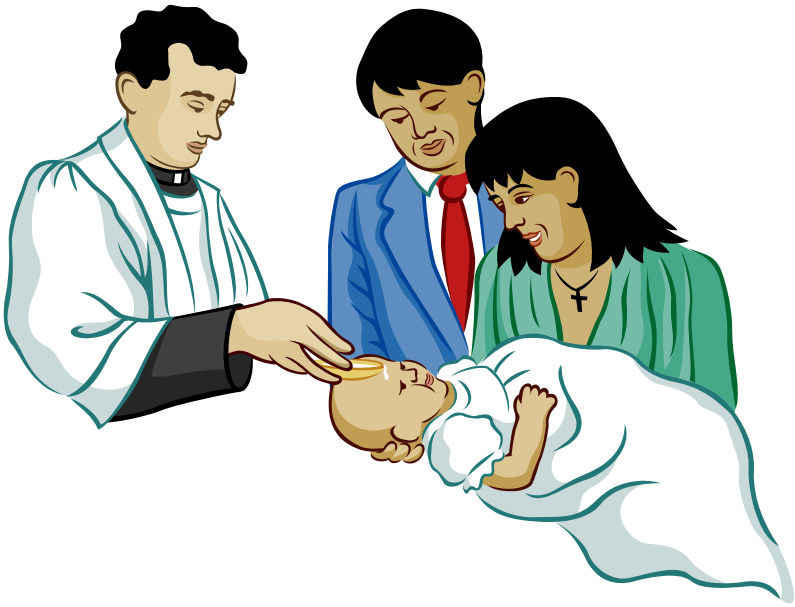
Should you require the use of the Hall for the reception after the Baptism, you may Contact Margaret Mariani at 510 373 5230 in the afternoon hours and make a reservation in advance.

## **Baptismal coordinators**

The baptismal coordinators are at your service, and so please feel free to contact them for any clarification.



**Welcome to the**



**Parish Family**