



Congratulations on the birth of your child and thank you for inviting the Church into the budding spiritual journey of your child.

Many Seattle University alumni have a special connection to Seattle University. They return to campus to celebrate their wedding ceremony in The Chapel of Saint Ignatius and some inquire to celebrate their child's baptism because Seattle University has been part of other "sacramental moments" in their lives. However, in keeping with Church teaching about the celebration of this sacrament, Seattle University and Seattle University Campus Ministry have a policy in place that does not allow us to baptize your child in any campus sacred spaces.

In the Catholic Church, Baptism is an initiation into a community of faith. Baptism is a ritual act that affirms that it is not just an act of/for an individual, but an act of/for a faith community.

That is why the Church directs that baptism be celebrated in the specific church community to which a family belongs: the local parish. "Infant baptisms and preparation for baptism should be celebrated in the parish of the parents" (*Code of Canon Law, Canon 857.2*).

It is in the parish community that a family can put down "roots" for themselves and grow not only the child's initiation into the Roman Catholic Church, but also help in the growth of the life of that Parish community, that expression of the Body of Christ. And it is there that the parish can provide a place to foster and help grow the faith of the child to whom you are seeking baptism.

Seattle University's Campus Ministry/The Chapel of Saint Ignatius is not a parish. We are a station (*satellite*) of Saint James Cathedral, the mother church of the Archdiocese of Seattle, with a mandate to serve the needs of the students at Seattle University. Campus Ministry and the Chapel of Saint Ignatius are not able to provide the full spectrum of services and support that are found in a parish community, which are essential for preparing parents for the baptism of a child, and sustaining them through all the sacramental encounters of life.

We hope this helps you to understand why the Chapel of Saint Ignatius (along with the other sacred spaces on campus) is not available for celebrating child baptism. If Campus Ministry can be of any assistance in helping you locate a Catholic parish in your area and getting you registered there, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Be assured of the prayers from the Campus Ministry Team and of the Society of Jesus on campus for your family as you and your loved ones walk with your child as a "child of light...keeping the flame of faith alive in their heart" (Rite of Baptism) for years to come.

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST'S DEATH 

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