

What is Baptism?

According to the Book of Common Prayer we read the following:

Holy Baptism
(Catechism, Page 858 – BCP)



Q. What is Holy Baptism?

A. Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.

Q. What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?

A. The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism?

A. The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is required of us at Baptism?

A. It is required that we renounce Satan, repent of our sins, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Q. Why then are infants baptized?

A. Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God.

Q. How are the promises for infants made and carried out?

A. Promises are made for them by their parents and sponsors, who guarantee that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him.

Baptism is **not** a “thing” that “protects us” like purchasing insurance or wearing a good-luck charm. Baptism is a “living reality” where we become one with the Body of Christ – Jesus, the Holy Trinity, and the people of God of the past, present and future. It is a living dynamic that we “grow into” as we live and learn **in community** through worship, fellowship, education, and service. We become a part of a church community that models and teaches us the Christian life of selfless service and sacrificial love.



What are the Baptismal Vows that are taken by parents, sponsors or adults seeking Baptism, a covenantal relationship with Christ and his Church?

The following words express our beliefs and values as we become one in Christ.

The Baptismal Covenant

(Rite of Holy Baptism, pages 304-305, BCP)

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People I believe in Holy Spirit,
the holy the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Celebrant Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking
of the bread, and in the prayers?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you persevere in resisting evil, and , whenever you fall into sin, repent
and return to the Lord?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you see and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as
yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the
dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

How does one prepare for Baptism?

- Prior to a baptism we desire to see individuals and families attend and participate in worship. Check us out and see if this is the community that is a fit for you and/or your family. We can guide you in finding a spiritual home if this is not the place.



- We would like to see a willingness to join and become an active, pledging member, giving of one's time, talents and treasures to support our ministries and our witness to the community and world.
- If the above Information resonates with your heart and beliefs, then you are encouraged to call the Cathedral Office (775-3229-4279) for a *baptismal counseling appointment*. This is also a way for our clergy to get to know you more personally.



Baptisms are usually performed at the following major Festivals of the Church Year because of the significance to the life of Christ. Generally this is the order we follow to schedule baptismal events with our worship Services:

- **Easter Vigil Service** (eve of Easter Day) is THE historic time to receive new members with Baptism and Confirmation. Our Diocesan Bishop is present at this Festival Service that ushers in the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- **Pentecost Sunday**, 50 days after Easter. The apostles receive the gift of the Spirit that they may go into the world and “baptize in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” On Pentecost with Peter’s gift of speaking other languages and preaching brought 3,000 to be baptized. It is the birth day event of the Church.
- **The Baptism of Our Lord** is the first Sunday after Epiphany (January 6). Jesus’ own baptism by John the Baptist celebrates that in Christ we are made to be the children of God, God’s beloved.
- **All Saints Sunday** (closest Sunday in November to November 1st – the Feast of All Saints). In Christ and through the mystery of resurrected life, we are united in baptism not only with the universal Church but with the saints of all time – past, present and future.