



Baptism at Calvary Church



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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What is Baptism

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.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 858

Baptism is the celebration of new life in Christ. In the Episcopal Church, parents and godparents present infants to receive this sacrament. Baptism is also available to persons of any age who have never been baptized.

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.

The Book of Common Prayer, page 298.

A person who has been baptized with water in the name of the Trinity in any Christian church does not need to be re-baptized. (A provision is made for conditional baptism in those rare circumstances where it is not clear whether or not a person has been baptized.)

In Baptism, we renounce Satan, repent of sin, and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Parents and godparents make these promises for an infant, and take responsibility for seeing that the child will be brought up in the Christian faith and life.

The Sponsors

Each candidate for Baptism is sponsored by one or more baptized persons. Sponsors of infants are called godparents. Godparents should be willing and able to make a commitment to nurture the child's faith, helping the new Christian grow in the knowledge and love of God. It is appropriate for parents to be included among the godparents of their own children. Sponsors of older children or adults offer their endorsement and support for the candidate they present.

Baptism welcomes people into the fellowship of the Church. Therefore, Baptism is most appropriately administered during a worship service, when the community gathers for the Eucharist on Sunday morning or to celebrate a major feast. Private Baptisms are discouraged, and are permitted only in extraordinary circumstances. In an emergency, of course, Baptism is always available.

***When
Baptism
is
administered***

The Church identifies four occasions when Baptism is especially appropriate:

- ❖ The First Sunday after the Epiphany (the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord) early in January
- ❖ The Easter Vigil, on the Saturday evening before Easter
- ❖ The Day of Pentecost, late spring or early summer
- ❖ All Saints' Day (November 1), or the Sunday after All Saints' Day

Calvary Church generally reserves Baptism for these four days. Baptism may also be administered when a Bishop is present. A Sunday in the summer may also be designated as an additional date for Baptism. The actual calendar dates for Baptism in any given year are available from the church office.

Celebrants

The celebrant for Baptism is a bishop, if present, or one of the priests at Calvary Church. Participation in the service by other clergy, from the Episcopal Church or other denominations, should be discussed with the parish clergy.

Preparation

Parents, godparents, and older baptismal candidates receive instruction for Baptism. You will receive information concerning instruction, as well as a rehearsal for the Baptism service. Parents and godparents are strongly encouraged to participate as fully as possible in this preparation for the joy and responsibility of presenting a child for Baptism.

To schedule a Baptism, please contact the church office. Please complete the information form included here and return it to the office.

Any questions, concerns, or special needs should be discussed with one of the Calvary Church clergy. It is a great joy for a parish family to celebrate Baptism, and we look forward to sharing this significant milestone on the spiritual journey with you.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen



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EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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INFORMATION FORM

Holy Baptism

DATE OF APPLICATION _____

FULL NAME _____ SEX _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ AGE _____

PLACE OF BIRTH _____

PARENT(S) FULL NAME _____

PARENT(S) RESIDENCE _____

PARENT(S) TELEPHONE _____

PARENT(S) EMAIL _____

GODPARENTS

1. _____

RESIDENCE _____

EMAIL _____

2. _____

RESIDENCE _____

EMAIL _____

3. _____

RESIDENCE _____

EMAIL _____

4. _____

RESIDENCE _____

EMAIL _____