
Baptisms

Information on the Sacrament of Baptism at
The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd



INTRODUCTION

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 bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.

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.

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.

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

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

Each candidate for Holy Baptism is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons. Sponsors of adults and older children present their candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of the candidates and their intention to support them by prayer and example in their Christian life. Sponsors of infants, commonly called godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names, and also take vows on behalf of their candidates. It is fitting that parents be included among the godparents of their own children. Book of Common Prayer

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Parents of minors for whom the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is being sought should contact the Parish Office directly (not via Grandparents or other family members).

Those seeking Holy Baptism for themselves or for their minor children must be a known worshiper and member in good standing at The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. Close family members of parishioners in good standing of Church of the Good Shepherd may receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at Church of the Good Shepherd provided they produce a letter from their priest/pastor stating that they are worshiping members in good standing of a Christian community of faith – it need not be Episcopal. In this event, we at Church of the Good Shepherd are acting as representatives of their home priest or pastor.

If the persons seeking Holy Baptism for their child or themselves are not part of a Christian community, they must understand that this is the first step toward Holy Baptism at Church of the Good Shepherd.

Holy Baptism will be administered in public, at the main liturgy according to the directions in the Book of Common Prayer: "Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or other feast." (BCP 298)

Sponsors of candidates for Holy Baptism, or Godparents, must produce, in advance of the liturgy, a letter from their priest/pastor certifying that they are regular in their attendance at worship, and members in good standing of their local Christian church.

According to the directions in the Book of Common Prayer “parents and godparents are to be instructed in the meaning of Baptism, in their duties to help the new Christians grow in the knowledge and love of God, and in their responsibilities as members of his Church.” (BCP 298) Pre-Baptismal instruction will be given by the Rector at a time and place set by her.

In accordance with the Book of Common Prayer the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is administered four times a year: “Holy Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, on the Day of Pentecost, on All Saints’ Day, or the Sunday after All Saints’ Day, and on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. It is recommended that, as far as possible, Baptism be reserved for these occasions or when a bishop is present.” (BCP 312)

There will be no private administration of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism except in the most urgent of circumstances.