

Holy Baptism

As Customarily
Celebrated in
All Saints' Episcopal
Church,
Las Vegas, Nevada



What does Holy Baptism mean? Baptism, with water and in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is one of the Gospel Sacraments. Through baptism we accept salvation from sin and reconciliation with God. In the sacrament we participate in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, are anointed with the Holy Spirit and born anew into fellowship with Christ, and become members of the Church.

What should I do if I want to be baptized, or have a child I wish to present for baptism? Make an appointment with the rector by calling the church office.

Who may be baptized? Baptism is membership in the Church and the vows of baptism require that the person seeking baptism, or the parents of young children seeking baptism for their child, must be, or intend to be, active participants in the life and ministry of the church.

Infants and young children, whose parents are members of the Church, are baptized when their parents and/or sponsors present them for baptism. Infants are baptized because baptism is an act of faith, and as in all Sacraments, the principal action is God's. Older children and adults are baptized when they present themselves for baptism. In baptism God accepts us as God's own child, and through the power of the Holy Spirit gives the baptized the ability to fulfill his or her vocation in this world and to reign with Christ in his Eternal Kingdom. God's action in baptism is no different for those who cannot speak for themselves, than for those who can.

How soon after birth should my child be baptized? As soon as reasonable, although there is no theological or faith reason for children to be "hurriedly" baptized. We believe God provides for infants and young children and that baptism is not necessary to insure their entry into God's presence if they die. Baptism is not magic. It is a Sacrament instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ. Baptism is a

community celebration, with participation by the child's family, sponsors, and the parish family. The Baptismal Service is also a public recognition of the parents and sponsors' commitment to raise the child in the nurture and love of God -- and in the company of the Christian community.

What instruction is necessary before baptism? Parents and sponsors, who wish to present an infant or young child for baptism, must meet with the rector for Baptismal Preparation. Older children and adults must also meet with the rector for Preparation for Baptism. Baptismal preparation varies from a single meeting for parents and sponsors who are Communicants in Good Standing in the parish to more lengthy preparation for those who are not communicants or are new to the Christian Faith. The rector determines what preparation is necessary in a case-by-case basis.

What must parents and sponsors do? Those presenting candidates for baptism must be baptized, and members of the Church, and must be prepared to make the vows in the Baptismal Liturgy. Those presenting infants and young children make the vows on behalf of the child and promise to "be responsible for seeing that the child you present is brought up in the Christian faith and life." (BCP 302). These vows imply that the parents intend to be active, with their child in the life and ministry of the Church. Older children and adults make the vows on their own behalf.

Must a candidate have a sponsor (or sponsors)? Yes, parents are considered the primary sponsors and there may be more sponsors if the candidate or parents desire. Only baptized persons can be sponsors.

When is baptism administered? All baptisms take place during a Sunday or Feast Day service of worship in the Church (with the exception of emergency baptism).

Baptism is usually reserved for the Feast Days of the Church particularly significant for baptism: *Easter, Day of Pentecost, All Saints' Day* (or the Sunday after All Saints' Day), the *Feast of The Baptism of our Lord* (the first Sunday after The Epiphany).

What if I'm not sure if I've been baptized? We do not “re-baptize.” If you have been baptized in a tradition which does not use the Orthodox Christian Baptismal formula, you are baptized into the Christian Church. If you are unsure of your baptism, but think you may have been baptized into the Christian Church, there are provisions for Conditional Baptism. If you are in this category, speak to the rector.

What is the status of the newly baptized in the Church? “Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Body the Church. The bond which God established in Baptism is indissoluble.” (BCP 298). All who are baptized are full members of the Church and able to receive Holy Communion, regardless of age.



All Saints' Episcopal Church
Baptism Information (complete one form for each candidate)

Name of Candidate: -

(first, middle, last)

Sex: M__ F__ Date of Birth: _____

Birth Place:

(City and State)

Home address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mother's Name:

(first, maiden, last)

Baptized Y__ N__ Church affiliation: _____

Father's Name:

(first, middle, last)

Baptized Y__ N__ Church affiliation: _____

Baptismal Sponsors *(Must be Baptized)*

1.

(Name)

(Address)

(Church affiliation)

2.

(Name)

(Address)

(Church affiliation)

3.

(Name)

(Address)

(Church affiliation)

4.

(Name)

(Address)

(Church affiliation)

Baptism Date: _____ **Time:** _____
Officiating Minister: _____