



# Baptism



Christ & St. Luke's  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# What is Baptism?

*“Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Body the Church.” — The Book of Common Prayer*

Baptism is the rite of initiation by which we become a part of the Body of Christ, the Church. Baptisms at Christ & St. Luke's also include Christening, or anointing with holy oil.

The Baptismal rite is a chance for the church community to surround those being baptized in love, support, and fellowship. It's actually a promise we make as a community during the baptismal service. As such, it is the norm in the Episcopal Church to hold Baptisms as part of one of the public Sunday services.

It is our hope that Baptism serves as an open invitation into the full life of Christian discipleship, and specifically to life in fellowship at Christ & St. Luke's. This invitation is offered freely to all. It especially applies to adult baptismal candidates, and, in the case of infants and young children, to the family of the child being baptized. We believe that the full beauty of Baptism begins to reveal itself in regular attendance at worship, fellowship events, and Christian formation.

# When Do We Baptize?



Baptisms at Christ & St. Luke's are celebrated on the baptismal feasts of the church year:

- All Saints (November)
- Baptism of Our Lord (January)
- Easter Vigil (March or April)
- Pentecost (May or June)

We also offer a Baptism date in the late Summer (July or August) should the need arise.

We do our best to accommodate your preferred date. However, given logistical restraints on how many Baptisms we can do on a given date, some baptismal dates fill quickly.

# The Baptismal Process

The first step is to inquire about Baptism with a member of the clergy. Please reach out to The Rev. Jared Grant (**jared.grant@christandstlukes.org**) with any initial inquiries. Please note that it is generally a six-to-eight month process between inquiry and the baptismal service. For those seeking infant Baptism, you are welcome to reach out before the birth of your child.

Your initial conversation will give you information about which Baptism date may be best for you, as well as outlining the baptismal preparation that will be a part of your journey towards Baptism. After your initial conversation, you may complete the Application for Baptism at Christ & St. Luke's.

You may apply online at **[christandstlukes.org/baptism](http://christandstlukes.org/baptism)**.

## Checklist and timeline



**6-8 Months Out:** Inquire about Baptism with a member of the clergy.



**6-8 Months Out:** Submit the "Application for Baptism" at Christ & St. Luke's.



**3-4 Months Out:** Attend the appropriate Baptismal Prep Course outlined by the clergy



**On or near the day of the Baptism:** Attend the required rehearsal, and then participate in the Sacrament of Baptism.



## Baptismal Preparation

Given the importance and beauty of baptism, it is our joy to be able to offer several chances for baptismal candidates and their families to explore the wonders of this sacramental rite as they prepare to fully embrace their identity in the Body of Christ. Your initial conversation with the clergy will outline what sort of preparation is best for you.

# Take A Dip Into Baptism

This is our standard baptismal prep course, and is designed for adults seeking baptism and for the families of infants and children seeking baptism. This course is run twice a year. You will be directed to participate in the class preceding your preferred baptismal date.

- **Fall Offering:** Prepares candidates for All Saints in November and Baptism of Our Lord in January.
- **Winter Offering:** Prepares candidates for Easter Vigil, Pentecost, and the Summer Baptism Date.

## The Baptismal Covenant

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.

# *Episcopal 101*

Additionally, for adults preparing for baptism, completion of the *Episcopal 101* course (offered in the Fall) will count as proper preparation for baptism. This course may also be appropriate for parents of infants and children who, themselves, have not formally joined the Episcopal Church through confirmation or reception. Participation in *Take A Dip Into Baptism* is also encouraged!

## *Other Options*

Other preparation options can be discussed depending on the specific situation, but it is our expectation that candidates make all efforts to participate in the options outlined above.





*“Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.”*

— Romans 6:3-4



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