



GENERAL INFORMATION ON HOLY BAPTISM

What is Holy Baptism? Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which a person becomes a member of the Christian Church. While God's love and compassion is for all, not just for those who are baptized, it is through baptism that each person may intentionally enter into, celebrate, and accept that love and compassion. The service of Holy Baptism may be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* beginning on page 297. And the sacraments portion of the catechism may be found on pages 857-859.

Who may be baptized at Trinity Church? Baptism, whether for a child or an adult, is not a light or casual matter. Anyone who has carefully considered the matter and who is prepared to become a Christian and live out his or her faith as a member of Trinity Church may be baptized here.

When do baptisms take place at Trinity Church? We baptize children several times a year, after their parents (at least one of whom must be baptized and a member of Trinity Church) attend a mandatory preparation class to understand what it means to take baptismal vows on behalf of children. (Godparents are invited and encouraged, but not required, to attend and participate in the preparation class.) Adults are usually baptized at the Easter Vigil, after they have completed our Inquirer's Class, which is offered twice a year, and entered in a relationship with at least one sponsor (who must be baptized and a member of Trinity Church).

2011 - 2012 Baptism Dates

All baptisms take place at the 9 a.m. service, unless otherwise indicated.

Families may request that a baptism be done during the 6 p.m. service on ANY of the Sundays below.

Sunday Holy Eucharist and Baptism

July 10, 2011
October 9, 2011
November 6, 2011 (11:15am)
January 8, 2012
February 5, 2012
April 7, 2012 (8:00pm)
May 6, 2012
May 27, 2012 (11:15am)

Baptism Preparation Class: 10:30am - 1:00pm

July 3, 2011
October 2, 2011
October 30, 2011
January 7, 2012 (Saturday)
January 29, 2012
March 25, 2012
April 29, 2012
May 20, 2012

Is baptism required to attend services? No. Everyone is welcome at services! We hope that all who consider Trinity to be their spiritual home will make a formal commitment and consider being baptized here if they are not already baptized. Note, being baptized here automatically adds you to the parish register, which is one element of becoming a member of Trinity Church.

Who is a member of Trinity Church? A member is anyone 16 years of age or older who has been added to the parish register (for example, by being baptized here) and who participates regularly in Trinity Church's corporate worship. A member commits to serve Christ at Trinity Church through the investment of time, talents, and an annual pledge of financial support. A member has both voice and vote at the parish's annual meeting.

Who should I talk to if I have more questions or concerns?

Please feel free to call Lauren Lukason, Assistant for Worship 617-536-0944.

Godparents/Sponsors of the Person to be Baptized

Sponsors of adults and older children present the candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of their candidates and their intention to support them by prayer and example in the 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.

(from The Book of Common Prayer)

Given this definition of the role of a sponsor, it is important that these individuals be carefully and prayerfully considered and chosen. A traditional number of godparents chosen has been three. Some parents are choosing more than three in light of an increasingly mobile society and the parent's desire to assure the regular presence of godparents in their child's life. Godparents should be chosen for their willingness to commit themselves to caring deeply for the child and to nurturing the child's spiritual growth. They need not be Episcopalians, but they must be baptized persons and they should be active participants in this or some other church.

Godparents are encouraged to attend the preparation class held on the Saturday immediately prior to the baptism. It is expected that godparents whose names will appear on the child's baptism certificate will be physically present at the baptism service.

*It is expected that all godparents (below) will be present at the service.
Godparents/Sponsors are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend the preparation class with the baptisand/parents.*

Full Name	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<small>(First)</small>	<small>(Middle)</small>	<small>(Maiden, if applicable)</small>	<small>(Last)</small>
Address	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	<small>(Street)</small>	<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State & ZIP)</small>	
Christian Denomination	<hr/>			
Full Name	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<small>(First)</small>	<small>(Middle)</small>	<small>(Maiden, if applicable)</small>	<small>(Last)</small>
Address	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	<small>(Street)</small>	<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State & ZIP)</small>	
Christian Denomination	<hr/>			
Full Name	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<small>(First)</small>	<small>(Middle)</small>	<small>(Maiden, if applicable)</small>	<small>(Last)</small>
Address	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	<small>(Street)</small>	<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State & ZIP)</small>	
Christian Denomination	<hr/>			

Signature and Date (from the Person to be Baptized, if an Adult, Else from a Parent/Guardian)

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return your completed request as noted below. Allow 7-10 business days for a reply.

**Lauren Lukason, Assistant for Worship
Trinity Church in the City of Boston
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