

# The SACRAMENT of HOLY BAPTISM

## Holy Baptism

CHRISTIAN INITIATION is the term given to the process by which infants, children or adults become members of the Body of Christ and are incorporated into the community of the Church. The sacrament which celebrates this process is called Holy Baptism.

Baptism plays an important role in the life of the whole congregation. Therefore it is not only a moment of personal significance, but a community event celebrated within the context of Christian worship with the community present to support and receive new members into the family of God's people.

Baptism is initiation into a community of faith and entrance into a way of life together with others.

Baptism is a once-and-for-all sacrament which takes one's whole life to finish. Because it is a process more than a moment, it is important that the decision for baptism is made thoughtfully and prayerfully within the context of regular private and corporate worship as well as participation in the Cathedral community.

## When do baptisms take place?

Baptisms take place during the Sunday eucharist at the Cathedral normally six times during the year. The dates are set by the Cathedral clergy for either the 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. worship service. The Cathedral clergy can advise you of upcoming dates.

## Who may be baptized?

People of all ages may be baptized; infants, children and adults. Because baptism is initiation into a community of faith, we invite you to attend Sunday worship for a time prior to baptism in order to become acquainted with the liturgical life of the Cathedral, and to become involved in the Christian community in some form, i.e. an outreach or educational program, volunteer time in a Cathedral project; reading or serving at worship services, coffee hour, making soup for the Drop-In, assisting in the office, etc. There are many ways to become involved in the community. Once you are involved, we welcome your desire for baptism to formally affirm your membership.

## Is there preparation for baptism?

When you are ready for baptism, we invite you to complete the information for baptism form (included). You will receive a telephone call from one of the Cathedral staff who will arrange a visit with you. Baptismal candidates, godparents and sponsors are then asked to attend a gathering with others to discuss the meaning of baptism. On the Saturday prior to the Sunday baptism, you will be asked to attend a rehearsal – a 'walk-through' of the service.

## What about godparents and sponsors?

If you have an infant or young child for baptism, you may ask one or two people to act as godparents. Adult candidates may choose a sponsor. The godparents and sponsors present you or your child at the baptismal service. Godparents and sponsors are friends or family members who share your Christian faith and will support you as you make baptismal promises. They are asked to share in the responsibility of Christian nurture and formation of their godchild.

## What promises will I be making?

In the baptismal service, after the Scriptures are read and a sermon is preached, the candidates for baptism are presented to the presiding celebrant, who will ask parents, godparents and sponsors the following:

### The Renunciations

Q Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces that rebel against God?

A I do.

Q Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

A I do.

Q Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

A I do.



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DIOCESE OF TORONTO

*The* CATHEDRAL  
CHURCH of ST. JAMES

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## The Affirmations

Q Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?

A I do.

Q Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

A I do.

Q Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?

A I do.

The congregation is then asked to make a promise to the candidates as they join the community of faith:

Q Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

A We will.

The congregation will then join with the candidates in reciting our common faith in the ancient baptismal creed of the early church called The Apostles' Creed. The entire congregation with the baptismal candidates then affirm together a series of promises which draw out the implications of the baptismal covenant:

Q Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

A I will, with God's help.

Q Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

A I will, with God's help.

Q Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

A I will, with God's help.

Q Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

A I will, with God's help.

Q Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

A I will, with God's help.

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In baptism we are called not simply to a personal faith in Jesus nor simply to membership in the Church. We are also called to a life of service to others, with a commitment to justice, peace and human dignity.

The congregation will welcome the newly baptized into the "household of God" and invite them to share in the life of the faith community and in the responsibilities of membership in Christ.

## Symbols used in baptism

WATER is life-giving, cleansing and essential to sustain life. Each person is sprinkled with water blessed by the presiding celebrant who will say:

*I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

OIL blessed by the bishop is used by the celebrant to trace the sign of the cross on the candidate's forehead with the words:

*I sign you with the cross, and mark you as Christ's own for ever.*

The presiding celebrant will conclude the baptismal portion of the liturgy with the following prayer:

*Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed on 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.*

LIGHT in the form of a candle is given to each candidate as a symbol of the movement from darkness to light, new life and resurrection.

*Receive the light of Christ to show that you have passed from darkness to light.*

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The service continues with the celebration of the holy eucharist where we all participate in the family meal of the Church. Baptism makes us full members of the Church which means that infants, children and adults are all welcome to receive this sacrament of bread and wine. (It may be of interest to know that in 1986 the Lambeth Conference of Bishops of the Anglican Communion gave permission for baptized children to receive holy communion regardless of their age however, parents may choose to admit their children to the eucharist after a period of instruction suitable to their age. You may discuss this further with the Cathedral clergy.)

## And then what?

Then the life-long process of living into our baptism begins: sharing regularly in the holy eucharist, worshipping with other Christians, developing the practice of prayer and service to others based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, and participating in the life of the Christian community.

Baptism is the beginning of a new way of life and we welcome you into it.



## The Cathedral Church of St. James

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The Cathedral Church of St. James  
INFORMATION FOR BAPTISM  
OF AN INFANT OR CHILD

Please print clearly.

Child's name in full  Male or  Female

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER's name in full

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City/town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Baptism

Date and Place of Confirmation

Occupation

FATHER's name in full

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City/town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Baptism

Date and Place of Confirmation

Occupation

GODPARENTS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

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How long have you been worshipping at the Cathedral?

Have you had other children baptized at the Cathedral  
and when? \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways are you currently involved at the Cathedral?

How would you like to either begin or continue your  
involvement?

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date and time of baptism

Visit with the clergy

Gathering to discuss the meaning of baptism

Rehearsal date and time

Cathedral staff contact

The Cathedral Church of St. James  
INFORMATION FOR BAPTISM  
OF AN ADULT

Please print clearly.

Name in full  Male or  Female

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

City/town \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor

Religious Affiliation of Sponsor

How long have you been worshipping at the Cathedral?

In what ways are you currently involved at the Cathedral?

How would you like to either begin or continue your  
involvement?

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date and time of baptism Rehearsal date and time

Visit with the clergy Cathedral staff contact

Gathering to discuss the meaning of baptism

