

Holy Baptism at St. George's Episcopal Church – Clifton Park, NY

We welcome your inquiry about baptism at St. George's. The following is provided as a guide to this wonderful and sacred entry into new life in our Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. 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 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.

The norm in this parish to make available the Sacrament of Holy Baptism to the children or grandchildren of baptized adults who have been regular in attendance at St. George's for at least one year. The norm for unbaptized young adults and adults is that they have been regular in attendance at St. George's for at least one year.

Through Baptism, we renounce Satan, repent of our sins, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. To support this commitment each candidate for Holy Baptism is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons. Appropriate discussions are to be arranged with the rector for baptismal preparation of the candidate or in the case of an infant preparation of the parent(s) and sponsor(s). 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.

We offer the sacrament of baptism for infants so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God, with the promises made on their behalf, 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. Accordingly, the Book of Common Prayer states that, "It is fitting that parents be included among the godparents of their own children. 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."

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. 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 bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.

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 (the First Sunday after the Epiphany). It is recommended that, as far as possible, Baptisms be reserved for these occasions or when a bishop is present.

Lay persons may act as readers, and it is appropriate for sponsors to be assigned this function. The petitions may also be led by one of the sponsors.

For an appointment with Fr. Tom or Mtr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis or for any other arrangements, please contact the Church office. (518) 371-6351 or email Fr. Tom at fr.tomp@gmail.com or Mtr. Elizabeth mother.elizabethp@gmail.com.