

Baptism

Introduction

BAPTISM is about becoming a faithful practicing member of a church so it makes sense to be baptized where you will be attending and involved. When baptized you will make the following promises for yourself, or on behalf of your child:

The Baptismal Covenant

Priest: Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, The Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Priest: 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Priest: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

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

People: I will, with God's help.

Priest: Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

People: I will, with God's help.

Three more important rules or points:

- 1) If you are not prepared to raise your child as an active member of a church, then it is best to let that child make the decision to join a church on his or her own and be baptized and make the promises as an adult.
- 2) **Only baptized people** can present a child for baptism, which means only baptized parents can answer for a child, and only baptized Christians can be sponsors or godparents.
- 3) In order to raise your child in the faith it is best to have her baptized in a congregation that is close to your home so you can be regular active members of the congregation.

Conclusion

Through baptism you are committing to being an active member of the Family of God and, as in all families, it takes time and energy to build healthy relationships with one another. And it takes time to discern how our relationship with God affects the way we treat others and the world around us.

As Christians, our primary commandment is to "Love One Another" in all that we do in our lives, and with all whom we meet in our world.

Please do not hesitate to write or phone at 519-432-3743 with any questions you may have. And we would be happy to have you check us out on any Sunday morning at our 10:30am service. Children are welcome in the service and we have nursery care if you would like to use it.