

Baptism & Confirmation

at the Church of the Annunciation



What is Baptism?

Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, and inheritors of the kingdom of God (*The Book of Common Prayer*, p.858). In Baptism, the outward and visible sign is water, in which a person is baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity. The inward and spiritual grace is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family, forgiveness of sin, and new life in the Holy Spirit. Through Baptism, one is made a full member of the Church of the Annunciation, the Episcopal Church, the worldwide Anglican Communion, and the fellowship of Christians everywhere.

Who is eligible for Holy Baptism?

Anyone! We baptize infants so they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership with Christ, and redemption by God. In the case of infants and small children, promises are made on their behalf by parents and sponsors, who assure that they will be brought up in the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him. For adults, the decision to be baptized is spiritually deep and intensely personal, and usually follows a period of instruction and preparation.

When do we conduct Baptisms?

Except in extreme cases of emergency, we baptize only in the context of a regularly scheduled worship service. Since Baptism is the rite by which we are "grafted on the vine" and made members of the Church, it is important for the Church members to be gathered. At Annunciation, we prefer to have Baptisms on major feasts whenever possible. These include All Saints' Sunday (in November), the feast of the Baptism of Christ (in January), the Great Vigil of Easter, and the Day of Pentecost. On rare occasions, another Sunday may be designated for Baptism.

How many godparents should my child have?

As many as you like. Traditionally, a boy had two male sponsors and one female, with the opposite for a girl. Nowadays, children and adults often have two, three, even more sponsors.

How much does it cost?

There is no charge for the sacraments of the Church. If you would like to make a donation as a thank offering, that would be appreciated.

How do I schedule a Baptism?

Please contact the Rector for more information. He'll meet with you and the sponsors to determine a course of action appropriate to your particular circumstances.

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sacramental rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and laying-on of hands by a bishop.

What is required of those to be confirmed?

Candidates for Confirmation must be baptized, sufficiently instructed in the Christian faith, penitent for their sins, and ready to affirm their confession of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Confirmation is an affirmation made by mature adults. In the Diocese of Newark, our bishop strongly urges Confirmation no earlier than the tenth grade. In rare circumstances, he will consider those in the ninth or even eighth grade. Here at Annunciation, we offer confirmation preparation on an occasional basis, according to the needs of the community. The Confirmation rite itself is normally held at the Cathedral in Newark.

THE CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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