

# Thinking about Baptism



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## Godparents/Sponsors

*Who to ask:*

*Someone who is baptized in a Christian church.*

*Someone who will help your child grow in their Christian faith.*

*Someone who will pray for you and your children.*

## Why Baptism?

Baptism is an ancient rite whereby, in response to God's actions in Jesus Christ, people publicly declare how they choose to live life.

Baptism is a sacrament (a symbol) that God has raised us to a new life. It is a symbol that we have died to a way of life that is orientated towards ourselves, and we are committing ourselves to grow into a new way of life focussed on serving others. In a symbolic way we are dying with Christ on the cross, and coming up out of the water of baptism as a new creation.

Baptism is a sacrament offered in the community of other people to indicate that, with God's help, we are leaving behind a way of life that is without God and ultimately destructive to ourselves and others; that we are leaving behind a way of life that is preoccupied with ourselves as the primary focus; and we are turning to a new way of life that seeks God in all people, and is learning to follow the way of Christ.

We use symbols of water, oil, and light.

We use water as a symbol of cleansing, oil as a symbol of anointing the candidate as a member of God's royal family, and a candle light lit from the Paschal Candle as a symbol of passing from darkness into God's light.

The service is divided into three parts:

Presentation and Examination with Renunciations and Affirmations

Baptism Covenant (Promises)

Baptism with Anointing and the Giving of Light



## Presentation and Examination for Holy Baptism

*Parents and Sponsors:* I present *N* to receive the sacrament of baptism.

*The celebrant asks the parents and sponsors,*

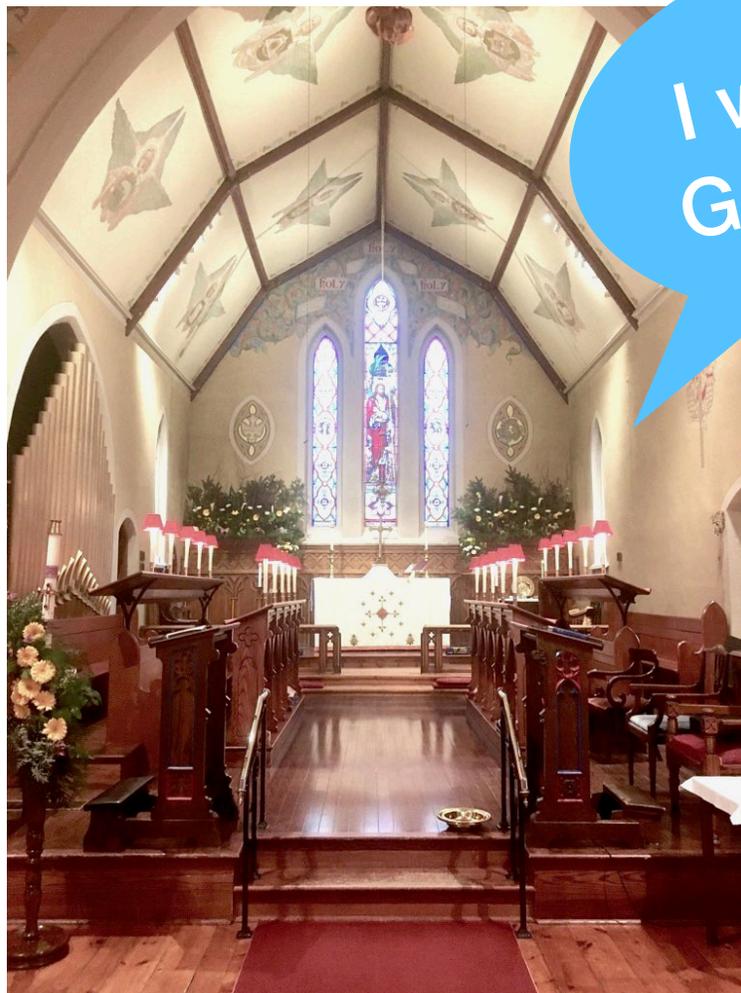
**Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?**

*Parents and sponsors:* I will, with God's help.

*Celebrant:*

**Will you, by your prayers and witness, help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?**

*Parents and sponsors:* I will, with God's help.



I will, with  
God's help

## The Three Renunciations and Affirmations

*(Three things to say “no” to; and three things to say “yes” to)*

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

**I renounce them.**

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

**I renounce them.**

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

**I renounce them.**

Just say  
NO!

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

**I do.**

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

**I do.**

Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?

**I do.**

Just say  
YES!



**What is a covenant?**

# The Baptismal Covenant

*The first three questions are about what God does.*

## **Do you believe in God the Father?**

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

## **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?**

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.



I believe...

## **Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?**

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.

**Of all of these promises  
which one(s) do you find  
most challenging to keep?**

*The next six questions are our response to  
what God has done.*

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.



## **The Baptism**

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

*The celebrant makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each one (using chrism oil if desired) saying to each,*

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



*The celebrant, at a place in the full sight of the congregation, prays over the newly baptized, saying,*

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

**What do symbols of  
water, oil and light  
mean for you?**

## **The Giving of the Light**

*One of the ministers may then give to each of the newly baptized a lighted candle, saying,*  
Receive the light of Christ,  
to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

*When all of the newly baptized have received candles, the people say,*

**Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We receive you into the household of God.  
Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection,  
and share with us in his eternal priesthood.**



**What questions do you have about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?**

**How do you pray with your child?**

**What does baptism mean for you?**

**What change will this make in your life?**

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