

Baptism is the beginning of life within a community of faith and we welcome you into it.

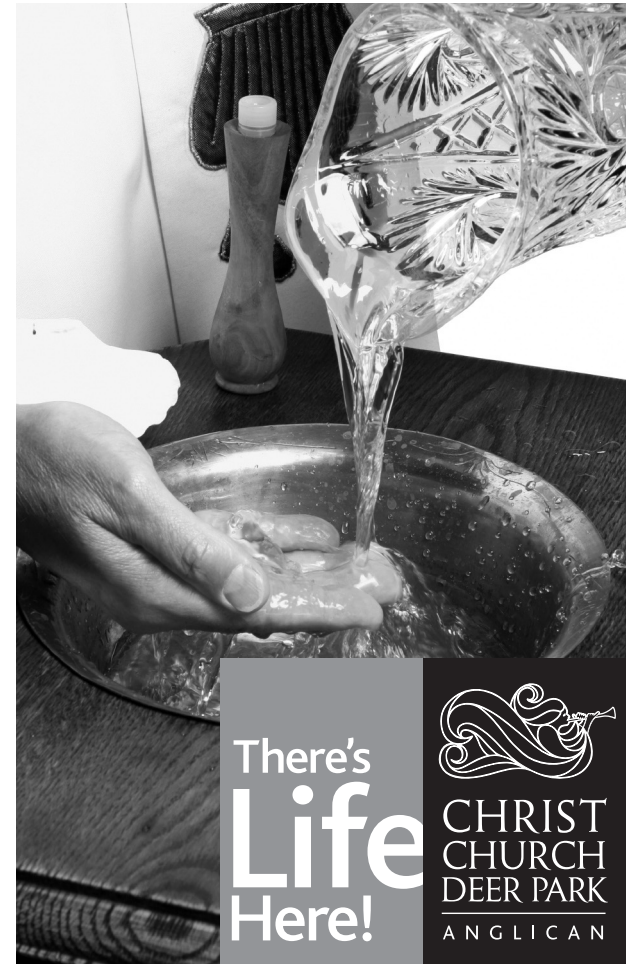
Christian Initiation is the term given to the process by which infants, children or adults become members of the Body of Christ and are welcomed into the community of the Church. The sacrament which celebrates this process is called Holy Baptism.

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.

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Preparing for Holy Baptism



There's
Life
Here!



Frequently Asked Questions

When do baptisms take place?

Baptisms normally take place 5 times per year during the Sunday Eucharist. The dates are set by the clergy for either the 9:15 am or 11 am worship service. The clergy can advise you of upcoming dates.

Who may be baptized?

People of all ages may be baptized: infants, children, and adults. At whatever age, we welcome you into the life of our parish community.

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 parish, and to become involved in the Christian community in some form, i.e., an outreach or educational program, volunteer time in a parish project; reading or serving at worship services, assisting at coffee hour or at a local food bank, assisting in the office, etc. There are many ways to become involved in the parish and local community.

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 clergy who will arrange a visit with you. Baptismal candidates, godparents and sponsors are then asked to attend gatherings with others to discuss the meaning of baptism which will include 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, after which the congregation is asked to make a promise to the candidates as they join the community of faith:

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

A I will, with God’s help.

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

A I will, with God’s help.

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.

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:

With this holy oil, I place the sign of the cross on your forehead. May God’s blessing be upon you this day and forevermore.

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

Gracious God, we thank you that by this water and the anointing of oil, you have blessed (n) with your love, your constant care, and the promise of everlasting life. Sustain him/her all the days of his/her life. Give him/her, we pray, a discerning heart, a steady will, a spirit to know and love you, and the gift of joy and wonder this day and always. 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.

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 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.

Christ Church Deer Park Information for Baptism of an infant or child

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

CHILD

MALE OR FEMALE

CHILD'S NAME IN FULL

DATE OF BIRTH

PLACE OF BIRTH

MOTHER

MOTHER'S NAME IN FULL

STREET ADDRESS

CITY/TOWN

POSTAL CODE

PHONE (DAY)

(EVE)

EMAIL

DATE AND PLACE OF BAPTISM

FATHER

FATHER'S NAME IN FULL

STREET ADDRESS

CITY/TOWN

POSTAL CODE

PHONE (DAY)

(EVE)

EMAIL

DATE AND PLACE OF BAPTISM

OCCUPATION

GODPARENTS

NAME

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

NAME

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

NAME

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

ALSO

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO CCDP?

HAVE YOU HAD OTHER CHILDREN BAPTIZED AT CCDP?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO EITHER BEGIN OR CONTINUE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PARISH?

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE AND TIME OF BAPTISM

VISIT WITH THE CLERGY

GATHERING TO DISCUSS THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

REHEARSAL DATE AND TIME

CLERGY STAFF CONTACT

Christ Church Deer Park Information for Baptism of an adult

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

MALE OR FEMALE

NAME IN FULL

DATE OF BIRTH

PLACE OF BIRTH

STREET ADDRESS

CITY/TOWN

POSTAL CODE

PHONE (DAY)

(EVE)

EMAIL

OCCUPATION

NAME OF SPONSOR

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF SPONSOR

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO CCDP?

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