

Holy Baptism
Christ Episcopal Church Eureka CA



BAPTISM INFORMATION AND APPLICATION

HOLY BAPTISM

Holy Baptism is one of the most important Sacraments of the Church, since it is the means whereby a person or child begins a new life, through the gift of God's grace. The Book of Common Prayer states that "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" (BCP 858). Baptism has been the form of Christian initiation ever since the first Apostles began baptizing converts to the Faith "in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," in obedience to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19). The privilege of continuing this Apostolic practice is a source of great joy for us. It is also something we take very seriously.

YOUNGER CHILDREN AND INFANTS

Since Baptism is such an important step in a person's life, it is essential that the parents understand clearly what they are committing themselves to in the Sacrament of Baptism, and why they want their child to be baptized. Their first responsibility is to talk together at length about this action on behalf of their son or daughter, and to be sure that this is something that has grown out of their faith, rather than a formality that family and friends expect. Second, Baptism means more than bringing a child to Church for a special Rite. After infants have been brought into the family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, they must be nurtured within that family. The responsibility lies with the parent to exemplify the Christian life by their attendance at worship, by praying with their children, and by giving and working for the Kingdom of God.

OLDER CANDIDATES

Older candidates for Holy Baptism are to be sponsored by one or more persons who are themselves already baptized, active Christians. These sponsors present their candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of those persons and their intentions to support them by prayer and example in their Christian life.

CHOOSING GODPARENTS

Sponsors of infants, commonly called "godparents" present their candidates, and make promises in their own names, and also make vows on behalf of their infant godchildren. The choice of godparents is a crucial one, for together with the parents they will speak for the infant and promise that he or she will be brought up in the Christian faith and life.

THE BAPTISM SERVICE

At Christ Church Eureka, as at all Episcopal churches, we follow the rule that “Holy Baptism is especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, on the Day of Pentecost, on All Saint’s Day or the Sunday after All Saint’s 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, Baptism be reserved for these occasions or when a bishop is present” (BCP 312). Because additional dates are sometimes needed, we occasionally schedule Baptism other times of the year. “Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or other feast” (BCP page 298). At Christ Church, Baptisms generally take place during the 8:00 or 10:30 a.m. services on Sunday, so that the parish family can be part of receiving a new member into the Body of Christ and to join with the candidate’s parents and sponsors in “renewing their own Baptismal Covenant” (BCP page 304).

BAPTISM INSTRUCTION PER THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

The Baptism application form on the following page should be completed and returned to the Church office as soon as possible.

Q. What is Holy Baptism?

A. 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.

Q. What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?

A. The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism?

A. The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God’s family and the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is required of us at Baptism?

A. It is required that we renounce Satan, repent of our sins, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Q. Why then are infants baptized?

A. Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God.

Q. How are the promises for infants made and carried out?

A. Promises are made for them 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.

We hope this information will give you a better understanding of our approach to Baptism at Christ Church, and we hope this will help you with your application. Please complete the following application and return it to the Church office at christchurcheureka@gmail.com. Please contact me if you have any questions! The Rev. Dr. Daniel DeForest London Rector of Christ Church Eureka. 707-442-1797. eureka.rector@gmail.com

Catechesis

Holy Baptism includes the baptismal vow to “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers” (BCP, p. 304). This is a promise to participate in the Holy Eucharist on a regular (ie. weekly) basis, to the best of one’s ability.

In preparation for Baptism, please watch the following videos that provide a broad overview of the Bible, Church History, Theology, Liturgy, and Ethics from the Episcopal / Anglican perspective. In preparation for the Baptism of an infant, we encourage parents and godparents to familiarize themselves with the videos below as well. In order to complete the class, please download and print the Lesson Notes and fill in the blanks for the following sessions: *The Bible, Church History, Theology, Introduction to the Book of Common Prayer, Sacraments, and Ethics*.

The Bible

The Bible (Part One): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHXf9sSJSvs>

The Bible (Part Two): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RU0Jt7wDfsI>

The Bible (Lesson Notes): <https://christchurcheureka.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/confirmation-bible.pdf>

Church History

Church History (Part One): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nh3PVxU9s2o>

Church History (Part Two): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7fR1_DSvVI

Church History (Lesson Notes): <https://christchurcheureka.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/church-history.pdf>

Theology

Theology (Part One): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0i3VMIA2C7A>

Theology (Part Two): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7eDBKhkUcc>

Theology (Lesson Notes): <https://christchurcheureka.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/theology-lesson-notes.pdf>

Book of Common Prayer

BCP (Part One): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NpGJK3CrUI>

BCP (Part Two): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZbQIpBrl00>

BCP (Part Three): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXQW-ixaNh4>

BCP (Lesson Notes): <https://christchurcheureka.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/bcp-conf-20-1.pdf>

Sacraments

Sacraments (Part One): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHKcIhNkIcY>

Sacraments (Part Two): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q1YC_Yu7QQM

Sacraments (Lesson Notes): <https://christchurcheureka.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/sacraments.pdf>

Ethics

Ethics (Part One): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGPaDOjS3VY>

Ethics (Part Two): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S7mdMPjL9Ms>

Ethics (Lesson Notes): <https://christchurcheureka.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ethics.pdf>

BAPTISM APPLICATION

Date of Application: _____

Proposed Date of Baptism: _____ Proposed Time: _____

Full Name: _____

Age: _____ Sex: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Parent 1 Full Name: _____

Parent 1 Address: _____

Parent 1 Church Affiliation: _____

Parent 2 Full Name: _____

Parent 2 Address: _____

Parent 2 Church Affiliation: _____

Parents Telephone – Home _____ Cell _____

E-mail: _____

Church parent (s) now attend? _____

How long have you attended? _____

Why do you wish to be Baptized at Christ Church? _____

Have you had other children Baptized at Christ Church? _____ if YES, please give names and dates _____

Other Relevant Family
Information _____

Please list your children's proposed Godparents: Name & Church Affiliation:

Please email this christchurcheureka@gmail.com

Suggested Donation for Holy Baptism

\$100 to clergy

\$50 to administrative assistant

\$50 to musician

\$50 to altar guild

Total \$250 to Christ Church Eureka