

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Holy Baptism

*We thank you Father, for the water of Baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in His death.
By it we share in His resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.*

Book of Common Prayer

Baptism is a life changing event. It is our entry into the Church; it marks us as Christ's own forever.

At Church of the Good Shepherd we honor this important moment in many ways. Baptisms at Church of the Good Shepherd are part of our community life, and are held on Sunday mornings, as part of our celebration of the Eucharist. This way, the person being baptized is surrounded and supported by the whole Church family, and the Church family has the privilege of welcoming their newest companion in the journey.

The Church Year provides us with days which wonderfully reinforce the truths of baptism. These are the special times when we regularly celebrate baptism:

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday; the whole Easter season celebrates our new life in the Resurrection of Jesus, and this Sunday is a wonderful day to welcome new members into His flock here at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Pentecost, fifty days after Easter, when we celebrate the Holy Spirit joining all believers into one Body.

All Saints' Day, celebrated on the first Sunday of November, when we remember all the followers of Christ who have gone before us.

Baptism of our Lord, celebrated the Sunday following January sixth, when we remember Jesus' baptism in the Jordan.

To supplement these traditional dates, we also provide for Baptism on the Feast of the Transfiguration, which is celebrated the Sunday following August sixth, as well as on several other Sundays during the year.

We ask that candidates for baptism consult with the clergy, and chose one of these dates well in advance. We want to meet with candidates and their families, so that we all have an opportunity to reflect on the significance of baptism. Whether we are coming to baptism later in life, or we are parents presenting a baby for baptism, this is a time to slow down, examine our values and commitments, and think about what it means to join our lives to the ongoing life of Christ in His Church.

If you are a parent bringing a child to be baptized, we ask that you attend a course designed for you, entitled Visionary Parenting. This will give you inspiration and a practical vision for your role as a Christian parent.

If you are seeking baptism as an adult, please be part of our “Growing in Newness of Life” program, which will also be offered before your baptism date. This will give you a chance to reflect on your decision, and prepare for a life of discipleship.

Whether we are parents bringing our child into the Church, or adults committing our life to Christ, this preparation time is very important, and helps us all experience the true meaning and power of Baptism. We are honored that you are considering baptism at Church of the Good Shepherd. We pray that we may walk with you in this part of your journey.

Please complete and return the **Baptism Information Form** and the **Declaration of Intention** to the Church Office.