

HOLY BAPTISM

We cherish baptism as the sacrament that lovingly ushers us into a life with God. Picture the water as a tangible symbol, gently cleansing us from original sin, embracing us into the covenant of grace, adopting us as heirs to the Kingdom, warmly welcoming us into the universal church, and marking a profound moment of spiritual rebirth. It's like a beautiful echo of Christ's own journey—His death, burial, and resurrection—all while symbolizing the incredible forgiveness Christ offers us. Through this sacred act, God establishes a covenant, showering us with grace and inviting us into the church and the Kingdom. It's a moment when the Holy Spirit is present, as hands are laid upon us, starting the wondrous journey of sanctification through our spiritual rebirth.

Baptism can be performed with sprinkling or immersion. An individual may only receive the sacrament of baptism once in their lifetime. We may break the covenant made in baptism, but God never will. God's love is faithful and steadfast in every season.

We believe all baptisms should occur within the community of faith, which pledges to support the baptized person. Infants cannot answer for themselves, but we believe parents should have their children baptized. When children reach an age of accountability, they can respond to their baptism with faith as part of Confirmation.

Baptizing infants has roots in Scripture as whole households were baptized together, and Jesus made special appeals to include children in the Kingdom of God. Infant baptism reflects the helplessness of all people. God acts in the sacrament of baptism, so it does not matter if the person fully understands. In reality, even the most knowledgeable and brilliant person cannot fathom the wondrous grace imparted at baptism.



FIND OUT MORE

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**The Holy Spirit
work within you,
that being born
through water
and the Spirit,
you may be a
faithful disciple
of Jesus Christ.
Amen.**