

Baptism Policies
Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist
189 George St. New Brunswick NJ 08901

“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.” (Catechism - Book of Common Prayer 823)

This is perhaps the greatest of the sacraments that Christ gave us, to be adopted as one of His own. As you prepare for your own baptism or the baptism of your child, there should be a time of prayer and reflection about what it means to join the faithful, and become one of Christ’s own.

Baptismal Days

- Baptism in the Episcopal Church is part of the principal Sunday service. This is to give a connection between the candidate for baptism and the community into which s/he is being baptized. This also demonstrates the connection between the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.
- In the Episcopal Church there are four Cardinal Baptismal Days on which baptisms traditionally occur. The four days are The Baptism of Christ (Sunday after January 6th), Easter Sunday (Date varies by year), Pentecost Sunday (50 Days after Easter), and All Saints’ Sunday (Near November 1st.). ** Other dates may be chosen after conversation with the Rector.

Preparation time

- First, prayer is essential. This is a time to prepare becoming a Christian, joining the Church, and declaring one’s self a follower of Christ. Establishing a relationship and connection with God is of utmost importance at this time.
- To assist in the preparation, the candidate for baptism (if of an age of reason), parents (if the candidate is a child), and sponsors will meet with the rector during the preparation time.
- During the preparation time, the candidate and parents (if applicable) should regularly attend Sunday services at SJE to help form an understanding of Episcopal worship and theology, if they live in the New Brunswick area and are able.
- If you do not live in the area, please attend a local faith community in your own area.

The Service of Baptism

- The week before the baptism, the candidate, parents (if applicable), and sponsors need to meet with the Rector after church for a rehearsal. On the day of baptism please arrive one half hour before the service starts. The Baptism service is in the Book of Common Prayer (Episcopal Church, 1979) beginning on page 299 and may be found online for you to read and become familiar with your role.
- There are many ways to do baptism. We sprinkle a small amount of water over the candidate’s head three times at the font. We then apply scented oil to the forehead in the sign of the cross as anointing.
- This is a joyous time for the whole congregation. If you like, you may arrange a reception for the whole parish to celebrate the baptism following the service by signing up to do coffee hour on the sheet in the parish hall as soon as the Baptism date is set with the Rector. Some families simply bring a large cake. (You may make a donation to the Church or to the Rector if you wish in any amount of your choosing.)

No Flash Photography, Please

- Because Baptism is part of a worship service, please do not take flash photos because they distract from the sacredness of the moment. Please talk with the Rector before the service if this is a concern. Videotaping, digital photography without flash or high speed film may be used during the ceremony if taken from a non-intrusive location, and if no artificial lighting is used.
- Posing for flash photographs may take place immediately before and/or after the service.

Baptism Information Sheet
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189 George St. New Brunswick NJ 08901

Date of Baptism: _____ Place of Baptism: _____ Time: _____

Full Name of Candidate: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Father's Address: _____

Mother's Address _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

E-Mail: _____

Godparents/Sponsors:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Relation to Candidate: _____

Relation to Candidate: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Relation to Candidate: _____

Relation to Candidate: _____

Other Requests Regarding Baptism:
