PRACTICAL DETAILS

The Order of Service

In the Anglican Church, baptism is conducted using the liturgies set out in the prayer books and always includes the Celebration of Holy Communion (Eucharist). Baptisms occur at the main public service of Sunday Worship, and only during specific periods of the Church Year. They are especially appropriate at the Easter Vigil, Pentecost, All Saint's Day, or the Sunday of the Lord's Baptism.

Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation

Baptism is a once in a lifetime event and may not be repeated. However, confirmation, reception from another denomination, or reaffirmation of vows are several modes of response to baptism. Persons seeking to make a public re-affirmation of their faith commitment are encouraged to consult the minister.

The Rehearsal

A rehearsal is normally conducted a day or two before the ceremony. All members of the baptismal party are encouraged to attend. It's an informal and enjoyable time that takes about thirty minutes.

Pictures

Please inform your guests that the taking of pictures or use of video camera equipment is **not permitted during the ceremony**. Photographs may be taken anywhere in the Church following the service.

Fees

There are no fees associated with baptism, but the family may wish to make a donation to the Church.

If you have any other questions, please contact St. Philip's Church Office
admin@stphiliplantzville.ca

Baptism at St. Philip by-the Sea Anglican Church

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Journeying together in God's Love

What is Baptism?

God's love and graciousness extend to all persons, regardless of whether they are baptized. However, the Church exists as an intentional community to worship God and to serve to fulfill God's loving purposes for our world. A person becomes a Christian, and is initiated into the Church, by means of baptism. They accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and make covenantal promises to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ.

The Bible tells us of Jesus' own baptism in the River Jordan, at the hands of John the Baptist. Before returning to God, Jesus instructed his followers to continue this tradition: "Go into all the world, making disciples and baptizing in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28.19).

Infant or Adult Baptism?

It is the practice of the Anglican Church to baptize both infants and adults. In the case of infants, their family, sponsors, and godparents make the baptismal promises on behalf of the child. It's therefore important that all involved examine their own intentions honestly and are prepared to accept full responsibility for the promises they make in baptism. All candidates who are able to make the baptismal promises for themselves will do so.

Walking faithfully with Jesus

Baptismal candidates, or their families and sponsors, promise to put their whole trust in Jesus' grace and love, and to follow him as their Saviour. They vow to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being. They also promise to continue in the Apostles' teaching and friendship in the Church, in Holy Communion (Eucharist), and by remaining faithful in their prayers. This sacred covenant must not be entered into lightly. If the parents or sponsors of a child do not honestly intend to worship regularly with the child, the baptism should be postponed until the child can make their own decision.

Baptismal Preparation

The baptismal date should not be set until the persons have met with the minister. Before baptism can take place, the candidate or their parents & sponsors will participate in a baptismal preparation course. The purpose of this is to provide support, pastoral care, and education to the candidate, or their family & sponsors. Together we consider the promises they will make and how they will best live out their new baptismal covenant. Candidates are advised to meet with the minister and complete their baptismal preparation well in advance of their proposed baptismal date.