



Congratulations!

We at The Sanctuary are excited to play a role in your baptism. We want to do all that we can to make this day memorable for you and glorifying to God.

This packet is to inform and help prepare you for a very special moment of your life. May God richly bless you as you approach your baptism day. Remember to relax and enjoy the process. I am proud to partner with you in your public testimony of God's working in your life!

Please know that our staff is here to serve you and available to answer any questions you might have. Please direct any questions regarding baptism to Vickie McCoy at 661.252.7255, ext. 307.

Be God's,

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a safe place to grow

THE SANCTUARY CHURCH.COM

Who should be baptized?

(1) "Peter's words convicted them deeply, and they said to him and to the other apostles, Brothers, what should we do? Peter replied, 'Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.' Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church." (Acts 2:37-38, 41)

(2) "But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized." (Acts 8:12)

(3) "Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the great miracles and signs Philip performed." (Acts 8:13)

CONCLUSION: In these records of baptism, it is indicated that the person first "repented" of sin and "believed" in Jesus and then was baptized. One must be a believer in Jesus to be eligible for baptism.

Why be baptized?

(1) To follow Jesus' example. A Christian is a "follower of Jesus." "Jesus ... was baptized by John in the Jordan." (Mark 1:9-11)

(2) Jesus commanded it. He instructed His disciples to: "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

(3) It is the pattern followed by New Testament believers. "Many others in Corinth also became believers and were baptized." (Acts 18:8)

(4) An opportunity for an infilling of the Holy Spirit. "Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

CONCLUSION: It shows our loyalty and obedience to Jesus and His Word. "And how can we be sure that we belong to him? By obeying his commandments." (1 John 2:3)

When are we to be baptized?

The most detailed example of baptism is found in Acts 8 where Philip told the eunuch about Christ: "So Philip began with this same Scripture and then used many others to tell him the Good News about Jesus. As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?' He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him." (Acts 8:35-38).

CONCLUSION: There is no reason for delay. As soon as a person declares his belief in Christ, they can be baptized.

How are we to be baptized?

(1) "After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water . . . " (Matthew 3:16).

(2) "...and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him." (Acts 8:35-38)

What is the meaning of baptism?

(1) The English word "baptism" comes from the Greek word (original language of the New testament) *Bapto*, meaning "to dip" or "to wash." Water baptism is an outward way of showing (or symbol of) the internal washing and renewal that takes place when a person believes in Jesus. "He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit." (Titus 3:5)

(2) Baptism is also a symbol of one's union by faith with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. "Or have you forgotten that when we became Christians and were baptized to become one with Jesus, we died with him? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Jesus was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised as he was." (Romans 6:3-5)

(3) Baptism is a public confession to those in our community of our new life in Jesus and a sign of our obedience to His Word.

What can you expect?

"One-day when the crowds were being baptized, Jesus himself was baptized. As he was praying, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit, in bodily form, descended on him like a dove. And a voice from heaven said, "You are my dearly loved Son, and you bring me great joy." (Luke 3:21-22)

Just as the Holy Spirit came on Jesus in a physical sense (a dove), expect the Holy Spirit to settle on you. Those baptizing you will pray for the empowering and infilling of the Holy Spirit.

You can know that God is pleased with your obedience in being baptized.

To learn more about the Holy Spirit, see the reader: The Holy Spirit: Fruits & Gifts.

What do I wear?

For your baptism, you will need to wear shorts/swim trunks and a dark colored t-shirt. You will need to arrive already dressed for your baptism.

Where will I be baptized?

The baptism will take place in The Father's House baptistry.

What do I need to do before and during the baptism?

(1) Before the baptism - Please fill out the enclosed "My Baptism Testimony" sheet where you'll be able to write, in your own words, why you desire to be baptized and what it means to you. **Your baptism testimony should be turned in by the Sunday prior to your baptism. You can also email it to Vickie McCoy at vmccoy@thesanctuarychurch.com.** Your testimony will be read in the service just prior to the actual moment of your baptism.

(2) During the baptism - The specifics of what will happen during your baptism will be explained in the baptism class, held the morning of your baptism. The start time of this class depends on the service time of your baptism. Please note the times provided, which is 30 minutes before the start of each service:

9:00 am Service - Meet at 8:30 am in the Community Wing

11:00 am Service - Meet at 10:30 am in the Community Wing

If a child is being baptized, please make sure you check them in at the Kids Wing *first*.

(3) After the baptism - Immediately following your baptism, you will be able to go directly to the restrooms. You will be welcome to re-join the congregation seated in the Father's House for the remainder of the service. Children can go to their regular classroom in the Champs hallway or go to service in the Father's House, whichever you would prefer.

My Baptism Testimony

Name:	
Full Birth date:	
Mailing Address <small><i>(including city and zip)</i></small>	
Email:	
Phone Number:	

Please write, in your own words (125 words or less), why you desire to be baptized and what it means to you. Please return this testimony, in the envelope provided, to our New Here Kiosk or email it to Vickie McCoy (vmccoy@thesanctuarychurch.com) by the Sunday prior to your baptism.

Please see the "Questions/Instructions for Your Baptism" sheet for the meeting time and location of the class discussion for the Sunday service you requested.