

## Have you been baptized?

Baptism is about declaring that by faith, you have received Jesus as your Savior and believe that He has forgiven you of your sins and that you have become a part of the Body of Christ.

If you are ready to take this next step, complete this baptism packet and return to the church office.

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*Your Next Step*  
**Baptism**  
Trinity Church  
of the Nazarene

## What exactly is baptism?

Christian Baptism is one of the two sacraments observed by the Church of the Nazarene (in addition to the Lord's Supper). A sacrament is simply a tangible, external way of expressing a spiritual reality. Baptism is an act that symbolizes what Jesus has done in our hearts by faith. It is a sacred privilege. It is a response to God's grace in our lives, and a statement of our faith in Jesus Christ and our commitment to Him.

## Why is baptism important?

Baptism symbolizes the miracle of God's saving grace. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commanded His disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Baptism is a significant step in being a disciple of Jesus. Baptism is a once in a lifetime experience in which a believer makes a clear statement to live their life fully committed to Jesus Christ.

## What happens during baptism?

Christian baptism is a wonderful image of having our sins washed away. It portrays our death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. For as one is being lowered into the water it is saying, "I want to die to my sin." While under the water we symbolize Jesus' burial in the tomb. And as one is raised out of the water it is a statement of faith in Jesus' resurrection and power over sin and death. We usually baptize by full immersion.

## What do I have to do to be baptized?

Anyone who by faith has repented of their sins, ask Jesus to forgive them, and has accepted Christ into their heart, may be baptized. Baptism is a natural response to what Jesus does in our heart. We have eternal life through our faith in Jesus, not by the act of baptism. Baptism gives witness to what has happened in one's heart and life.

## Baptism Request Form

Please list name as it should appear on certificate

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth\_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different)

\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address\_\_\_\_\_

Married Single Divorced Separated Widowed

Preferred date:  Sunday am  Sunday pm

Person Reading Testimony: Please print

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Requested Pastor:

Shirt Size: YM YL S M L XL 2X 3X

**For Child Baptism — Please complete for children under 18**

If you DO NOT want you or your child's picture or video used for promotional purposes including but not limited to web sites, flyers, slide shows at church functions, and video clips. Please initial here:

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

For office use:

Date of baptism\_\_\_\_\_ Certificate issued\_\_\_\_\_ Database\_\_\_\_\_

Trinity Church of the Nazarene

**BAPTISM COMMITMENT FORM**

*To be signed and given to the Pastor.*

The earliest and simplest statement of Christian belief comes from the Apostles' Creed, which reads as follows:

**"I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
"And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell;  
the third day He rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
"I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy universal Church of Jesus Christ,  
the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| Will you be baptized into this faith?             | Yes |
| No <i>(circle one)</i>                            |     |
| Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Savior?   | Yes |
| No <i>(circle one)</i>                            |     |
| Will you obey God's Word and live by His truth?   | Yes |
| No <i>(circle one)</i>                            |     |
| Will you walk with Him all the days of your life? | Yes |
| No <i>(circle one)</i>                            |     |

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**What about baptism for children?**

Baptism after one has accepted Jesus is not the same as infant baptism. Infant baptism signifies that an innocent baby is covered by the life-giving grace of God, and that his/her parents are responsible to see that he/she is introduced early to Jesus and brought up in the faith of our Lord.

In our church, it is preferred to dedicate young children to the Lord instead of baptism. This avoids confusion in the mind of the child as he/she may want to be baptized after they come to accept Jesus in their heart. In fact, Christian baptism is often referred to as a "believer's baptism," meaning that the person being baptized has believed in Jesus and committed their life to the Lord. This implies the person is old enough to pray and accept Jesus as their Savior. As a general rule, children may be baptized if they know and have accepted Jesus, and understand the nature and purpose of baptism.

**What if I've been baptized before? Can I be baptized again?**

Some people have either been baptized as children before really knowing what baptism was about, or others may have been baptized in other churches or denominations. You do not have to be baptized again. Baptism as an infant or child is a symbol of God's grace at work in your life to bring you to faith in Him, and your faith in Jesus today is a wonderful testimony to God's grace. Even if you were baptized in a church more as a sign of membership than a witness of salvation, that baptism is still valid and meaningful because through that event Christ can help bring us to know Him and have faith in Him.

However, many people want to be baptized again as a real statement of their faith and as a statement of what Christ has done in their heart. And if you truly feel the need and desire to be baptized again, then certainly God will honor that step of faith and obedience.

## Preparing for Baptism

### **1. Spiritual Preparation**

- A. Praise God for your salvation and for our friendship with Jesus
- B. Study the Bible verses that speak about baptism. (Mark 1:9-11; John 3:5; Acts 8:36-38; Acts 10:48; Romans 6:3; 1 Peter 3:21)
- C. Pray that God's Spirit will help you to be sensitive to the wonder and meaning of baptism

### **2. Personal Testimony**

- A. Each person being baptized is asked to write a brief paragraph simply giving your testimony. (No more than half a page or so) Contact the church office if you would like help with this step.
- B. Ask someone to read this testimony sheet during the baptism service. The reader may be a family member or a friend who has helped you in your Christian life.

### **3. Sponsors**

- A. Each person being baptized will personally select and make arrangements with a person who will accompany him/her to and from the baptism.
- B. The sponsor will provide any assistance necessary (clothing, towel, robe, etc).

### **4. Physical Preparation**

- A. Bring a large towel, a change of clothes, and a plastic bag for your wet clothes.
- B. Wear clothes you are willing to get wet. They should be "non-clinging" as much as possible. Shorts are acceptable, but please make they are appropriate for the occasion. A t-shirt will be provided for you to wear and is a gift for you to keep to remember this special step.

## The Baptism Service

1. The pastor will be in the baptismal pool. You will enter the pool and then turn and face the congregation.

2. The person you selected will read your brief testimony.

3. A question and the response after your testimony will be something similar to this:

Pastor: "Do you accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?"

"And will you be baptized unto new life?"

Response: "I will."

Pastor: "Then I baptize you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

4. You will hold your nose with your right hand and clasp your right wrist with your left hand. The pastor will hold your arm and support your back. The act of immersion will be done by you bending your knees and leaning back. As soon as your head is submerged, the pastor will lift you out of the water.

5. Exit the baptismal pool.

6. Your sponsors will help you with your towel and lead you to a dressing area.

7. You will receive a baptismal certificate signed by the pastor to record this special step in your life.