

1 – WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Choosing to have your child baptized comes from the wonderful parental instinct to want the best for your child. It is promising to introduce your child to God's love and care from the very beginning of their lives. At St. John's we understand Baptism to be a significant Christian commitment. Baptism is your promise, supported by your family, friends and the entire congregation, based on your faith and membership in the church, to raise your child to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

We include the parents intimately in our Baptism preparation process because:

- We want to help you be ready to make those promises for your child.
- We want to equip you to be able to answer your child's spiritual questions.
- We believe that faith is formed best in families and we wish to nurture this quality of your life together.

2 – STEPS TOWARDS BAPTISM

Like any journey of great significance, the road to Baptism takes time. Practically speaking, you will want to plan ahead to allow 6-9 months for the following steps to unfold:

Start the Conversation: A great first step is to book an appointment to meet with our Incumbent, Fr. Simon Li at simonli.toronto@gmail.com or our Associate Priest, Fr. Jordan Wellington at revjordanwellington@gmail.com. This will give you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about Baptism. We look forward to talking to you.

Find a Rhythm of Worship: Joining our wider community for weekly worship will give you a clearer sense of whether you would like to be a part of our church family, be strengthened and encouraged in your faith, and be better equipped to teach your child about following Jesus. Our experience and expectation is that worshipping with us regularly for 3 months helps form a solid basis for the promises you will make at Baptism. St. John's church offers services in English and Cantonese. Check out our website for service times to see which service fits your needs.

Participate in our Fellowships: We want you to be confident about the promises you make. Our fellowships deal with Christian faith in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. You can find out more about our fellowships on our church website.

Be Presented to the Congregation: In the weeks leading up to the Baptism, we will introduce you and your child - along with others preparing for Baptism - to the entire congregation. We will ask for the church's prayers and support as you prepare to take this important step.

Rehearse Your Vows: Generally held the Sunday prior to the Baptism, our rehearsal will give you a clearer sense of what to expect on the day of, and is a great chance to ask any remaining questions. This session is essential for the immediate family, and sponsors or godparents are also strongly urged to attend.

For more information about our growing Children's Ministry and Nursery program, please contact our parish office at sjac.willowdale@gmail.com