

To register for baptism at Trinity Church, please fill out and mail this card.

You will be contacted by the office of the Associate for Faith Formation.

I am interested in Baptism at Trinity Church:

Name
Address
City, State Zip
Phone number
Email

Baptism Dates (circle one date in each column):

<b>First Preference</b>	<b>Second Preference</b>
November 2, 2008	November 2, 2008
January 11, 2009	January 11, 2009
April 11, 2009	April 11, 2009
May 31, 2009	May 31, 2009
November 1, 2009	November 1, 2009



Trinity Wall Street  
74 Trinity Place, 23rd Floor  
New York, NY 10006-2088  
Phone: 212.602.0800

## BAPTISM CLASS SCHEDULE 2008-2009

To be baptized at Trinity Church, you are required to attend three classes to learn about the sacrament and reflect on your faith journey and your hopes for your child's life of faith.

### Dates of Baptism and Preparation Classes

(All classes are at 1:30pm)

#### Baptism Day - November 2, 2008 (All Saints Day)

Class 1 - October 12, 2008

Class 2 - October 19, 2008

Class 3 - October 26, 2008

\*Rehearsal Date - November 1, 2008 at 2pm

#### Baptism Day - January 11, 2009

Class 1 - December 14, 2008

Class 2 - December 21, 2008

Class 3 - January 4, 2009

\*Rehearsal Date - January 10, 2009 at 2pm

#### Baptism Day - April 11, 2009 (Easter Vigil)

Class 1 - March 22, 2009

Class 2 - March 29, 2009

Class 3 - April 5, 2009

\*Rehearsal after April 5 class

#### Baptism Day - May 31, 2009 (Pentecost)

Class 1 - May 3, 2009

Class 2 - May 17, 2009

Class 3 - May 24, 2009

\*Rehearsal Date - May 30, 2009 at 2pm

#### Baptism Day - November 1, 2009

Class 1 - October 11, 2009

Class 2 - October 18, 2009

Class 3 - October 25, 2009

\*Rehearsal Date - October 31, 2009 at 2pm

## PREPARING FOR HOLY BAPTISM

## WELCOME!

Baptism is a time of great joy, and all Christians are blessed by those baptized. Baptism is about our journey together as Christians, and Trinity Wall Street is glad to be on that journey with you! We are here to support you and answer any questions you might have, so please contact us.

Blessings!

The Rev. Ruth Anne García

Associate for Faith Formation

## WHAT IS BAPTISM?

### Baptism is God's promise to us

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 (*The Book of Common Prayer*, 858). The sacrament marks the beginning of a new life in which we are promised a new relationship with God – opening us to new possibility and hope through Jesus Christ.

### Our promise to God and one another

At baptism, the person to be baptized vows to accept Jesus Christ as savior, to trust in his grace and love, and to follow and obey him as Lord (*BCP* 302-303). In the case of infants and younger children unable to answer for themselves, these vows are made by their parents and godparents who promise to raise the child in the Christian faith and support him or her in a Christian life through their prayers and by example.

*For in the one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body*

– I Corinthians 12:13



## THE BACKGROUND OF HOLY BAPTISM

In the sacrament of baptism, we recall earlier rituals in the Jewish faith. Baptism has its origins in the purity rituals of our Jewish forbearers. Jesus himself was baptized by John in the Jordan River. The three Gospel accounts of Jesus' baptism by John are integral to our understanding of baptism (See Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). All of these scripture passages include both the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus and the voice of God saying, "You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Baptism, then, marks the beginning of a new and more abundant life begun as we turn from that which keeps us separated from God and accept our true identity as beloved children of God. In continuity with the purity rituals and early baptisms, water serves as a symbol of cleansing and new birth.

Baptism means all this and more because of the coming of Jesus, the Christ. John the Baptist said to his followers, "I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the gift of the Holy Spirit." This gift of the Holy Spirit means that all that we vow to do in baptism is done with God's help. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live this new life promised in Baptism.

### A relationship

Baptism is the outward and visible action that connects a person to God in a covenant relationship. In addition, the congregation not only witnesses the vows of the baptized, the parents, and the godparents, but also reaffirms their own baptismal vows and pledges to uphold the newly baptized in their Christian life and faith. Baptism is a powerful, transformational moment for the entire faith community as we welcome our newest members, vow to support them, and reaffirm our own baptismal vows.

## ARRANGING BAPTISM AT TRINITY CHURCH

### Determine the Best Date and Contact Trinity

At Trinity Wall Street, baptism is a process involving a one-on-one meeting with the clergy, a series of baptism classes, and a period of congregational prayer for candidates prior to their baptism. To begin, check the dates listed in this brochure (the deadline is typically at least one month prior to the baptism date), then call us at 212.602.0800 or fill out and return the attached card. You can also register online at [trinitywallstreet.org/baptism](http://trinitywallstreet.org/baptism). The Office of the Associate for Faith Formation will contact you and lead you through the process. Adults wishing to be baptized go through a similar program. Please call our office for more information.

### Worship Regularly

Because baptism is a transformational moment for the entire faith community in which we welcome our newest members and vow to support them, relationships are pivotal. The day of one's baptism is just the beginning of the new life that Christ has promised us. It is only through the gift of community that we can truly receive all the gifts promised to us at baptism. The baptismal candidate is baptized into Christ's body the Church. But for the church to fulfill its vow to the baptized, the baptized needs to be present! During baptismal preparation, every attempt should be made to attend worship services regularly.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Whom should I choose for a sponsor or godparent?

The role of godparent is a special one in which one person, in the case of infants and younger children, makes a vow on behalf of another to support them in their Christian faith and life. Godparents should ideally be persons with whom you share your faith and whose life is one which you would hope your child to emulate. Parents are appropriate godparents for their children.

### How many godparents should I choose?

*The Book of Common Prayer* requires that there be at least one or more baptized persons. If you would like guidance in choosing a godparent, the Associate for Faith Formation will be glad to assist you.

### What if the godparents cannot be present?

It is ideal for godparents to be present to make their vows on behalf of the candidate. If they cannot be present, you might choose another baptismal date when they can be present. If this is not possible, someone else should stand in for that person and the godparent should make an appointment to talk with the Associate for Faith Formation to discuss their role as a godparent.

### Do I have to participate in baptism classes or preparation?

All parents are required to attend baptism classes, not only to learn more about baptism, but also to reflect on your own faith journey and your hopes for your child's life of faith. Classes also provide an opportunity to build community with other parents in the church.

Adults are required to prepare for baptism too. Contact the Associate for Faith Formation for more information.

Please  
Place  
Stamp  
Here

Trinity Wall Street  
Congregational Offices, 23rd Floor  
74 Trinity Place  
New York, NY 10006-2088