

What Infant Baptism is. . . .

Baptism is one of two sacraments in the Presbyterian Church.

Baptism is a covenant between God, the child, the parents and the congregation.

Baptism is the initiation into the church community.

Baptism is the seal of God's saving grace.

Baptism is the assurance that God will forgive our sins.

Baptism is the call to a life of Christian service and fulfillment.

What Infant Baptism is not . .

Baptism is not "christening", that is, making a person a Christian by the act of baptism.

Baptism is not a magic formula that gets a person into heaven.

Baptism is not simply a family tradition, in which we participate because other members of our family have been baptized before us.

Baptism is not a social event, by which we become outstanding members of the community.



Infant Baptism Ministry

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
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Newport Beach, CA 92663

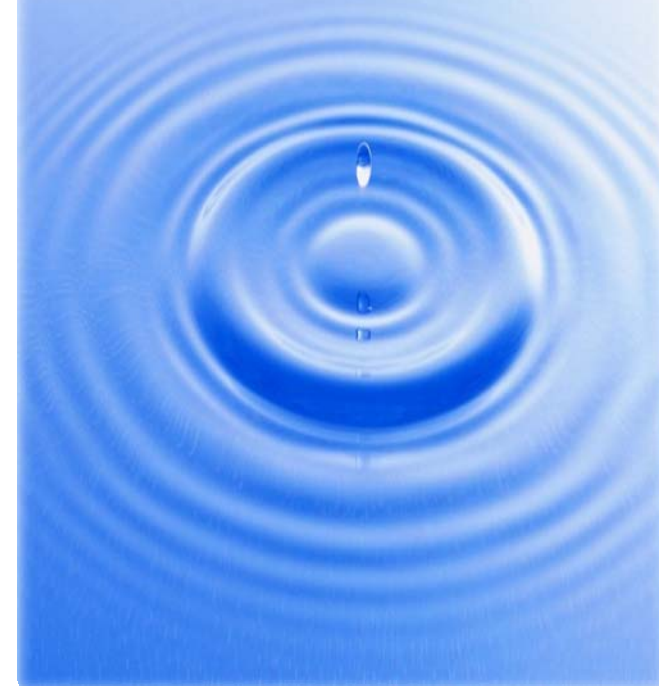
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St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Infant Baptism

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Newport Beach, CA





What is infant baptism?

Presbyterians affirm infant baptism as a way God shows his love for us by adopting us into his family, even before we have made a profession of our own faith. Parents and the congregation promise to provide nurture and guidance within the community of faith until the child is ready to make a personal profession of faith.

Do I have to have my baby baptized as an infant?

St. Andrew's allows the parents of young children to decide whether to baptize their children as babies. Some parents wish to baptize their babies as soon as possible. Others wish to allow their children to grow to an age at which they can make their own decision to follow Christ. This is called "Believer's Baptism."

When and where is baptism celebrated at St. Andrew's?

Baptism is celebrated the last weekend of each month: one child or family is baptized at each service: Saturday evenings in Dierenfield Hall and Sunday in the church Sanctuary. Baptism in the Presbyterian tradition is not a private rite, but a public celebration. Private baptism, in a home or at the church at a time other than a regularly scheduled worship service deprives the congregation of their responsibility in the Sacrament.

Why are parents expected to be active members in the life of the church?

In order for parents and the congregation to keep the promise made to God at baptism, parents should expect to be active participants in the life of the church. Belonging to the community of faith is important in keeping our promise. At least one parent must be an active church member and in regular attendance at St. Andrew's.

What about Godparents?

Presbyterians recognize that the responsibility for raising a child to follow Christ is not limited to parents, family, or close friends. All members of the congregation, along with the parents, are called upon to train a child in faith.

Why do we baptize with water?

Water is the natural symbol of baptism because it is the symbol of life. Water symbolizes the cleansing action of water and the Holy Spirit in our lives. Just like water cleanses, nourishes us and sustains us physically, the Holy Spirit cleanses, nourishes and sustains us spiritually.

Does St. Andrew's recognize baptism by other Christian churches?

The Presbyterian Church/U.S.A. recognizes all baptisms with water and in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit administered by other Christian churches.

What do I need to do if I want my baby baptized at St. Andrew's?

Contact KC Kroeger (our Infant Baptism Coordinator) at 949.574.2257 to begin the process of having your family celebrate the sacrament of Infant Baptism for your son or daughter. She will instruct you, help you set the date, and walk with you through the full experience!

