

TRINITY CHURCH WATER BAPTISM CLASS

Baptism Scheduled for: _____

Baptism Class given by: _____

Baptism Class Overview

1. Salvation Before Baptism
2. Baptism - A Command of Jesus
3. Baptism - A Spiritual Action
4. Baptism – A Physical Action
5. When To Be Baptized
6. Non-Biblical Baptisms
7. Baptism Day -Things You Should Know

1. Salvation before Baptism.

Have you received Jesus Christ into your life as personal Lord and Savior?

- **John 3:16**
- **Romans 10:8-12**
- **Acts 4:12**
- **Revelation 3:20**

Why Water Baptism?

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the scriptures. All who repent and believe in Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

- **Romans 6:4**
- **Matthew 28:19**
- **Mark 16:16**
- **Acts 10:47,48**

Since the beginning of the first church, believers have given evidence of their faith in Christ by being baptized in water. We mean a person is to be immersed under the water as a picture or symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

In the Bible, baptism always comes after a person has been saved. Baptism does not save you or keep you saved. It is an act of obedience to Christ and pictures what has already taken place in your heart. It describes our union with Christ as seen in **Romans 6:3-5**. Every Christian should be baptized soon after receiving Christ as Savior as it is a public statement of faith, acceptance, and commitment to Jesus Christ.

2. Baptism is a command of Jesus.

Matthew 28:16-20 *Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. When they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Acts 2:37-41 *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." 40 And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." 41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

Acts 22:16 *And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.*

Baptism is not merely a responsibility but also a privilege. We have the opportunity to evidence our trust and love for our King through obedience in this ordinance. If we think of baptism as a mere burden, we have not properly understood the joy of following Christ in the call to be baptized. We should have a similar response as the Ethiopian eunuch who, when he believed the gospel, proclaimed, "What prevents me from being baptized?" It should be our joy, and we should eagerly anticipate our participation in the ordinance.

While there are certain costs associated with baptism (rejection or ridicule from loved ones) the reward of obedience is always worth it.

The desire to be baptized should be motivated by a desire to glorify God in faithful obedience. Any other motivation (to join a particular group/church or to please a friend or family member, etc.) should not be the ultimate reason for seeking to be baptized.

We should be baptized:

1. To obey the commands of Christ.
2. To show evidence that a person is a disciple of Christ.
3. To follow the example of Christ.

3. Baptism is a Spiritual Action.

Baptism is not only a sign of obedience; it is also a sign of the inward work of God's Spirit in the life of the believer. Reading through Acts, we find baptism explicitly related to repentance, receiving the Word, believing and receiving the Holy Spirit. There is no explicit evidence to suggest that non-believers were baptized. Through baptism we show that, not only are we obedient to the ordinances of Jesus Christ, but that we are in spiritual agreement with the teachings of his scriptures. Baptism is the spiritual representation that we too have been buried with Christ and have also risen with Christ so that we may walk a new life.

Romans 6:3–4 *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.*

Galatians 3:27 *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

4. Baptism is a Physical Action.

Baptism is a spiritual statement of faith accomplished through a physical action. Jesus set the example of obedience, acceptance, and commitment to fulfilling all righteousness by being baptized.

Matthew 3:13-17 *Then Jesus came to Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and are you coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

John 3:22-23 *After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized. Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.*

Though other denominations and theological traditions baptize by pouring or sprinkling, Trinity Church practices baptism by immersion. We do so in light of the following considerations:

1. The Greek word βαπτίζω (baptizo) literally means to plunge, submerge or immerse.

Our English word baptism is a transliteration of the Greek baptizo. Baptizo was used in Greek literature to describe the act of immersing something in water or another liquid. It later became a technical term that referred specifically to the Christian ordinance of baptism.

2. The representation of union in Christ's death and resurrection is best expressed through immersion.

Whether buried below or above ground, the symbolism of burial is still that of being placed under something. Likewise, resurrection is accomplished by coming out of something (whether grave or tomb). Immersion best symbolizes this reality by actually placing the believer under the water and bringing them out.

In addition, it is interesting to note the use of water to symbolize judgment in the Scriptures (e.g. The flood of Genesis 6-7 and the destruction of Egypt in the Red Sea of Exodus 14). Thus, by passing through the waters of baptism, the believer expresses trust that God's judgment has been satisfied by Christ.

3. The surrounding context of baptisms in the Scriptures suggests baptism by immersion.

Matthew 3:16 *And when Jesus was baptized, immediately **he went up from the water**, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him...*

Mark 1:5, 10 *And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins...And when **he came up out of the water**, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.*

John 3:23 *John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, **because water was plentiful there**, and people were coming and being baptized...*

Acts 8:38–39 *And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both **went down into the water**, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39And when they **came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.*

In short, a full submergence baptism done in our church today has not changed from the baptisms that were experienced and performed by Jesus and his disciples. Baptism, through full submergence, is a great representation of the old man being buried (covered by the water) and the new man rising up (coming out of the water).

5. When To Be Baptized.

The act of a water baptism acknowledges that a transformation and change of heart has indeed occurred. Therefore, it is important that your decision to be baptized is that of a sincere and godly intent prompted by the Holy Spirit and not because of a need or desire to please a person, satisfy a religious act, or because you are merely following a crowd. Water baptism demonstrates that you now seek to please God and his will for you and not that of your own.

Acts 2:36 -42 *“Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Then Peter said to them, “Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

As soon as a person receives Christ, he or she should be baptized with a willing and sincere heart.

Acts 22:16 *And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.*

The Scriptures do not speak of a delayed baptism in which a regenerate believer refrains from obedience to the ordinance. In all the accounts in the Scriptures, baptism is rather immediate. This pattern of somewhat immediate baptism should be emulated unless there are convincing reasons to delay baptism.

There are some improper motivations to delay baptism:

1. Fear.

One of the most common reasons for delaying is fear, but such anxiety should not hinder our obedience. It is important to know that fear derives from lack faith, and anything that does not come from faith is sin (Romans 14:23). Confronting sin is an essential aspect of discipleship, and a person’s obedience in this area is an excellent way to begin the process of sanctification in the area of the fear of man.

2. Feeling undeserving.

There will never be a time where a person will be “good enough” for baptism. Baptismal waters is grounded upon Christ’s righteousness, not our own. If we have been united to Him, we should confidently draw near in obedience to His command and example.

6. Non-Biblical Baptisms.

Because baptism is a very important and personal expression that is made with sincerity of heart, it is very important that the individual has realized a personal need for baptism. This decision has to be made with an understanding of the significance of what it is that is being done. Therefore, infant baptisms, non-full submergence baptisms, and baptism without an understanding are considered non-biblical baptism because there are no scriptures that give evidence to such practices.

For those who were baptized at an earlier age, it is important to understand that we should only be baptized once. If you trusted in Christ at that time, your baptism is valid and need not, indeed should not, be repeated. If, however, you experienced sprinkling with or immersion in water before being born again and trusting Christ, your experience was not baptism, and thus you need to be baptized. The question is therefore, "Was I truly trusting in Christ when I was baptized?"

There should always be seasons of growth and greater periods of maturity in the life of those who have trusted in the gospel. Believers must not be re-baptized each time they experience greater joy and sanctification. However, if you believe that your original experience was prior to truly trusting in Christ as Lord and Savior, you should pursue obedience in this area by being baptized now.

7. Baptism Day – Things You Should Know.

Be sure to invite all of your friends and family to witness this amazing decision and public declaration. Your baptism can be a great way to evangelism and witness to those who still haven't made decisions for Christ.

You can expect to be attacked by the enemy, but know that this is normal. Now that you have made a committed decision to walk deeper with Christ, the enemy will use all sorts of things to discourage you from moving forward. Know that this attack will pass as you continue to seek Jesus.

Our Church has created a 4 step process to assure you continue in your spiritual growth: New Believers Class, Baptism Class, Membership Class, and Servant's Heart Class. We highly encourage you to continue in this process so that you can continue to mature in Christ.

Because baptism is a very special decision and personal moment in a Christian's life, we make sure to do all we can to make your experience a memorable one.

What to bring?

Trinity Church will provide a baptism gown and a towel at the time of baptism, but you may bring your own if you wish. Be sure to bring any other items that you may need

post-baptism such as a Hair brush, deodorant, and an extra set of clean under garments.

When do baptisms take place?

Baptisms usually occur at the end of our English Sunday Worship Service and at the beginning of our Spanish Sunday Worship Service. The Pastor or Service Leader will announce when baptism time is nearing and will instruct those who will be baptized to proceed to our baptistery area located behind the stage. Men may enter through the piano side entrance located at the right side of the stage and woman may enter through the double doors located on the left side of the stage.

Congratulations! We are thrilled for the public statement of faith you have decided to make in your personal walk with Christ.

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