

What about private baptism?

In baptism candidates are being welcomed into the fellowship of the church. It is important that the church be there to offer them that welcome. For this reason all baptisms at St Aidan's are public and take place when the congregation gathers for worship on Sundays.

How do we set a date?

At St Aidan's, we seek to be flexible when setting a date for your child's baptism. We try to find a date which will allow for adequate preparation, will work well for the families involved, and will fit in with other church activities and the season of the church year.

More questions?

We would be happy to chat with you. Come to church one Sunday and see Pastor Ken to make an initial appointment.



To know
Christ and to
make Him
known

Your Child's Baptism



St. Aidan's Anglican Church
274 Campbell Street
Winnipeg, MB R3N 1B5
Phone (204) 489-3390
Fax (204) 488-6564
e-mail: staidans@mts.net
www.staidanswinnipeg.ca



Thinking about your child's Baptism?

Welcome!

As members of the Christian community we are grateful to be able to celebrate with you on this happy occasion.

We believe that God is the creator of all things. Through the care and nurture of children he gives parents a share in the work and joy of creation. But we who are born of earthly parents need to be born again. In chapter 3 of the gospel of John Jesus tells us that unless a person is born again, they cannot see the kingdom of God. Through faith in Christ God gives us the way to a second birth into a new life in relationship with him.

Baptism is the sign and seal of this new birth. In the Bible we read of the risen Christ commanding his followers to make disciples of all nations and to baptize people everywhere.

They obeyed his command and we read of Peter proclaiming in these words:

"Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and your children and to all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord calls."

Children who are too young to profess the Christian faith on their own are baptized on the understanding that they will be brought up to trust and follow Christ as their Saviour and Lord within the family of the church.

As they grow up they need encouragement, teaching and help, so that they may learn to put their faith in God, to worship and serve him, and to take their place in the life of the church. All this depends chiefly on the help and encouragement they receive from their parents and sponsors (godparents).

As one bringing your child for baptism, it is important that you be able to affirm your own allegiance to Christ, to trust him as your Saviour and obey him as your Lord, and that you choose sponsors for your child who can do the same.



Baptismal preparation

At St Aidan's we try to help you at each step along the way. We encourage all parents to take part in a three-session baptismal preparation programme. The programme deals with these issues:

- ✦ basics of Christian faith
- ✦ the meaning of baptism
- ✦ the Christian family

This leaflet is intended to anticipate some of the initial questions most commonly asked about baptism at St Aidan's:

What if I am not a member of St. Aidan's Church?

If you are not currently a member any church, we warmly invite you to join us! Why not come along to one of our services this Sunday? If you are a member of another church (of any denomination), but would like to have your child baptized at St Aidan's, we require a letter of commendation from your pastor. We do this because baptism is the sacrament of entry into the church, and it is important that your local church be involved when the baptism is not taking place there.

What about Godparents?

Godparents (sponsors) serve as those who will help the child in their journey of faith in Christ. For this reason they need to be practising Christians who are regular members of their own churches. For further details, please see the leaflet "Guidelines for Sponsors (Godparents)"