

# Thinking about Baptism?



To those who received him, who believed in his name,  
he gave the power to become the children of God.

John 1: 12

## **BAPTISM FOR YOUR CHILD...**

If you are inquiring about Baptism for your child we are delighted and we rejoice with you in the blessings that God brings to us in a child.

The birth of a child into the world is a major event for the whole family. No doubt, much was done to prepare for this exciting event. Possibly many other people shared with you in the preparation and anticipation. Likewise, Baptism of a child in the Church involves many people, since Baptism has to do with being welcomed into the entire Christian family.

In order for the magnitude of the meaning behind the event to be fully understood and celebrated, Baptism involves preparation, as it is the beginning of a life-long process.

Baptism usually takes place within the context of a Eucharistic (Holy Communion) service at which the community of faith is present. It is this community of faith that will share in the responsibility of encouraging your child on his/her Christian journey.

In order to provide an environment for your child to learn about his/her faith and make right choices along the way, it is hoped that at least one of the parents is committed to a life of faith. This means that they have established or are willing to establish a practice of attending worship frequently and of participating in some aspect of parish life. If this seems to be a big commitment for you, or you are not sure of what a life of faith is all about, please call me and we can talk about it.

We look forward to welcoming you as a Baptism Family and to welcoming your child to the Kingdom of God.

Please call me, the Rev. Wendy Moore, at 905-584-9635 to begin your preparation for Baptism.



## THINKING ABOUT BAPTISM?

### **BAPTISM IS NOT JUST FOR BABIES ...**

Baptism is a powerful Christian symbolic act, representing death and rebirth. We enter the water merely human and exit cleansed—reborn as a child of God, ready to become all that God created us to be. Claiming this fullness of who we are is an ongoing process that we work out and muddle over for the rest of our lives. Baptism marks the beginning of a joyful, glory-filled Christian journey.

Today we are discovering that more and more people are reaching adulthood without having been baptized.

The reasons for this are many. For example, some people are seeking to find out more about God before making a commitment; others may come from backgrounds in which infant Baptism was not part of their culture, while for others, Baptism was never offered or made known to them.

The joy of coming to Baptism as an adult is the wonderful opportunity to explore, examine, and experience what it means to be a Christian. And, although this may sound odd to those who are just beginning to ask questions, even more joy will come to you as you get to know Jesus yourself.

We invite you to begin this most significant journey of your life by beginning with preparation for your Baptism.

If you would like to talk about the preparation and process for Baptism, we welcome you and look forward to meeting with you.

### **FORGOTTEN YOUR BAPTISM?**

We welcome you too. We would be delighted to reconnect you with the purpose and meaning of your Baptism for your life.

You may reach me, the Rev. Wendy Moore at 905-584-9635

May the Lord watch over  
your going out and your coming in  
this day and forever more.

# Baptism for Your Child



## WHERE DO YOU AS A PARENT FIT IN?

We, the People of St. James, are delighted to welcome you, your family, and the little one who is about to be Baptized, to our Church family.

People bring their children to Baptism for many different reasons:

- Some because its family tradition
- Others, because there is pressure from grandparents
- Others to ensure that if something should happen, God forbid, this little child will be made welcome in heaven.
- Others still, because it is a formal way of naming a child.

While one these reasons may be personally valid for you, it may surprise you to learn that Holy Baptism is actually none of these. Holy Baptism is all about making a commitment on behalf of your child to bring them up in the Christian faith, so that all through their lives they will know our Lord Jesus Christ, they will know that they are beloved, upheld, beautifully and wonderfully made by God, and they will know that they are never alone.

For many parents, and also for many God parents, this way of life, the Christian life, has simply not been a real part of their own experience. If this experience is not real for you, it is very difficult to commit to bringing up your child in a way of life that is not known, or with which you may be even slightly uncomfortable.

If this is true for you, we hope that this Baptism journey with your child will be an opportunity for you to explore the Christian Faith and to experience it from a whole new perspective.

There is a lovely quote in Holy Scripture that says “and a little child shall lead them.” I believe that this quote is appropriate here, as it suggests the wonderful possibility that, through the commitment you are about to make on behalf of your child, you will be given the grace-filled opportunity to experience your own spiritual journey beside your Child.

So, lets think about you... by asking these questions:

- What is your experience of God?



## BAPTISM FOR YOUR CHILD

- Who is Jesus to you?
- What is your experience of Church?

Take a moment with these questions. Jot down your first instinctive thoughts. There is no wrong answer. Your reality and your truth are what matters.

Most of us have what is referred to as an embedded theology. This is an understanding of God which comes from childhood. Too often this embedded theology is very negative, because of a bad experience with a church community. To experience bad or threatening teaching or being mistreated in the name of the Lord are just some examples.

One of the best ways to overcome a negative embedded theology is to encounter Christianity from your own adult perspective, on your terms, putting aside as much as possible the memories of childhood. It has been said that our faith is at its best when we ask questions of it. It is a very good thing to probe, raise doubts and speak of your “unbeliefs”.

Maybe you have never truly been introduced to the Christian faith. You may have picked up snippets here and there, some positive coverage, some negative. The world in which we live would have us believe that we are managing just fine on our own, and that we don’t need any additional help, especially not from above.

These are curious times. Some say that we are in a Post Modern/Post Christian era, where truth is relative and “what works for me” is what matters. At the same time, we hear that people are seeking meaning and purpose for their lives.

We, at St. James believe that the Christian faith does give meaning and purpose to life. Jesus teaches and encourages us to live in healthy relationships with others, with ourselves, and with the Divine. We believe Jesus’ teaching and truth is what is truly needed for a full, peaceful, happy life.

We sure don’t have all the answers, and we sure don’t get it right all of the time, but the good news is that there are boundaries, there are standards, there are expectations, and there is a Kingdom. And because of these things, there



## BAPTISM FOR YOUR CHILD

is an amazing freedom, which allows you to be all that you were created were created to be, beautifully and wonderfully made.

You might be wondering where all of this is going, and if you sense an invitation coming, you are quite right. We would love to meet with you, one-on-one, or two of us could meet with you. We can meet for coffee, a bite to eat, or at the local pub, wherever you feel most comfortable. We would love to hear your story, to get to know you, to hear your doubts and questions, and maybe voice some of our own. But maybe too, we might pique your curiosity a bit, and then, you may have the amazing joy of joining your child on the journey of a life time.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

May God bless you and keep you.

The Rev. Wendy Moore  
St. James Anglican Church  
Caledon East

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905-584-9635



## ST. JAMES CALEDON EAST

### PROPOSED DATE FOR HOLY BAPTISM

THE BAPTISMAL CANDIDATE	
FAMILY NAME	
CHRISTIAN NAMES	
DATE OF BIRTH	
PLACE OF BIRTH	
CURRENT ADDRESS	
CURRENT PHONE NUMBER	

### FOR INFANT OR CHILD BAPTISMS

FULL NAME OF MOTHER	
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME	
BAPTISED	
CONFIRMED	
CURRENT ADDRESS & PHONE (IF NOT THE SAME )	
FULL NAME OF FATHER	
BAPTISED	
CONFIRMED	
CURRENT ADDRESS & PHONE (IF NOT THE SAME )	
EMAIL ADDRESS	

### IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES

NAME OF YOUR CHURCH	
ADDRESS & PHONE	
CLERGY TO CONTACT	

SPONSORS NAMES	ADDRESS	BAPTISED