



St. Mary's Church
WALKERVILLE

1983 St. Mary's Gate, Windsor ON, N8Y 1J8

Baptisms at St. Mary's Anglican Church

Last Revision: August 2026

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Sacraments are outward, visible signs of inward, invisible grace from God. Holy Baptism is a sign that a person has received new spiritual life and membership in the Church of Jesus Christ. Choosing to be baptized is a commitment to serving Jesus for one's whole life. The grace imparted in the prayers, pouring of holy water, anointing with holy oil, and reception into the Christian community equips believers for a life of service to God and others. Baptism is about one's personal relationship with God and about membership in the community of faith found in a church community.

Requirements for Baptism

- 1) People of all ages are welcome to inquire about being baptized at St. Mary's. Parents may seek baptism for their infant or child. Older children, teenagers, and adults are invited to inquire independently.
- 2) Candidates must not be previously baptized. Rebaptism is not permitted, but the Rector is happy to discuss options if you are interested in being reaffirming your faith in the Anglican context.
- 3) All candidates for baptism require at least two godparents or sponsors. All sponsors must be baptized Christians themselves and have the capacity to serve as a support person for the candidate in their life of faith. Sponsors for infants and children should be safe, trusted adults who have an active presence in the candidate's life. Parents may serve as sponsors for their own children, if needed.
- 4) All candidates must be prepared for baptism. Preparation begins with an initial interview with the Rector, Mother Allie McDougall.
 - a. For infants and young children, subsequent meetings with parents/families can be scheduled with the Rector for instruction on the Christian lifestyle, the baptismal covenant, and participation in the life of the community.

- b. For older children, teens, and adults, St. Mary's employs a 6-month program of catechism, which is a period of training and education in Christian beliefs and practices. Catechesis typically begins in November and culminates with baptisms at the Saturday evening Easter Vigil service.
- 5) There are four dates that are traditionally held for baptisms: All Saints Day (November), The Baptism of Our Lord (early January), Easter Vigil (early Spring), and the Feast of Pentecost (early Summer). Alternate dates may be accommodated based on need and circumstance.
- 6) Baptism is about a candidate's commitment to Christ and the Church and the Church's commitment to supporting the candidate in their life of faith. The expectation with all baptismal candidates is that they would make a reasonable effort to join in the life of the community at St. Mary's and make it their spiritual home. Candidates are expected to attend worship at either of our Sunday services at least once a month prior to the scheduled date of baptism.