

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 887, 40 Main Street
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978
631-288-2111

Guide to HOLY BAPTISM

We are delighted that you have chosen St. Mark's as the spiritual home in which you or your child is to be baptized. Please read the following information on Holy Baptism from the Book of Common Prayer (pg. 298). If you have any questions, we will be glad to help.

- Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.
- Holy Baptism is appropriately administered within the Eucharist as the chief service on a Sunday or other feast.
- Each candidate for Holy Baptism is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons. Sponsors of adults and older children present their candidates and thereby signify their endorsement of the candidates and their intention to support them by prayer and example in their Christian life. Sponsors of young children or infants, commonly called godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names, and also take vows on behalf of their candidates. Sponsors need not be Episcopalians, but should be members in good standing of a Christian church.
- It is fitting that parents be included among the godparents of their own children. Parents and godparents are to be instructed in the meaning of Baptism, in their duties to help the new Christians grow in the knowledge and love of God, and in their responsibilities as members of Christ's Church.

When a Baptism is scheduled, the rector will contact the parents to arrange for pre-baptismal instruction. We hope and expect that godparents will be included in this preparation.

Date of Application _____

PRINT Full Name _____ Sex _____

Residence _____ Age _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

PRINT Father's Full Name _____

PRINT Mother's Maiden Name _____

Parents' Residence _____

Parents' Telephone _____

Parents' Email _____

Religious Affiliation of Parents _____

Sponsors (Godparents)

1. **Print** Name _____

Residence _____

2. **Print** Name _____

Residence _____

3. **Print** Name _____

Residence _____

Date of Baptism _____ Hour _____ Place _____

Officiant _____

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