

The Episcopal Church maintains that Holy Baptism is appropriately administered in the context of one's own congregation. Although membership at St. Mark's is not required, an important part of Holy Baptism is when members of the congregation who witness the baptismal vows agree to do everything within their power "to support these persons in their life in Christ." Baptism is, therefore, a community event.

Each candidate for Holy Baptism is sponsored by one or more baptized persons. In presenting their candidate, sponsors of adults or older children signify their endorsement of the candidate and their intention to support that person by prayer and example in their Christian life. Sponsors of infants, commonly called Godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names and also take vows on behalf of their candidates. It is fitting that parents or guardians be included among the godparents of their own children. The gender of the sponsors or godparents is irrelevant. Sponsors or godparents must be baptized, but need not be Episcopalians.

A baptismal rehearsal is held the week prior to the Sunday when the baptism is scheduled. At that time, the priest performing the baptisms will provide further information and instructions to the candidates, their parents/guardians, and sponsors, as well as answer any questions.

There is no fee for Holy Baptism at St. Mark's. You may wish to provide flowers for the altar on the day of the baptism, assuming the date is available, or make a contribution to the music ministry.

To schedule Holy Baptism, please click [here](#). You will receive an acknowledgement and further information. Please allow a week for us to respond. Other inquiries about Baptism may be directed to The Rev. Roy Tripp at atstmarkscrector@gmail.com.