What's Next…?

If you are interested in having a child baptized, or in being baptized yourself, your first step would be to either attend our Sunday Services (at either 8AM or 10AM) or contact Fr. Michael Knight via email – michaelknight@sstephen.org or call the Church Office at (610) 461-0490.

There is no age requirement for Baptism. Infants to adults are welcome as candidates.

Candidates can be baptized on any Sunday morning.

Once a date has been decided upon, a pre-baptismal instruction appointment will be made for Fr. Michael to meet with you and the Sponsors/Godparents.

A Baptismal candidate must have at least 1 sponsor. Parents often elect to have multiple Sponsors/Godparents for infants and younger children. Sponsors/Godparents must be at least 16 years old. You may have "honorary sponsors" younger than 16 years old.

Your Sponsors/Godparents must be baptized and have proof (a baptismal certificate or letter from the church where they were baptized) with them at the pre-baptismal instruction appointment.

The role of the Sponsors/Godparents for a child's baptism:

- They should maintain a special relationship with the child
- Be an active member of a parish
- Practice their Christian faith in a way you admire.

A Sponsor/Godparent is not a legal guardian in the event of a parent's death, unless that person has been given guardianship in a will!!

Holy Baptism

at St. Stephen's

Guidelines for

the Sacrament of Baptism

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
128 Chester Pike
Norwood, PA 19074
(610) 461-0490
www.sstephen.org

What is Holy Baptism? **Page 3**

What's next…? **Page 4**

Contacts

The Very Rev. F. Michael Knight **Priest-in-Charge**
Email **michaelknight@sstephen.org**
Pastoral Emergency **(610) 996-0657**

Jan Myers **Director of Parish Operations**
Email **dopo@sstephen.org**
Office Phone **(610) 461-0490**

We have 2 Worship Services on Sunday mornings.
Our 8AM Service is liturgy only.
Our 10AM Service is liturgy with music.

What is Holy Baptism? *(From the Book of Common Prayer, p. 298)*

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 *(From the Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer, p. 858)*

Q. What is Holy Baptism?
A. Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.

Q. What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?
A. The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism?
A. The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is required of us at Baptism?
A. It is required that we renounce Satan, repent of our sins, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Q. Why then are infants baptized?
A. Infants are baptized so that they can share citizenship in the Covenant, membership in Christ, and redemption by God.

Q. How are the promises for infants made and carried out?
A. Promises are made for them by their parents and sponsors, who guarantee that the infants will be brought up within the Church, to know Christ and be able to follow him.