

The Apostles Creed

*This earliest of Christian creeds offers a statement of our baptismal faith.
Its origins reach back to baptism in the early church.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
God the Father almighty.
from there he will come
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.



willoughby
church

**“Remember
your
baptism.
You are a
child of
God.”**



*I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit*

Baptism anniversaries are joyous events that can be celebrated by the whole family. Your attention as Christian parents to baptism anniversaries will help your children value their 'birth' into the community of Christ. When you celebrate each family members' baptismal birthday you help shape a sense of Christian identity and shared communion in Christ.

Consider these suggestions to enhance the celebration:

1. Invite family, friends, mentors, special persons, etc. to celebrate with you. Make and send out invitations. This could be a meal or simply a dessert event.
2. Assemble and display baptism mementos: i.e. baptismal garments, banner, bulletin, certificate, photographs, greeting cards, gifts, etc.
3. Make a family baptismal banner to display at family baptismal anniversaries.
4. Have the honoured one wear something special for the celebration. i.e. a special cross necklace, a crown, special clothing.
5. You may want to give the honoured one a gift chosen to nurture faith. i.e. a music CD, a bookmark, a Bible story colouring book, a DVD, a book of Bible stories, a collection of prayers, a devotional book, a book of quotes or poems. Gift giving can help to focus on the spiritual significance of this event.

Liturgy #1 (for the very young)

Setting the table: Set a white cloth in the center of the table. Place the baptism candle in the center of the cloth. Place a bowl of water (a symbol of baptism) on the table near the candle. Choose any number of persons to lead and/or read portions of the liturgy.

Declaration: As the baptismal candle is being lit have someone say:
'Name' on this day in 'year' you were washed in the waters of baptism. Because of this you never need to doubt that you are a beautiful and precious child of God.

Prayer: "God of mercy, we give you thanks for the promise you made to **'name'** on this day. Renew in him/her the gift of your Holy Spirit that he/she will trust in you and you alone through all of life and that he/she will live his/her life for you. We pray this in Jesus name. Amen."

Song: Jesus Loves Me

Sharing of Stories: As you share in the meal/dessert tell stories about the baptism day. Talk about each one of the mementos and why it is important. A simple gift may be given. Close by extinguishing the candle.

Liturgy #2 – (for older children and adults)

Setting the table: Set a white cloth in the center of the table. Place the baptismal candle in the center of the cloth. For each person present, set one small candle by the baptismal candle. Place a bowl of water on the table near the candle. Choose any number of persons to lead and/or read portions of the liturgy.

Declaration: As the honoured one lights the candle have someone say:
" 'name' on this day in 'year' you were washed in the waters of baptism. You were buried with Christ and raised with Christ. You were declared to be a child of God and you entered the family of Christ. We give thanks for your baptism and for all the promises of God. You never need to doubt that you are a beautiful and precious child of God."

Prayer: "God of water, you are the giver of new life. We thank you for making us your children through baptism. Today we remember **'name'** and rejoice in his/her baptism. Continue to work your grace in **'name'** life and help him/her to be your faithful disciple all the days of his/her life. Amen."

Scripture Reading: Choose any number of the following scriptures:
Romans 6:1–4, Acts 16:25–34, John 3:4–8, Mark 1:4–11, Mark 10:13–16

Song: Choose an appropriate song to sing together—perhaps a favourite of the honoured one.

Sign of the Cross: The sign of the cross recalls the new identity of Christians that we receive as a gift of baptism. Invite one person to dip their fingers into the water and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the person to the left saying:
"Remember your baptism. You are a child of God. Live your life for the Lord." Continue until each person has received the sign.

All recite the Apostles Creed: (see back page)

Blessing: All lay hands on the head and shoulders of the honoured one as one person says: "God of mercy, renew in **'name'** the gift of the Holy Spirit that he/she will trust in you and live in faithfulness with you, with others, and with your creation all the days of his/her life. May the light of Christ shine through him/her all the days of his/her life. May **'name'** and all of us continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen."

Sharing the Light: Invite each person, including the honoured one, to light a small candle from the center one and say: "Let Christ's light shine in me".

Song: "This Little Light of Mine" or any other appropriate/favourite song.

Sharing Stories: As you share the meal/dessert tell stories about the honoured one and/or stories about their baptism day. Talk about each one of the mementos and why it is important. A simple gift may be given. Close by extinguishing the candle.