



**A CHILD'S PATHWAY  
TO THE SACRAMENTS**



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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blessings to you and to your family. May the grace of God be with you today and always. While we commonly hear that it ‘takes a village to raise a child,’ we hear less often that it takes a church family—a holy village—to make a Christian. In order to become who God intends us to be as his sons and daughters we need one another—we need his Church—and through his sacraments, by faith, we become living members of the body of his Son, Jesus Christ. The two sacraments of the Christian faith—Baptism and Holy Communion—are Gospel signs of initiation. They nourish us as we partake by faith through the Spirit. We welcome you and your family into a season of learning more about these sacraments and, Lord willing, partaking in them with your church family here at The Falls Church Anglican.

This little booklet will explain the process of preparation for the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion at our church. We pray that your family will be built up in Christ and equipped in heart, mind, and soul to serve Christ and one another to God’s glory and your great joy in him.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Frederick". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the text "In Christ,".

John Frederick,  
Pastor of Discipleship

## ***Baptism for Infants and Young Children***

Baptism is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace (*To Be a Christian Catechism* 121). It is offered to the children of believers because it is: the fulfilment of Old Testament covenant sign of circumcision (Col. 2:11-12), it is supported by the texts of the New Testament, and it is the apostolic custom of the church from its earliest days.

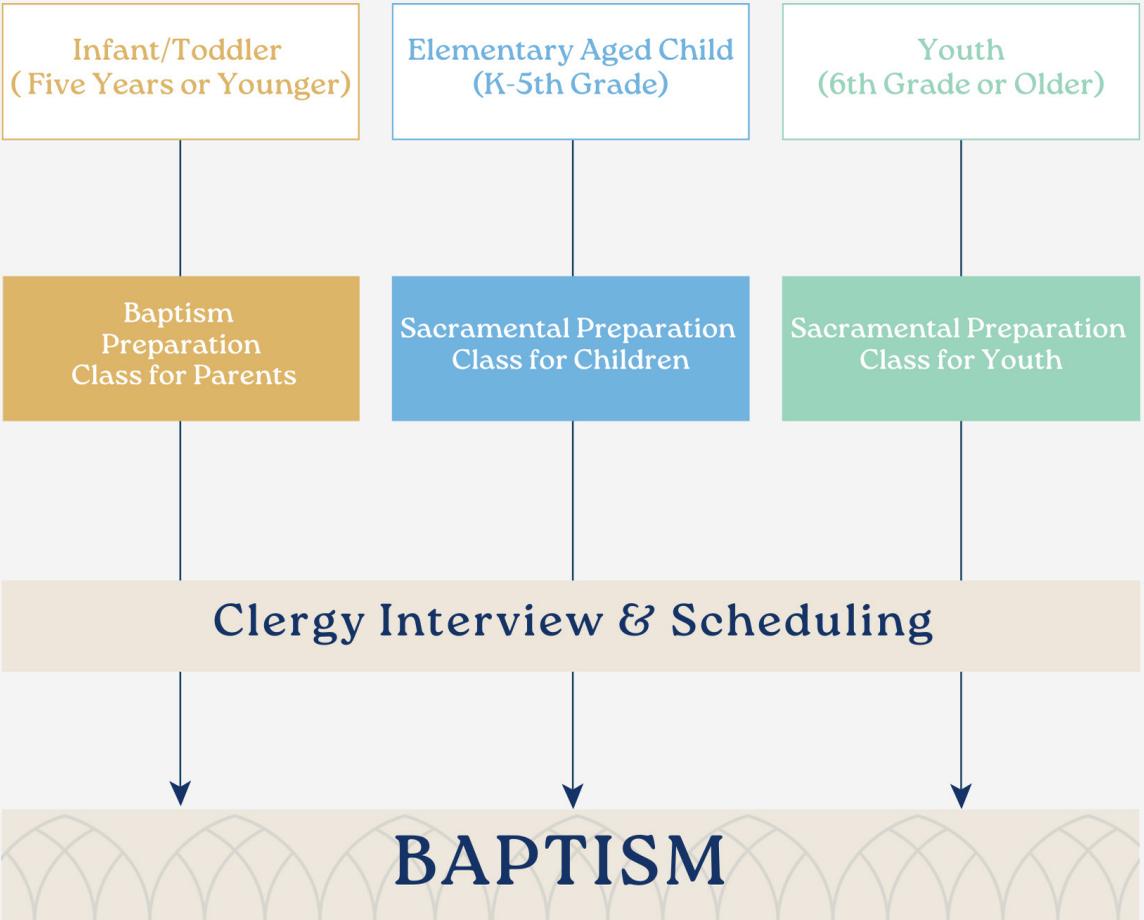
Baptism is a powerful work of grace that looks forward to the day when the child will show signs of their own faith. And it is to this personal expression of saving faith that the church calls, nurtures, and directs all baptized people. For infants and young children, this faith comes sometime after baptism; for adults it comes before.

Regardless of a person's age, Anglicans have always held that faith is "necessary for the benefits of the sacraments to bear fruit" (Article 25, 27; cf. *To Be a Christian Catechism* 122).

Infants and children must continue after baptism with a discipleship process that culminates in the rite of confirmation, when, as young adults, baptized Christians are given the opportunity to confirm for themselves their own personal faith in the Gospel.



# THE PATHWAY TO BAPTISM



## ***Preparing for Baptism – A Class for Parents***

This two-week class on the nature and significance of Baptism is for parents interested in initiating Baptism for their infant or child(dren) aged five or younger.

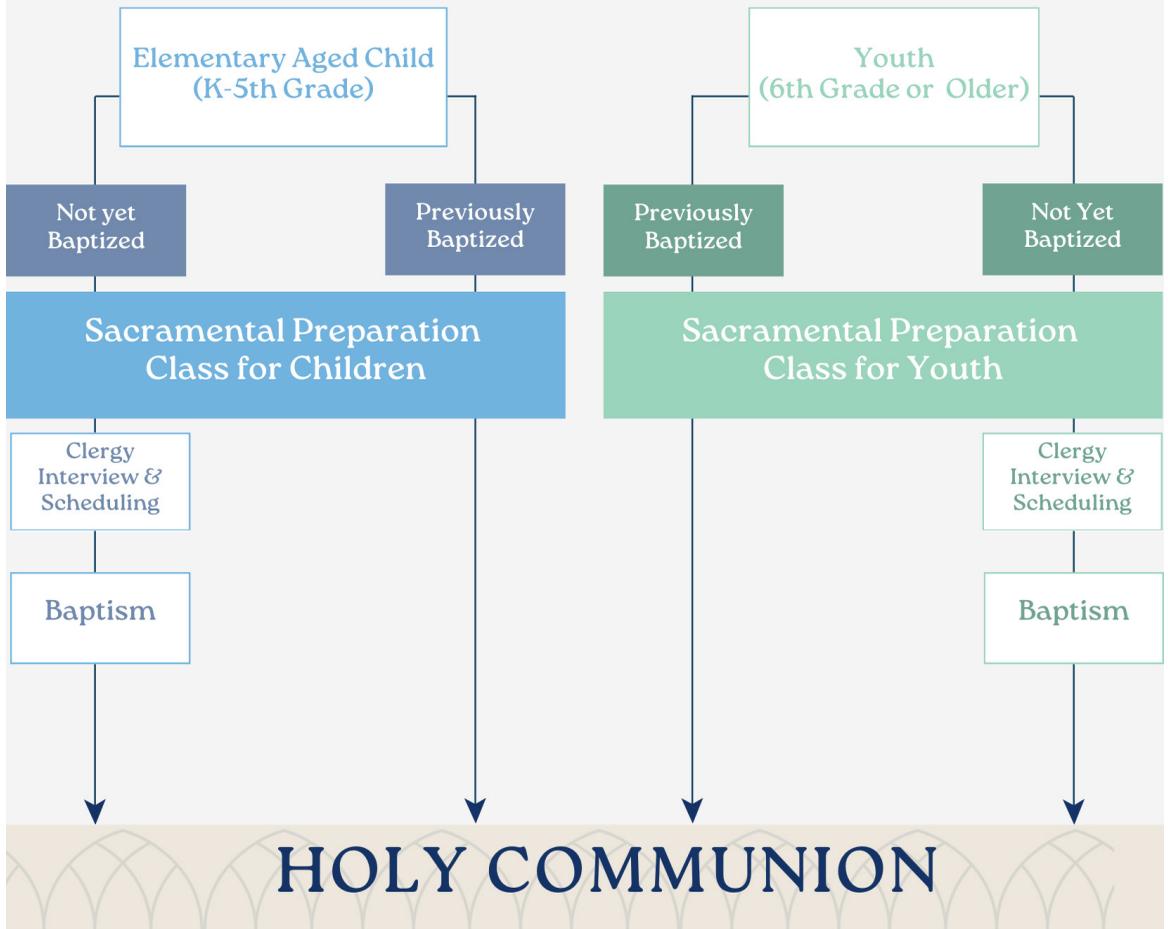
During this clergy-led class, parents will learn the basics of Baptism in the Anglican tradition and receive instructions for the baptism service as they bring their children forward for this foundational sacrament.

Upon completion of this class, clergy will conduct an interview for each interested family. Once the interview is complete, TFCA will contact parents regarding upcoming Baptism dates.

### ***A Note about the Clergy Interview***

Prior to Baptism, clergy and the interested party meet to ascertain and affirm understanding of the Sacrament. Although the interviews are comported with the thoughtfulness and sincerity the situation warrants, they should not be cause for trepidation. This meeting allows the Baptismal candidate (or their parents) to discuss any remaining questions with clergy and be assured and confident in their decision to proceed.

# THE PATHWAY TO HOLY COMMUNION



## ***Holy Communion for Children and Youth***

In Holy Communion (or, the Lord's Supper), the outward and visible signs of bread and wine mediate to believers the inward spiritual graces of ongoing nourishment, strengthening, and renewal through our Lord Jesus Christ

(Article 28; *To Be a Christian Catechism* 133-134).

Holy Communion is a powerful sacrament when we receive it through faith by the Spirit. As the Book of Common Prayer invites us: "Take them [the bread and wine] in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving."

All baptized Christians who are walking in faith and repentance are welcome to receive the sacrament.

At TFCA, our desire is that, through this instruction, baptized Christians may confidently and reverently participate in the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, having been duly prepared to partake with sincere faith.



### ***Sacramental Preparation: A Class for Children***

This four-week course is for elementary-aged children (through 5th grade) who have expressed an interest in learning more about Holy Communion and/or Baptism.

Children will receive instruction in the core teachings of the Christian faith through the Apostles' Creed with a focus on the meaning and practice of Holy Communion for the life of faith. Class attendance is expected for all four sessions.

Parents should plan to attend each class with their child/children. Upon completion of this class, participants receive a First Communion card they may present when taking Communion for the first time.

### ***Sacramental Preparation: A Class for Youth***

This three-week course is for Youth (6th grade or older) who desire to learn about Holy Communion and/or Baptism.

Youth will receive instruction in the core teachings of the Christian faith through the Apostles' Creed with a focus on the meaning and practice of Holy Communion for the life of faith. Class attendance is expected for all three sessions.

Parents are encouraged, but not required, to attend class with their student(s). Upon completion of this class, participants receive a First Communion card they may present when taking Communion for the first time.

***For children or youth are not yet baptized:*** The sacrament of Holy Communion is for baptized believers. Youth who have not been previously baptized will be eligible for their Baptism clergy interview upon completion of this class.

To view the schedule and register for upcoming classes, please visit  
*[tfcanglican.org](http://tfcanglican.org)*.



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