



St. Martin in the Fields

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

General Baptismal Customary

On the **baptismal day**, please arrive in your designated pew a half hour before the service start time.

Note: as you face the altar, the door on the left leads to a bathroom and the library in the event that you need to step out for a moment.

The **service** will open and proceed as usual until after the sermon, which will be approximately 25 minutes after the service start time. At that time, the Celebrant will come forward and say, “The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.” This is your cue to stand up, all at the same time.

You will come **in front of the first pew** as rehearsed and parents and godparents together will say, “**I present [full name] to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.**” If there are several people being baptized, we will proceed in order from the pulpit side to lectern side.

When **the presentation is completed**, the Celebrant will then **ask questions of all of you together**. Be sure to have enough service bulletins open so that you can answer **confidently and boldly**.

After all the questions have been answered, the Celebrant will say to the entire congregation, “Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?” **Everyone will say, “we will.”**

Then **the Baptismal Covenant** is said responsively by Celebrant and all.



Prayers for the Candidate(s) are offered. It is customary that a godparent or two might lead these prayers from the lectern.

The **Baptism Hymn** is sung and at this time, we will **process to the back of the church**.

Stand in place for **Thanksgiving Over the Water**.

The Baptism

We will **begin on the Pulpit side** and **proceed as we did with the presentation**. The priest will say “name this child.” **You respond by saying first and middle name**. Priest will receive the baby, baptize them, and return your baby to you. A candle will be presented to parent or godparent.

When all have been baptized, the clergy might each take a baby and **introduce them to their new Christian family** (processing forward). **If clergy do not take your baby, then follow behind and walk with clergy up the aisle**. **The newly baptized adult will walk up the aisle with clergy**.

Celebrant then says, **“Let us welcome the newly baptized”** with response, [unless the Celebrant says this before walking up the aisle], followed by **The Peace**.

If not already there, **all may return to pews**.

Reminders

Non-flash photographs only are allowed during service. Photographers are not



permitted to move around. Clergy will be available afterwards in front of the altar or by the font for photographs.

Only one pew per family is reserved in the front for babies / parents / siblings / godparents.

Tell extended family to come early and fill the pews behind the reserved ones. As the baptismal font is in the very back of the church, underneath the balcony, you may let us know if you need some seats reserved for less mobile family members in the back pews.

Please contact the Parish Administrator, admin@stmartins.org or 404-228-0752, with any logistical questions or concerns. You may also contact the Rector, Rev. Monica Mainwaring, mmainwaring@stmartins.org or 404-228-0750, with any pastoral matters.

