



Islington United Church
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

BAPTISM

AT ISLINGTON UNITED CHURCH



History

Islington United Church is one of Toronto's oldest Churches. We are the church home to many families who have chosen to have their children baptised in our beautiful sanctuary. In baptism we are connected to the church in its earliest days, and over two thousand years the message remains the same: Baptism is the one rite of entry into the Christian family and all who wish to become part of the family of God are welcome.

Exploring Islington United Church for your or your Child's Baptism

Thank you for your interest in Baptism at Islington United Church. We are pleased to review what our Church has to offer you, and what you need to know to engage us for your Baptism. We offer Baptism at the church, approximately once a month on pre-set dates. You do not need to be a member of our congregation to be baptized or have your child baptized at our Church.

Key Contact

Grace Jinkinson is our Baptism Coordinator. She deals with all inquiries by phone, drop-in, or by email from people interested in exploring Islington United Church for their child's Baptism. Grace will answer your initial questions, describe our Baptism process, and review the dates Baptisms will occur over the next year at the Church.

If you decide to proceed with Baptism for your child, Grace will send you a confirmation letter from the Minister and collect contact information necessary for the Baptism.

Baptism Cost

There is absolutely no cost related to Baptism. Christian Baptism is a celebration of the grace and love of God that is offered, unconditionally, to anyone seeking to live in relationship with God. When you attend your child's Baptism you will notice that there is an offering received. The offering of our members and friends is what finances the many ministries we offer. Offering envelopes are in the pew and you are encouraged to use an envelope in order that we can issue an tax receipt for Income Tax purposes. If you wish to have personal offering envelopes we offer them in sets of twelve (monthly) or fifty two (weekly) Many of our supportive households contribute using PAR, Pre-Authorized Remittance whereby your offering is automatically deducted from your bank account each month. In those cases people who contribute using PAR can use small cards in the pew when the offering is collected to indicate that their gift has already been made.



We encourage families to consider a financial donation to the Church as a gesture of appreciation to our congregation. There is no minimum amount required and the money will be used to keep the Church facilities as beautiful as they have been for the last 200 years, as well as supporting the variety of programs we offer to youth, families, singles, seniors and the community at large through our outreach programs.

Getting to Know Us at Islington United Church

Once your Baptism date is confirmed, we would invite you to meet with our Baptism coordinator to explore what Islington United Church could offer you after the Baptism, as a potential member of our church. While it is not required to be a member to get Baptized in our Church, we do ask that you review our programs, services and other aspects of the Church to ensure you have a full understanding of the culture and community of the congregation and Church that you are choosing to celebrate your Baptism with. As you step into our Church family for one of the most important days of your life, we want you to know us, know our community and know the full range of what Islington United Church has to offer you – today and in the future as you age and evolve.

We also offer a Baptism planning seminar that you are required to attend before the Baptism date. It is conducted by our Ministry Team Leader Mark Aitchison and Grace our Baptism Coordinator will also be present. At this seminar we review the essential meaning of Baptism and what to expect at the service the day your baby is baptized. At this seminar you will fill out a registration form that contains all the necessary information for the Baptism Certificate. You will also get a book on Baptism and learn about our Church programs for children as they age.





One Week Before the Baptism

As your Baptism day gets closer, a Baptism elder, a lay leader from our congregation will contact you to finalize plans for the event.

The Day of Your Baptism

This Baptism elder will meet with families approximately fifteen minutes before the actual service. Our elder will sit with your family during the service to ensure everyone feels welcome and so there is no confusion during the service.

You will receive a Baptism Certificate and Baptismal Candle at the service.

At the end of the service, you are welcome to join our congregation during coffee hour. Follow the congregation through the front doors on the right to Stewart East Hall for coffee and food, compliments of the Church.

Staying in Touch with Islington United Church After Your Baptism

We would be very honoured to be part of your Baptism day and want you to know that our beautiful Church and our hospitality will form memories that you will keep the rest of your life.

Once the Baptism is over and life has settled down again, we encourage you to stay in touch with Islington United through our “Families Group”. This is an opportunity to stay in touch with our Church and enjoy all the wonderful services designed for families and couples.



Here are some of the features of our “Faith Families Group” that you would be kept informed of as a member:

- Social events such as barbecues, dinners, movie-nights, camping events and a host of other social events for families at our Church.
- Information on our children’s programs, Sunday school, summer camps, choirs and more.
- Advance notice about our year long music programs, choir events, dinner theatres and our many musical events scheduled around special days like Easter and Christmas.
- Seminars on parenting, financial planning including retirement planning, buying a home, managing debt, preparing a Will, owning life insurance, budgeting and more.
- Email notification on all of our spectacular, special events: our popular Christmas Eve services, Easter services, special guest speakers for special events, outreach volunteer projects around the world and much more.

Questions About Our Baptism Process

How can I prepare for my child’s Baptism?

Baptism preparation must be understood in the context of the whole ministry of the church. Baptism is not just parents having their baby “done”. Baptism initiates persons into the People of God and marks the beginning of their faith journey.

Parents are invited to a pre-baptism seminar at the church. These baptismal information meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (excluding July) at 7:30 p.m. Parents should register with the Baptism Coordinator and with her assistance, select a suitable Sunday for the administration of the sacrament. Contact Grace Jinkinson at 416-239-1131 ext. 22 or grace@islingtonunited.org.

How early should I arrive for the Baptism?

Parents and Godparents will meet in the Chapel fifteen minutes prior to the Sunday Service of Worship and be led into the sanctuary by an Elder immediately prior to the Service.

What are the vows of Baptism?

At one point in the Service you will be asked to state what you believe and enter a covenant with God and the church.



Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you promise to resist evil and to seek to live in love and justice?

Response: I DO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Do you believe in God, as God has been revealed to us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Response: I DO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in the mission and ministry of Christ's Church?

Response: I WILL, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Will you raise your child in a Christian home, so fashioning your lives, your words and actions, that she/he may come to know God's love in Jesus?

Response: I WILL, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

What is the role of the child's God parents?

If God parents are being invited to participate in the Service, they should accompany the parents, and will be asked following question:

Do you promise to fulfill to the best of your abilities the sacred task of Godparenting this child?

Response: I DO, GOD BEING MY HELPER.

What is the Commitment of the Congregation?

As a baptized and baptizing church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community which worships God, resists evil, and seeks justice?

Response: WE DO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Will I be given a reminder of my child's Baptism?

A baptismal candle will be presented during the Service as a tangible reminder of "The Light of Christ" going with your family. We encourage you to use the candle as a way of telling your child about his/her baptism and your decision, as parents, to raise your child in the Christian church.



Where can I take my child after the Baptism?

Following the baptism, parents are encouraged to take their children to either the nursery or to Sunday School. Please do not permit young children to disrupt the Service for others. We provide Child Care for all ages and an Usher or Elder will gladly direct you.

May I take photos during the Baptism ceremony?

We know you will want to have pictures of your child's baptism. Please advise family and friends that photos are not to be taken during the service Those wishing to have pictures taken around the Baptismal Font may do so at the end of the service. If you want a Minister to be a part of the photo please let us know.

Where will my guests be seated in the Church during the ceremony?

Family and friends are welcome to sit wherever they are comfortable. If they wish to sit near the front they should arrive early enough, and request an Usher to seat them as close to the front as possible.

When will I receive the Certificate of Baptism?

The Certificate of Baptism will be provided by the Elder following the Service. Please check it for accuracy. If there are any problems please advise the Elder immediately.

Whether we come to the font as children or as adults, baptism speaks loudly of the God who loves us first. Above all else, the baptizing community enacts the free and unmerited gift of the love of God. This love is there for us before our love is present for God. The central affirmation of baptism is the central affirmation of the gospel itself: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God."

(Ephesians 2:8)

What is required after children are baptised?

When children are welcomed by the church through baptism, God entrusts them to their parents and the church to be so cared for and instructed that when they grow up they will make a public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. The church provides confirmation classes where young adults can prepare to make a profession of their faith in Christ.



The Command of the Risen Christ

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

Our Lord's Concern for Children

They were bringing children to Jesus, that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it he was indignant, and said to them, "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

(Mark 10:13-16)

"Whoever receives one such child in my name, receives me."

(Jesus)

To arrange a tour of the Church and learn about our baptism services, email us at grace@islingtonunited.org or visit www.islingtonunited.org

Sign up for our newsletter describing all our family and children activities and programs all year long by sending your email address to newsletter@islingtonunited.org



Islington United Church

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

25 Burnhamthorpe Road | Toronto, Ontario | M9A 1G9
416-239-1131 | www.islingtonunited.org