



Hey there!  
 Thank you so much for showing some interest in participating in this year's Baptism Celebration. This brochure is designed to answer some general questions about baptism and what makes it so special.

I believe this is a great moment in the life of every believer! It was a great moment in the life of Jesus so I'm sure it is going to be special for you, too.

The requirements for baptism are really simple:

- 1) **Do you believe in Jesus?** Believing is the first step toward understanding. We don't expect you to understand everything about God ... just know that He is real and is working in your life! Acknowledging the presence of God will also bring you face to face with your sin (those things that don't please God). Seeking forgiveness and feeling sadness about that sin is good.
- 2) **Do you want to live a life that honors God?** This doesn't mean you are living a perfect life ... it means you desire to live your life for God. This transformation for some happens instantaneously ... for others, it takes more time. Be committed to the process of change is the important element.
- 3) **Do you want others to know about God's love?** Baptism is the perfect moment to share God's love with everyone. If you want others to know about God's love for them, baptism will give you that chance to share that with them!

I hope you will say "yes" to baptism this year! You aren't too young nor too old! I look forward to hearing from you and learning more about what God is doing in your life!

  
 Pastor Terry | Lead Pastor

## Baptism Sunday:

**August 4, 2013**

**Service begins at 11 AM**

**Celebration Luncheon follows ...**

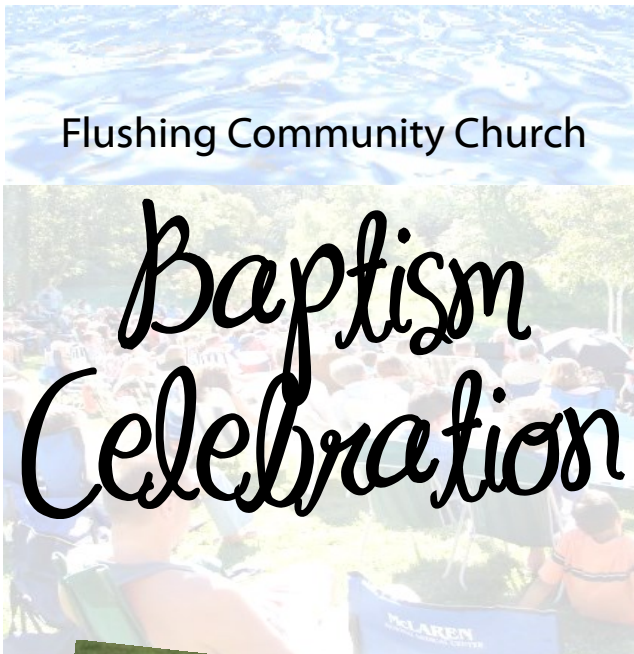
Let's celebrate the grace of God and the fellowship of his people!

Stay with us and enjoy a great conversation, warm fellowship and yummy food.



**Flushing Community Church of the Nazarene**

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Flushing Community Church

# Baptism Celebration



*"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

*- Jesus Christ*

## [The History of Baptism]

Baptism may seem like a strange event but it has been around in many forms since recorded history of mankind! The use of water for ceremonial cleansing was used by many religious faiths even during the time of Abraham.

The power of baptism within the Christian faith is clearly seen in the experience of Jesus Christ. He not only began his public ministry by surrendering to baptism (Matthew 28:19), but through his death and resurrection, we can see the clear illustration that baptism holds. As we go beneath the water's surface, we are symbolically dying and then being raised back to life with Jesus.



## Role within the Church of the Nazarene

*We believe that Christian baptism, commanded by our Lord, is a sacrament signifying acceptance of the benefits of the atonement of Jesus Christ, to be administered to believers and declarative of their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and full purpose of obedience in holiness and righteousness. Baptism being a symbol of the new covenant, young children may be baptized, upon request of parents or guardians who shall give assurance for them of necessary Christian training. Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant.*

(Matthew 3:1-7; 28:16-20; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-39; 10:44-48; 16:29-34; 19:1-6; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-22)

## [Why is Baptism Important]

Jesus commanded his disciples to "Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19). Throughout the New Testament, we see people respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ and receive baptism immediately (and their entire family).

By itself, baptism contains no power to gain entrance into Heaven. When it follows a faith decision to believe in and follow Jesus as Savior and Friend, then baptism serves as a powerful marker in a person's life. It also demonstrates to all in attendance that God is working on the inside of that individual.

## [Requirements for Receiving Baptism]

When we really speak of requirements, it is rather quite simple: Do you believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and do you want to follow him, his teachings, and be involved in his Kingdom on Earth?

Once a person has embraced that faith in Jesus, the next step would be baptism and finding a great support group to help grow in your understanding of God's role in your life.

Don't think this means you will live a perfect life. No one does. It does mean, rather, that you will do you best be God's son after this day. Two questions will be asked of each candidate during the service: 1) Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? And 2) Are you committed to living with Him the rest of your life?

## [What is the Next Step]

Are you ready for this step? If so, please contact Pastor Terry and let him know about your interest in receiving Baptism. Contact information for Pastor Terry is on the back of this brochure.

If you are a teen or child, your parent must be in harmony with your decision. This may require a special meeting between Pastor Terry and your parents.



After your decision is made, we would like each candidate to prepare a personal testimony. A testimony is a way to

describe what God is doing in your personal life. It also allows you to



communicate what led you to this particular experience in your life.

If public speaking freaks you out, rest assured we have options. Your testimony can be read by a friend or family member. Discuss your fear or concerns with Pastor Terry and I'm sure an alternative can be worked out.



## [Who Can Come to Your Baptism]

Anyone is welcomed to attend this special moment in your life. We encourage you to share your

decision of being baptized with everyone in your close circle: family, co-workers, siblings, etc. There is no limit to the number of friends who come to support you!

## [How Do I Write a Personal Testimony]

The key word in this process is "personal." Make this a reaction of who you are and what is doing in your life. Here are some questions that might help you get thinking:

- > When did I first hear about Jesus and his love?
- > When did you first decide to follow Jesus?
- > What has God done in your life since considering official membership.
- > What is your hope in moving forward in your walk with God?