

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: Temple Baptisms

There is no need to wait. All worthy members, including youth and new members, can serve in the temple now.

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Church Magazines

“Let us truly be a temple-attending and a temple-loving people,” said President Howard W. Hunter (1907–95). “We should hasten to the temple as frequently . . . as our personal circumstances allow. We should go not only

for our kindred dead but also for the personal blessing of temple worship, for the sanctity and safety that are within those hallowed and consecrated walls” (“A Temple-Motivated People,” *Ensign*, Feb. 1995, 5).

This counsel applies to all members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—even if you are a recently

baptized member. As long as you are worthy, there is no waiting period before you can attend the temple. As soon as you are baptized and confirmed, you can obtain a limited-use temple recommend.

This recommend allows you to enter the temple to perform proxy baptisms and confirmations for deceased ancestors. As you serve and worship in the temple, you can strengthen your testimony of the gospel.

Of her first experience in the temple, Natalia Lorena Figueroa from Argentina said, “In the temple baptism, I watched a brother be baptized for my grandfather and my uncles. Then I was baptized for my grandmother and aunts. The joy I felt was incredible. Tears fell from my eyes, and I felt the burning in my breast as never before.” Similar blessings await those who qualify for and use limited-use temple recommends. ■



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I get a limited-use recommend?

- You must be age 12 or older and be a worthy member of the Church. Men must receive the Aaronic Priesthood, which can normally be done within a week of their baptism.
- To receive a recommend, your bishop or branch president interviews you. The interview is similar to the one you had before your baptism. You will discuss your testimony of the gospel and your observance of the commandments.
- The recommend is valid for a year.

What are some of the blessings of having a limited-use recommend?

- You can serve your deceased ancestors and others who have died by performing proxy baptisms and confirmations in their behalf.
- You can be reminded of your own baptism and confirmation and the covenants you've made.
- Even if you can't attend the temple often, you can carry your recommend with you as a constant reminder of the temple and your commitment to be worthy to attend.
- Living worthy of a limited-use recommend helps you prepare to receive your own temple ordinances of endowment and sealing.

How should I plan a visit to the temple?

- Ask a ward or branch leader, such as the ward mission leader or Relief Society president, for help in planning a visit to the temple.
- The schedules for each temple baptistry are posted online at temples.lds.org. You can also call the temple for information.
- If you are attending for the first time, you can call the temple to schedule an appointment. This way they will be prepared to welcome you and explain what you will do in the temple.



- Wear your Sunday best to the temple.
- Bring with you a change of white underclothing. Some temples provide white underclothing, but some do not. The temple will provide a white jumpsuit and towel.

What should I expect when I attend the temple to perform proxy baptisms and confirmations?

- When you enter the temple, you will first come to the recommend desk. A temple worker will check your recommend.
- Men and women then go to separate dressing rooms to change. Private locker spaces are provided to change from your clothes into a provided white jumpsuit.
- The temple workers will direct you where to go to perform proxy baptisms and confirmations.
- The baptisms and confirmations you take part in will be similar to your own baptism and confirmation, but you will be acting on behalf of a deceased person.
- After you have finished participating in the ordinances, you will go back to the dressing room and change into your own clothes.
- There is no need to be nervous about attending the temple. Temple workers are available everywhere you go in the temple. They will help you.