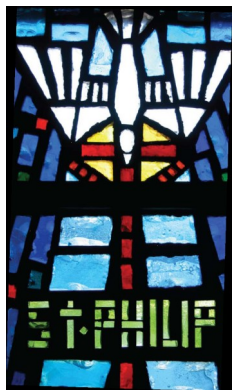


The Sacraments



at St. Philip's
Episcopal Church



St. Philip's Episcopal Church
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The Sacraments

Baptism

According to the *Book of Common Prayer*, “Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ’s Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.” As Anglicans, we believe that baptism brings a person into the Christian family. Baptism is incorporated into regular worship services on specified Sundays during the year and occasionally at other times. Because baptism is the outward and visible action that connects a person to God in a covenant relationship, it belongs in public worship, rather than private ceremony. Baptism is the ritual of the faithful that speaks to becoming a member of the Christian church. It does not make you a member of St. Philip’s, but rather a member of the larger, universal church of Christ. Baptism requires preparation, please speak with the Rector if you are interested in learning more about Baptism.

Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

CONFIRMATION in the Episcopal Church is the rite provided in The Book of Common Prayer for baptized persons who are ready and prepared to make a mature, public affirmation of their faith (In other words, to say for yourself what others may have said for you at baptism). Confirmation is not required for church membership, but it is a significant, public way to affirm your connection to the church. At confirmation the bishop prays that the Lord will “empower you for his service and sustain you all the days of your life.”

RECEPTION into the Episcopal Church is for baptized persons who have made a mature public affirmation of their faith before a bishop in another denomination. They are presented to our bishop, who acknowledges their prior status and receives them into the Episcopal Church saying: “We recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion.”

REAFFIRMATION is for Episcopalians who are refreshing or renewing their membership in the church. They are presented to the bishop who prays that “the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, may direct and uphold you in the service of Christ and his kingdom.”

Marriage

While it’s not uncommon to refer to the priest or minister at a wedding as the person “who married us,” that’s not what really happens. Two people marry each other. The priest is the officiant, and the people gathered witness and pray for the couple exchanging vows.

The church is much more than a nice place to hold a wedding. We take the sacrament of marriage seriously. Every couple preparing to be married at St. Philip’s receives counseling from a member of the clergy, who helps shift the premarital focus from wedding logistics to the deep, long-view questions that need to be asked and explored. Couples contemplating marriage at St. Philip’s should first get in touch with the rector. Fees charged for weddings cover the use of the church, organist and the wedding guild.

Burial

One of the privileges of life in the church is to stand with people at points in their lives where there is sorrow and loss, and in each encounter to meet and honor the particularity of life and death. We do that within the context of scripture and The Book of Common Prayer, relying on the rich and reassuring language of the tradition to help us express what can be so difficult. Please call the church office to let us know of your loss and how we may support you at this time: 847-358-0615.