About Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Faith

In the Episcopal Church, the sacrament of Baptism is the foundation of Christian life, marking one's initiation into the community of faith. At baptism, candidates or their sponsors make a series of promises that outline a life rooted in faith, compassion, and service. The baptismal promises include commitments to continue in fellowship, resist evil, proclaim the Gospel, seek and serve Christ in all people, and strive for justice and peace. In essence, these promises remind Episcopalians that faith is both deeply personal and outwardly active, calling each person to embody the love of God in daily life. They serve as both a foundation and a lifelong call to action, encouraging a living, service-oriented faith that reflects Christ's love and mercy in the world. These promises are central to the Episcopal faith and are often renewed throughout one's spiritual journey.

If you have been baptized with water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in any Christian Church, you are invited to register as a Baptized Member of St. Francis. If you are interested in being baptized, see Rev. Maggie.

As Episcopalians grow in faith, they may choose to deepen their commitment through Confirmation. This mature declaration of faith is done by adults and teens after careful preparation. Confirmation (or Reception, if one was confirmed in another Christian church,) is necessary in order to vote on parish matters, serve on the vestry, or lead certain ministries.

Confirmation is a sacramental rite where baptized members, when of an age of understanding, publicly affirm their baptismal promises, committing themselves to a mature and active faith. The bishop lays hands on the candidates and prays for the strengthening of the Holy Spirit in their lives, marking a deepened dedication to the Church and its teachings.

For those who were baptized and confirmed in another Christian denomination, Reception is the way they are welcomed into the Episcopal Church. Like Confirmation, Reception involves a commitment to uphold Episcopal values, but it acknowledges and honors their existing Christian journey. The Diocesan Bishop formally receives them into the Church.

Episcopalians may also choose to participate in the Reaffirmation of Faith. This rite is open to anyone who wants to reaffirm their baptismal promises and renew their dedication to a life of discipleship. It is often chosen by individuals at pivotal times in their spiritual journey, allowing them to reconnect with their faith, or rededicate their lives in a meaningful way.

Together, Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation embody the Episcopal Church's vision of faith as a living, evolving journey, encouraging believers to deepen their relationship with God and the community.