

# Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and Renewal of Baptismal Vows



at St. John's  
Episcopal Church



St. John's Episcopal Church  
3000 Washington Blvd.  
Huntington, WV 25705

## 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 Episcopalians and 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.

## **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 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 with apostolic succession** in another denomination such as the Roman Catholic, Lutheran or Orthodox traditions. 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.”

Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and Renewal of Baptismal Vows all require preparation, please speak with the Rector if you are interested in learning more.

Revlgraves@gmail.com or 304-525-9105.