
presence of a priest can be an important step in the process of healing. To arrange for the reconciliation of a penitent, please contact the church office.

All the baptized are called to ministry in the church and the world. Some are called to special ministries in the church and, in the sacrament of **Ordination** are empowered as deacons, priests and bishops. Ordination is administered by bishops and the outward and visible sign is the laying on of hands (just as it is for confirmation). The call to ordination begins in the parish where a person's gifts for ministry and leadership are first demonstrated, recognized and affirmed. The process of ordination then begins in a conversation with the rector.

Healing, also called **Unction**, includes special prayers for the restoration of physical, spiritual, and emotional well being. The outward and visible sign of unction is the laying on of hands and the application of blessed oil to the forehead. This sacrament is offered at the Wednesday noon celebration of Holy Eucharist and is available at other times (at the parish, at home or in the hospital) by request. When unction is administered near the time of death it is called **Extreme Unction** and has also been called last rites.

*We proclaim Christ crucified and risen,
and invite you to join with us in ministry
together in his name.*

*Dear Lord, in your sacraments you fulfill
your promise to be with us always and you
strengthen us to continue in communion with
you in a community of faith: bring us, we pray,
into a closer relationship with you. Amen.*

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.



Please view our other brochures introducing the Episcopal Church:

- Episcopalians
- The Book of Common Prayer
- Scripture, Tradition & Reason
- The Creeds

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The THE SACRAMENTS Sacraments



BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA
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Introduction

May the Lord be with you.

The Book of Common Prayer is the book of worship for the Episcopal Church. It defines a sacrament as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. Sacraments are rituals which use tangible symbols such as water and bread and wine to mark special moments of God's work in our lives. The seven sacraments, in somewhat chronological order, are Holy Baptism, the Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Healing, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation of a Penitent and Ordination.

We believe that God is present with us in the world and, in the sacraments, experience this presence. Through these gifts freely given, our sins are forgiven, burdens eased, desire and will for good is strengthened. You may be familiar with the two primary sacraments: Baptism, and Holy Communion or Eucharist.

Baptism

What is Holy Baptism?

Holy Baptism is the rite of full initiation into the Church. The outward and visible sign of Baptism is water which is both a means of being

made clean and a source of life itself. Water is either poured on the candidate's head or the candidate is immersed in a pool or other body of water. In and through baptism we are adopted as sons and daughters in the kingdom of God.

Baptism is usually administered in the context of the Sunday Eucharist. To schedule a baptism and arrange for baptismal preparation, please contact the church office at 225-387-5141 or email church@stjamesbr.org.

Communion

What's Holy Eucharist?

In the last supper with the disciples, Jesus shared unleavened bread and passed a common cup. With the bread he said the words, "This is my body given for you." With the cup, he said, "This is my blood which is shed for you." We believe that by the grace of God, Jesus is truly present to the faithful in the bread and wine. The Holy Eucharist, or Holy Communion, is celebrated weekly as the principal service of worship in most Episcopal churches. In our tradition, communion is open to all who are baptized, regardless of age or denomination.

Sacraments

What Are the Others?

Confirmation is most often understood as the completion of our baptism. It is a sacramental commitment to an on-going, intentional, spiritual journey in response to one's baptismal call and is the rite of full adult membership in the Episcopal Church. The tangible sign of confirmation is the bishop's laying on of hands. Confirmation is open to young adults and adults who complete a confirmation or inquirer's class.

The outward and visible sign of the sacrament of *Holy Matrimony* is the couple themselves in making their solemn and public covenant in the presence of God.

Reconciliation of a penitent is more commonly known as confession. In public confession, we all pray together for the forgiveness of our sins which we may enumerate in the silence that is kept after the bidding. There is no requirement for private, individual confession in the Episcopal Church. Our view is that "all may, none must, some should." For someone who is unusually burdened, the pronouncement of God's forgiveness in the