

## **BAPTISM**

*Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God. The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 858*

Baptism initiates people, by water and the Holy Spirit, into the Body of Christ. We baptize both adults and infants. We regard the sacrament of baptism as a Holy Mystery, which means we can understand the meaning of the act without ever fully fathoming the depths of its significance. The Episcopal Church understands that baptism confers full membership in the Church, including participation in Holy Communion.

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church joyfully welcomes new members into the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ through the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Baptism is the outward and visible action that connects a person to God in a covenant relationship. Candidates are sponsored by parents and godparents—or in the case of an adult, presented by a beloved friend or family member—and are surrounded and affirmed by the congregation. Accordingly, all baptisms take place during public worship.