

The Sacraments and Rites of Our Church

Sacraments. Our Church embraces two holy Sacraments.

- **Baptism** by water and the Spirit, as recorded in the Scriptures, shall be a sign of the dedication of each life to God and God's service. Through the words and acts of this sacrament, the recipient is identified as God's own Child.
- **Holy Communion** is the partaking of blessed bread and fruit of the vine in accordance with the words of Jesus, our Sovereign: "*This is my body. . .this is my blood.*" (Matt. 26:26-28). All who believe, confess, repent and seek God's love through Christ, after examining their consciences, may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their desire to be received into community with Jesus Christ, to be saved by Jesus Christ's sacrifice, to participate in Jesus Christ's resurrection, and to commit their lives anew to the service of Jesus Christ.

Rites. The Rites of our church as performed by its duly authorized pastors shall consist of the following:

- The **Rite of Ordination** is the setting apart of duly qualified persons for the professional ministry of this church. It is evidenced by the laying on of hands by authorized ordained clergy.
- The **Rite of Attaining Membership** in the Church shall be conducted by the pastor or pastoral leader before the local congregation at any regular worship service. After completing classes for instruction in beliefs and doctrines of the church, a baptized Christian may become a member in good standing of the church through a letter of transfer from a recognized Christian body or through affirmation of faith.
- The **Rite of Holy Matrimony** is the spiritual joining of two persons in a manner fitting and proper by a duly authorized clergy of the church. After both persons have been counseled and apprised of their responsibilities one towards the other, this rite of conferring God's blessing may be performed.
- The **Rite of Funeral** or **Rite of Memorial Service** is to be fittingly conducted by the pastors of the church for the deceased.
- The **Rite of Laying on of Hands** or prayer for the healing of the sick in mind, body or spirit is to be conducted by the ministers of the church, at their discretion, upon request.
- The **Rite of Blessing** may be conducted by pastors of the church for persons, things and relationships, when deemed appropriate by the pastors. This includes the dedication of a church building to the glory of God.