



Saint Anselm's

## The Sacrament of BAPTISM

The doors of St. Anselm's are open to anyone who seeks God or a deeper knowledge of God. If you have a new child and are looking for a place to have your child baptized, you are welcome. If you are an adult seeking full initiation in the life of the Church, you are welcome.

Baptism is a practice of the church that is fundamental to how we understand *who* we are and *whose* we are. Through the waters of baptism, we are adopted into the household of God, identified as one marked as Christ's own forever, and given the gift of new life; the same life from God that was breathed into creation, delivered the people of Israel out of slavery and raised Jesus of Nazareth from the grave. Through the waters of baptism, we are initiated into this new life and given the gift to participate fully in the worship and confession of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As members of the body we call the Church, our involvement finds its highest meaning in our receiving Holy Communion. This is why the church links baptism with the meal of thanksgiving that we refer to as the Mass or Holy Eucharist.

We believe that baptism is a practice of the entire church community. During the service, the congregation is asked whether they will support the newly baptized in their Christian life. We answer heartily, "We will!" And we mean this. Therefore baptism makes sense to those who are currently - or wish to become - active in the community. Becoming a member of the church involves a commitment from you to Christ and to the Church, as well as a commitment from the members of St. Anselm's to you. We take this joyful commitment seriously and so there is a preparation process to help you be sure you want to make that commitment and uphold the promises that go with it.