

Welcoming. Affirming. Inclusive.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church Colorado Springs

As Episcopalians, we believe in a loving and life-giving God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Episcopal Church has a legacy of inclusion, aspiring to tell and exemplify God's love for every human being who serve as bishops, priests, deacons, or lay leaders in our church. This leadership and inclusion is a gift from God and can be expressed by all people in our church, regardless of race, gender, sexual identity or orientation.

St. Michael's Episcopal Church is fully affirming of all LGBTQ+ people. We believe that everyone is a beloved child of God, deserving of dignity and respect. All are welcome to participate in the ministries, worship, and sacramental life at St. Michael's regardless of race, gender, sexual identity or orientation.

As Episcopalians, we believe that the church's sacraments are gifts from God and are both inward and outward expressions of God's grace and love. This means that all people are treated in the same way regarding the sacraments as anyone else. Part of our tradition means that some sacraments have traditional requirements before they can be participated in; others have teaching components in place by the church to help people understand the sacraments more. Another part of our tradition encourages participation and membership in our community with the oversight of the clergy using their pastoral authority and discretion. These requirements are equal across the board, regardless of gender, orientation, or marital status. The Sacraments and requirements are as follows:

Baptism - At least one parent & one godparent must be baptized. If you wish to have your child baptized but are not baptized, both parents & children may be baptized at the same time. We recognize that it may be difficult to select a godparent for your child if you are new to the Christian faith or new to our tradition, or if you don't have supportive family and friends. We are honored to connect you to a seasoned member of our parish to serve as a godparent for you/your child if that is the case.

Holy Eucharist - All are welcome to receive the Eucharist at St. Michael's (also known as Communion). Holy Eucharist is the sacrament commanded by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection, until his coming again. The outward and visible sign in the Eucharist is bread and wine, given and received according to Christ's command.

Marriage – Holy Matrimony is open to all legally marriable adults, including LGBTQ+ couples. There may be further requirements if either person seeking marriage is previously divorced (proof of divorce decree and bishop's permission required by canon law). All couples must complete pre-marital counseling with our priest, or alternatively with a mental health professional of their choice.

Confirmation – All individuals 15-years-old or older are eligible to participate in Confirmation following instruction and preparation. Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

Confession – Also known as Reconciliation of a Penitent, or Penance, is the rite in which those who repent of their sins may confess them to God in the presence of a priest, and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution. Corporate confession occurs during most worship services but individual or private confession sessions can be arranged with a priest.

Ordination - Ordination is the rite in which God gives authority and the grace of the Holy Spirit to those being made bishops, priests, and deacons, through prayer and the laying on of hands by bishops. Individuals seeking ordination should consult with a priest to learn more about the discernment process in the Diocese of Colorado.

Unction - The rite of anointing the sick with oil, or the laying on of hands, by which God's grace is given for the healing of spirit, mind, and body.

Visit www.stmikeschurch.com/sacraments to learn even more.

As an open and affirming congregation, we strive to make sure that St. Michael's Episcopal Church is a safe space for all Christians. We also hope to be a church that supports and walks beside people on their journey to be open and affirming. Our highest priority is the safety of those with whom God has entrusted us, and we also want to help others recognize God's love for all people. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact one of our clergy members.

St. Michael's Vestry Approved 2022