

## Baptismal Dates 2009-2010

### *All Saints' Day*

- November 1, 2009

### *The Baptism of our Lord*

- January 10, 2010

### *Easter Vigil*

- April 3, 2010

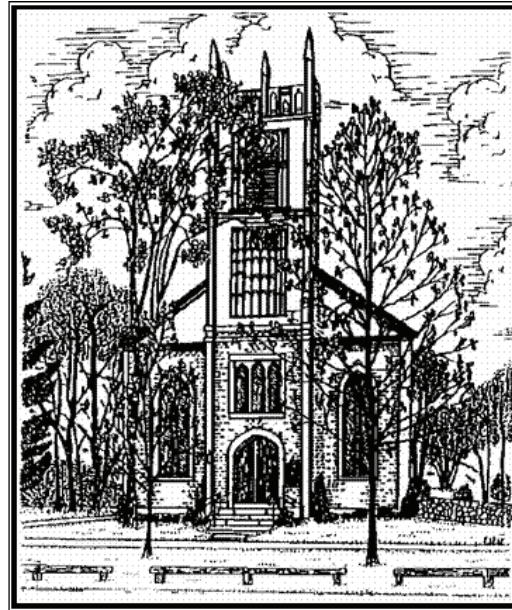
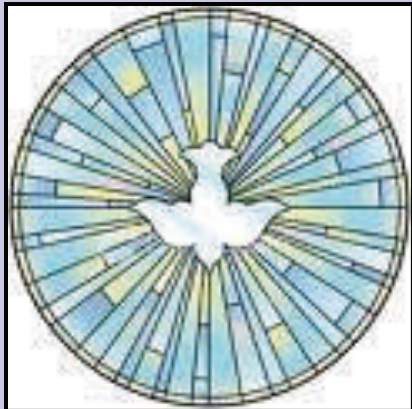
### *Day of Pentecost*

- May 23, 2010

### *The Bishop's Visitation*

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*ALL baptisms will occur during the principle liturgy for that day. This allows for the full participation of the worshipping community of St. James'.*

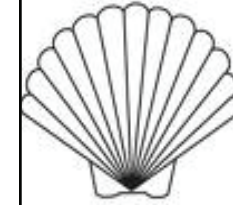


## St. James Episcopal Church

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Arlington, VT 05250

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*A Welcoming  
Community of  
Open Minds and  
Discerning  
Hearts*

## Baptism at St. James



## St. James Episcopal Church

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## What is Baptism?

*Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble.* (Book of Common Prayer 1979, pg 298)

The Catechism of the Episcopal Church teaches that *'Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.'* (BCP, pg 858)

*'A sacrament is the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given us by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace.'* (BCP, pg 857)



The Book of Common Prayer 1979 teaches us also that there are two great sacraments, Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist. These two great sacraments are joined together in that Holy Baptism leads to full participation in the Church, receiving the Eucharist as well as access to the other sacraments of the Church (Confirmation/Reaffirmation, Holy Matrimony, Ordination, Reconciliation of a Penitent, Unction of the Sick.) Baptism is the initial step. The Rite of Baptism is incorporated into the Holy Eucharist liturgy and the newly baptized receive their first Communion at this time. Each time the Eucharist is received the new life in Christ through baptism is renewed.



The outward and visible sign of baptism is water. This water is blessed and the candidate is submerged in it or the water is poured over the candidate's head in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *'The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ through*

*his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins and new life in the Holy Spirit.'* It is through Baptism that we are joined together into one body, the Body of Christ in the world, even though we are many individual people. Through Baptism we become God's people. Through Baptism we are buried into Christ's death thereby giving us access to Christ's resurrection. We are joined to the priesthood of all believers. We are buried to our old life of sin and we rise to a new life of forgiveness of those sins and the promise of eternal life in Christ.

For more information concerning the policy for Holy Baptism, please contact the rector, The Rev. Scott B. Neal at the parish office (802-375-9952) or at [rectorstjames@gmail.com](mailto:rectorstjames@gmail.com).



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