

Joining St. John's Parish Family

You are welcome to remain a guest/visitor for as long as you wish, but we hope you will also consider becoming a member.

If you have been baptized and/or confirmed in the Anglican or Episcopal church, or if you have been baptized in another denomination, you may become a member of this parish by asking our church office to write to your previous church requesting a letter of transfer and asking them to forward your records to St. John the Divine Anglican Church, 579 5th Street, Courtenay, BC, ATTN: Parish Admin. Assistant.

If you have not received baptism in a recognized Christian Church, you become a member of this parish by baptism. Feel free to ask the priest about the Baptism Preparation Classes.

Those who have not been confirmed are encouraged to consider this Sacramental Rite, which involves a renewal of vows made at baptism, special prayers, and a laying on of hands by the Bishop. The Anglican Church recognizes confirmation by a Bishop in the Roman Catholic Church, Lutheran Church, or the Orthodox Church. Those who have already received confirmation in one of these churches are welcomed by our bishop through a rite of reception. Those seeking confirmation or reception are encouraged to attend Catechism Classes.

Pastoral Services

Home/Animal Blessing - Father Anthony will be available to go to parishioners homes and bless your homes/pets. Please share this with your friends and family to see if they would also like this service.

"Rector's Visit" - Fr. Anthony would love to meet with you at your convenience. To arrange a visit please phone him at 250-897-8569.

Home/Hospital Visits for Communion For those parishioners unable to get to Church, a home/hospital visit for Communion is available upon request. Call the church office to arrange a time 250-334-4331

For other emergencies call 250-897-8569.

If you or a loved one are being admitted to the hospital, please indicate **"Anglican"** as your religious affiliation at the time of admittance and answer **"Yes"** that you would like a visit.

Baptism To inquire about baptism, baptismal preparation and making arrangements for adult baptism or infant and child baptism, please contact Fr. Anthony or the Church office.

Wedding Marriages held outside the church building are possible and require the permission of our Bishop. Marriage preparation is required and can be arranged through the Rector. The Anglican Church of Canada permits the marriage of divorced persons.

Renewal of Marriage Vows - The service may take place in the home with friends and family, or at a special church service.

Blessing of a Civil Marriage - If you wish that your civil marriage be blessed.

Funeral/Memorial Services/Celebration of Life - The funeral liturgy or celebration of life can take place in the church or the funeral home chapel for pastoral reasons.

Reconciliation of a Penitent - Fr. Anthony will make time to hear confessions. To make an appointment for the sacrament of reconciliation please email rectorsjtd@gmail.com.

For detailed questions about baptism, blessings, weddings, reception or confirmation, contact our priest (Rev. Anthony Divinagracia) at 250-897-8569.

St. John the Divine Anglican Church
579 5th Street
Courtenay, BC V9N 1K2
250-334-4331

Newcomer's Guide to St. John the Divine Anglican Church



Welcome to St. John's!

Our church is conveniently located at the corner of 5th Street and Harmston Avenue, Courtenay. For worship, please enter our main entrance located on Harmston.

Times of our regular Worship Services
Service is offered at 8:30am and 10:00am on Sunday mornings, and 10:00am on Wednesday morning.

What to Expect on a Sunday

We are a casual, friendly parish, and we hope that **you will feel comfortable asking anyone at St. John's** a question should one arise while you are visiting with us. **But just in case, we'll try to anticipate a few of** those questions here.

What to wear?

You can wear anything you want! You will find **people in "church clothes" (jackets, dresses, etc.), but** many more in casual attire, ranging from collared shirts and slacks, to blue jeans and shorts (in the summer). We care about who you are on the inside, not what you are wearing. Feel free to wear whatever you feel most comfortable in for church.

Where to park?

Along 5th Street and Harmston Street or the lane **way just** behind the church and Parish Hall.

What time should I plan to arrive?

If you are joining us to attend for worship, plan to arrive about 10 minutes before the service starts in order to have time to find a seat and get settled.

How long do services last?

Services vary in length from an hour and 15 minutes to an hour and 30 minutes, depending on whether there are special events during the service such as baptisms or special music.

Will I be Singled Out as a Visitor?

When you visit St. John's, you will be our respected and welcome guest. You will not be singled out in an embarrassing way, nor asked to stand before the congregation or to come forward. You will worship God as one of us.

Where to sit?

There are no reserved seats at St. John's. There are Greeters posted at each of our main services to hand you a service bulletin and help you find a seat. We have an option for parents with young children to sit at the back of the Nave where we have designated kids' area. If you need the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist to be brought to your pew during the service on account of a physical disability or impediment, please let the Greeters know when you enter so they may inform our priest.

What happens before and after Worship service?

At the Sunday services a sides person (usher) will greet you after you enter the building and give you a Sunday service bulletin.

There is no "Collection" during the service. Offerings may be left in the Offertory Plates found on the left hand side at the back of the last pew. Also on the left, you will find the Offerings of Bread and Wine set out. Please transfer a wafer into the vessel provided at the

10:00am Sunday service as a symbol of your offering.

Some people also choose to kneel at their pew for a prayer or, in some way, prepare for worship. At the end of the service some kneel for a private prayer before leaving. The priest greets the people as they leave if they decide not to join for coffee time after the service.

What books to use?

In the pews you will find two Service books and a Hymn book -

The Book of Common Prayer (maroon) is usually used at the 8:30 am Sunday Service and 10:00 am Sunday Service

The Book of Alternative Services (green) is usually used at the 10 am Wednesday service.

The hymns for a service are found in the Common Praise hymn book (blue). Hymn numbers are in the Hymn board hanging at the front.

Page numbers for the service are usually either announced or are given in the Sunday bulletin. Feel free to ask your neighbour for assistance.

What will happen?

At our 8:30am service, we will follow the Book of Common Prayer service of Holy Communion. There is no choir in this service; simply the spoken liturgy and a sermon.

The order of the 10:00am service is fully printed out in the bulletin, making it easier to follow. You will need the Common Praise Hymn book (the blue books in the pews) for hymn lyrics, which will be led by our choir during the service.

When to stand, sit, or kneel?

The general rule is to stand to sing. We stand, too, to say our affirmation of faith, the Creed, and for the reading of the Gospel in the Holy Eucharist.

We sit during readings from the Old Testament and New Testament Letters, the sermon, and choir anthems.

We stand, sit or kneel for prayer to show our gratefulness to God for accepting us as children or as an

act of humility before God.

That said, you are always welcome to do whatever is most comfortable for you, either physically or spiritually.

When and who may receive communion?

A Greeter will let you know when it is your turn to come forward. Most kneel at the rail, but some stand as well.

All those who are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are welcome to receive the bread & wine. To receive Communion, cup your hands to receive the Bread. To receive the Wine, you may sip from the chalice. Touching only the base of **the** chalice is considered receiving the wine. If you prefer not to receive the bread & wine, please feel free to come forward for a Blessing. To do so, when you approach the rail, please place your hands palms down on the rail

ALL are welcome to the Lord's Table including all baptized children, to receive Communion so they will never remember a time when they did not participate in this sacrament.

Is there a Coffee Time after church?

We offer Coffee Time almost every Sunday after the 10:00 a.m. service in our Parish Hall. Please join us for fellowship & refreshments - **we'd love to get to know** you better!

Any other questions?

If we haven't answered all your questions here, please call the church office at 250-334-4331.

Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Monday through Thursday.

E-mail us with your questions: patmos@shaw.ca or visit our website

<http://stjohnthedivinecourtenay.bc.anglican.ca>