

You're Welcome You Tube video: <https://youtu.be/KLgT1SD2Qqw>

What do we want to know before we go?

This is a list of information people might look for before attending church. Take a look at your own websites and facebook pages and see if these questions are answered somewhere!

What's the address?

What time are services and where? (put this front and center!)

Is there parking available/instructions?

- If you are at a church where there is not an obvious parking lot, please put parking instructions on your website

What's the mission statement/what do you believe?

- Episcopalians can be openly affirming and inclusive on their websites. Consider being very clear about inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people

Is there a Sunday school/kids program?

What door do I enter?

Is there a livestream/virtual worship and is it easy to find on the website?

Are there current pictures of humans on the website/facebook page?

What does the church do for outreach?

What other groups/opportunities are there to get involved?

Who is the pastor/church leadership?

Is the church handicap accessible?

What does the worship service look like?

- **BE SPECIFIC.** See description from Ocean Pointe Church: Our Sunday gatherings are laid back. When you first walk into our building, you'll have a chance to grab some cold brew coffee from one our taps and if you have kids, drop them off in our kids' programming. As you head into our auditorium you will have the opportunity to pick up some popcorn and prepackaged communion. Once you make your way all the way in and find a seat, you'll experience live music with a full band. We utilize video and stage lights to help create an

engaging environment to present Biblical truths where anyone can take a step closer to God. We design our experience for the first timer. Whether it's your first time to OP, first time to any church or just first time in a long time, our hope is that you will feel at home.

Our services last about an hour. There is typically a message that lasts about 25 minutes an opportunity to take communion together and 3-4 songs. We are very casual. If you are stressing about what to wear, you can stop worrying because we are very casual. Like... VERY casual. 😊

What's the music like?

How long is the sermon?

What do we need to know when we arrive?

These are some of the ways we can help welcome people/host well when they arrive at church.

What building/door should I go in?

- Do the greeters stand inside or outside?
- Where is the priest? Do they take part in the welcome?
- What signage do you have for parking/entrances/bathrooms?

Where do I park?

- If parking isn't obvious, include instructions on your website
- Reserved parking for families?

Is the church handicap accessible?

- Are accessible entrances well marked?
- Do greeters know how to assist someone in a wheelchair?
- Is there ample seating in the church for someone in a wheelchair?

What do I do with kids?

- Clear instructions to sunday school/kids program with Safe Church trained adults
- Letting people know their kids can stay with them and it's fine if they are noisy
- Point them to the kids crayons/coloring page packets, etc

Are there greeters?

- Do the greeters get information from newcomers? Do they introduce new folks to the priest?
- Do greeters (and others) introduce themselves to folks? "I'm not sure if we've met..."
- Do they answer questions if asked?

How do I find a seat?

- Do other folks wave to let people know where there are empty pews?
- Is there reserved seating for late families with small children?
- Are there ushers to help people find a seat?

Which books am I supposed to use?

- Is it clearly marked in the bulletin?
- Does the bulletin have everything in it?

Where are the bathrooms?

- Is that information in the bulletin?
- Do the ushers or greeters tell people who are new - especially families with children?

How does the service work?

- Is there a way to have an "instructed Eucharist" generic bulletin available for newcomers to read through so they understand the parts of the service and what is happening?
- Are we explaining Communion well? Do former Catholics know how to take the chalice?
- Are there clear instructions for how to come up for Communion?
- Do people know when to stand, kneel pray?

Is there a Welcome Card in the pew?

- A way for people to provide email/information
- Offerings for how they can connect
- Can you consider of prayer

How do I take communion?

- Do I kneel or stand?
- What's the traffic pattern?
- Do I sip from the cup, instinct, touch the cup, etc.

Nametags:

- Do we have them? Do we wear them? Do we have temporary nametags for visitors or newcomers?

What happens when we leave?

How can we engage with visitors and newcomers after they leave our services?

Follow up from welcome card

- Does someone call/email/send a card

What happens as they physically leave the church?

- Is the priest at the door?
- Can a member of the vestry be on hand to take notes/information/prayer requests

Is there a coffee hour?

- Do we invite newcomers to coffee hour/act as guides
- Is church leadership trained to keep an eye out for folks who look awkward and new to go "scoop them up"
- Is there a separate coffee hour offering for newcomers occasionally?

Is there an adult forum?

- Do we invite newcomers to come to adult ed/act as guide?

Is there some sort of departing gift/follow up?

- St Francis gives birdseed to people who leave