



Saint Anne's Episcopal Church Middletown, Delaware Joining the Church

Welcome to Saint Anne's Episcopal Church. Established in 1705, Saint Anne's continues the tradition of worship, service, learning, and fellowship that began when the first congregation of faithful Christians gathered here in Appoquinimy more than three hundred years ago and named their church Saint Anne's. As we did then, so we do now, we invite everyone to come and experience the saving grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ through the worship, mission, and ministry of Saint Anne's Church.

We are delighted that you have come to Saint Anne's and that you are considering joining the congregation. Please read through the information included here; and if you have questions or if you need more information, please contact the clergy or church office.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Following the *Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church*, Saint Anne's designates church membership as:

All baptized persons who are sixteen years of age and older, who regularly attend the worship of the Parish, and whose names have been entered for at least six months upon the Parish records as making a financial contribution to the Parish shall be members in good standing of the Parish.

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church. The Episcopal Church recognizes all baptisms that were administered with water and 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit', regardless of the denomination in which the sacrament was performed.

Full initiation means that no other rite, such as Confirmation or First Communion, is required for a person to be a full member of the Body of Christ, the Church, and to receive Holy Communion.

The Episcopal Church does offer and encourage the rite of Confirmation, in which the baptized receive the laying on of hands by a bishop. For questions about Confirmation, please speak with our clergy.

If you are not baptized, are not sure if you are baptized, if members of your immediate family are not baptized, or if you have questions about Baptism, please speak with our clergy.

Sixteen years old is the age at which a baptized person becomes an adult in the Church. Children younger than sixteen years old who are baptized and whose parents or guardians are church members are considered church members as a part of their families.

Regular participation in worship is understood as attending worship as often as a person's circumstances and schedule allows.

Financial contribution is understood as a monetary donation of any amount given to the church.

The Church Canons stipulate that a person must attend worship and have made a financial contribution to the church for at least six months before the person is recognized as an active member of the church. Because the church does not record who attends Sunday worship but does record all

financial contributions, the six month period begins on the first date that a financial contribution is recorded. And because the church has no way of recording who makes cash donations, Saint Anne's records only personal checks and cash donations made in sealed envelopes and marked with a person's name.

Persons who satisfy the conditions for Church Membership as outlined above are considered Active Church Members and may participate fully in the worship, mission, and ministry of the Church.

TRANSFERRING YOUR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If you are a member of another church, you may transfer your church membership to Saint Anne's Church by contacting your church and requesting a Letter of Transfer. Have the Letter mailed to Saint Anne's Church, 15 E. Green St., Middletown, DE 19709. Once the Saint Anne's Church Office receives your Letter of Transfer, we will send you a letter confirming that your membership has been transferred to Saint Anne's Church.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

Annual Pledge: Saint Anne's invites Church Members—as individuals or as families—to make a Pledge to support the church financially in a calendar year. A financial Pledge is a promise we make and a sign of our commitment as Church Members. To make their Pledge, Church Members discern what their financial contribution to the church will be for the next calendar year (or if the Pledge is submitted during the year, what their financial contribution will be for the remainder of the year), and then they return their completed Pledge Card to the Church Office. All Pledge amounts are welcome, and all Pledge amounts are kept strictly confidential. Although making a Pledge is not required for Church Membership, it is greatly appreciated, as it allows the church leadership to know what Church Members plan to give to support the worship, mission, and ministry of the church.

Reception into The Episcopal Church and *Renewal of Baptismal Vows* are two rites that are available to Church Members when the Bishop of The Episcopal Church in Delaware visits Saint Anne's. 'Reception' is a rite for persons who were baptized and confirmed in another denomination or who were active members of another denomination and who want to be formally received into the larger Christian body that is The Episcopal Church. 'Renewal of Baptismal Vows' is a rite for people who were baptized and/or confirmed but have been absent from the church for many years and who now desire to reaffirm their baptism. Neither of these rites is required for Church Membership. For more information about these rites, please speak with a member of our clergy.

THANK YOU

Joining the church is a significant step. Everyone is welcome at Saint Anne's, and the church rejoices whenever people choose to become members of Saint Anne's Episcopal Church. Our prayer is that all who join this church will have their faith nourished, their hope encouraged, and that they will grow in the healing and life-giving love of God.

To join Saint Anne's Episcopal Church, please complete the New Member Registration Form and mail or email it to the Church Office. Once the Office receives the completed form, you will receive a letter confirming your membership with Saint Anne's Episcopal Church.



**Saint Anne's Episcopal Church
New Member Information**

Home Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____

1) Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Baptism Date _____ **Location** _____

2) Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Baptism Date _____ **Location** _____

3) Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Baptism Date _____ **Location** _____

4) Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Baptism Date _____ Location _____

5) Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Baptism Date _____ Location _____

6) Name _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Date of Birth _____

Baptism Date _____ Location _____

Completed by _____ Date _____

To be completed by the Church Office

Date Received:

Date Recorded: