

# ST C CHURCH OF CLEMENT



ANCHORED IN CHRIST, LIVING IN COMMUNITY, SERVING IN THE SPIRIT

## FAQ'S (Frequently Asked Questions) About Church Membership

**Why should I  
belong to a  
Church?**



Every Christian should belong to a church (congregation), because being a Christian is not just about having a relationship with God, it is also about having a relationship with His people. Through Holy Baptism we are made a part of God's family, the Church. In Jesus Christ, we are not only children of our Heavenly Father, but we are brothers and sisters of all those who trust and follow Him.

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household (family), built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.  
Ephesians 2:19-20*

**Why is the  
Church  
important?**



The church is important because Christ's Church is important to God. In the Bible, the Church is called, "the Body of Christ" and "the Bride of Christ." These very personal terms illustrate how precious the Church is to our Lord Jesus and our Heavenly Father. Jesus even gave a specific command to His followers, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."  
John 13:34

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. I Corinthians 12:27*

*I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Revelation 21:2*

What did the New Testament Church look like?



In Acts 2:42, we read that the early disciples, “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” The believers gathered together to worship, study God’s Word, offer prayer, and share their lives in Christ.

*Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another. Hebrews 10:24-5*

How did the New Testament Church worship?



They gathered to celebrate the Holy Communion, or as it is also called, the Lord’s Supper, or the Holy Eucharist. Holy Communion is a sign to all believers that we must continually feed on the Life of Jesus Christ, who is truly present when we gather in His Name.”

*The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ I Corinthians 11:23-25*

*So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. John 6:53*

What is the primary mission of the Church?



Jesus commanded His followers to proclaim the Good News of God’s salvation to every person in the world. The message that God loves us, and has sent His Son to save us from our sins by taking our punishment upon Himself on the Cross, has the power to bring us back into relationship with our Heavenly Father. When we trust in Jesus Christ, He takes our sins away, and the Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts.

*Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20*

# How Do I Become A Member of the Church of St. Clement?



## Working

Praying & Giving

There are two types of membership at our Church: The first, which I will call “basic” membership, is simply a way of saying, “this is my Church home.” You have started attending, and would like to be considered a member of our Church community. The only requirement is that you be a baptized Christian, you attend a newcomers class, and that you provide us with the date and place of your Baptism. You may have been baptized in any Christian Church, at any age, as long as you were baptized in the name of the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

As a Church member, we would like to encourage you to become involved, not only through attendance of worship services, but in “working, praying, and giving” for the Kingdom of God. The Church’s ministry is only made possible through the stewardship of the “time, talent, and treasure” of the members of the Church. God has given each of us spiritual gifts, as well as talents, skills and resources, with which we serve in His Name.

There are many benefits to being a member of the Church of St. Clement, in addition to the blessings that come from being part of this spiritually vibrant community. Knowing that your

Church is praying for you, and is there to encourage and support you in a variety of ways is a rare experience in a culture that is characterized by isolation and fragmented relationships. Normally, the privileges of being married, having one’s children baptized, and having one’s funeral or memorial service at the Church, is reserved for members, although there may be exceptions granted. If you would like become a member, please contact Carlie Pine at the church office.

The second type of membership is referred to in our bylaws as a “voting member.” This is a bit of a misnomer, as there is usually only one opportunity to vote each year, at the annual congregational meeting, which is normally held in February. Voting members must approve the budget, elect members of the vestry (board), approve changes to the bylaws, and vote for any other business that is brought before the meeting. In addition, a person may not be elected to serve as a member of the vestry without being a “voting member.” Finally, leadership positions in the Church are reserved for “voting members.”

A voting member must have been either “confirmed” or “received” into this Church by an Anglican Bishop. Confirmation is when an Anglican Bishop



visits, and lays his hands on and prays for an individual who reaffirms his or her baptismal vows publically. A person who has been “confirmed” in another Anglican Church may simply have his or her membership transferred to the Church of St. Clement.

Reception is when an Anglican Bishop “receives” a person who has been confirmed in another denomination (e.g. Lutheran, Roman Catholic, etc.). Classes are held each spring, with the Bishop’s visitation usually being in early summer, although the time may vary. Classes for young people are usually held every other year.



In addition to having been “confirmed” or “received,” a voting member must be regular in worship and a “giver of record,” meaning having financially supported the Church operating budget, either by using a check, ACH, or cash in an offering envelope. Those who use one of these means to give financially will receive quarterly giving statements from the bookkeeping department.

It is my hope that you will want to be a member of the Church of St. Clement to the fullest degree, and that you will experience the blessings that come from being part of this community that seeks to honor our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please do not hesitate to call or make an appointment with me or one of the other members of the clergy if you have any questions about how to become a member of the Church. If you would like to become a voting member of the church, please contact Carlie Pine at the Church office.

The Rev. William C. Cobb, D. Min., Rector



The Church of St. Clement began as a mission in the dusty border village of Franklin, now El Paso. Judge Gaylord Judd Clarke and his family arrived in Franklin in 1867, and he and his wife gathered other friends in their home on Sunday mornings for Morning Prayer and read the Episcopal liturgy.

In 1870 Parson Joseph Wilkin Tays traveled to the small town of Franklin of about 800 people where he built the first church of Saint Clement, named for the third Bishop of Rome, who was martyred by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea. Clement was also the name of the son of Judge Gaylord Clarke, the Founder of the Church, who died as an infant. This mission was the first Protestant (non-Roman) church between Santa Fe and Brownsville.

By God’s grace and power, the church has continued to grow and serve the community of El Paso through many ministries and missionary work. St. Clement is a place where you can connect with God, build relationships, and have opportunities to serve others.

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**JOIN ST. CLEMENT'S  
COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS**