

FAQs: How to take part in St. John's worship, prayer and meetings online

March 16, 2020

St. John's is offering many ways for you to take part in worship, prayer and group meetings online, while our church building is closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This document should answer many of your questions about how to do this — and if it doesn't, please reach out to the St. John's office, and we will connect you with someone who can provide guidance by phone.

In addition, residents of Duncaster/Caleb Hitchcock and Seabury can ask their on-site activities coordinators for assistance.

Let's start with a brief explanation of the various online tools we'll refer to in this document. Some of our online offerings are available for you to watch only, which you can do on our web site, on YouTube or on Facebook. Others are hosted on Zoom, which means you can do more than just watch, you can also participate, as described below.

St. John's web site – The St. John's web site is at <https://sjparish.net>. If you're not sure how to find any of our online offerings, start here! The web site has links to all of the different ways you can watch and participate in our online offerings.

YouTube – YouTube is a web site where you can watch videos. St. John's has our own YouTube channel, which is a page on YouTube where you can find all of the videos we make and put online. You can find our YouTube Channel by [going to our web site](#) and clicking on the YouTube logo at the top right of the home page. You can also see our videos by using a YouTube app on a variety of devices, including computers, tablets, smartphones and some TVs. See *How can I tune into St. John's online offerings?* below for more details.

Facebook – Our Facebook page is a great place to get the latest news from St. John's. You can get to our Facebook page by [going to our web site](#) and clicking on the Facebook logo at the top right of the home page, or go directly to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWestHartford/>. We post direct links to our service videos on Facebook, along with notices of schedule changes or closings, links to helpful (or funny!) online content, and more.

Zoom – Zoom is an online conferencing tool that allows groups of people to meet and interact in real time without being in the same place. When you join a Zoom meeting, you can choose to allow other participants to see you in real time using your computer or phone camera, or you can choose to participate without your camera on. In either case, you can speak and be heard by others in the meeting, and type questions, prayer requests, etc. into a chat function for other participants to read.

What can I do online with St. John's?

As of March 16, St. John's is offering the following online options. We will share updated information about these and other offerings on our Facebook page and via our e-mail newsletters.

If you are not on the St. John's e-mail newsletter mailing list and would like to be added, please e-mail office@sjparish.net.

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship — We have been livestreaming our 10:30 Sunday service for nearly two years, so will continue to do so, except with no congregation in the building. "Livestreaming" means that a video recording of our service is available online live as it is happening, and also afterward for viewing any time. We will be trying different types of worship, such as Morning Prayer, in the weeks to come.

Noonday Prayer, Monday through Friday, 12 p.m. — Noonday prayer is a very short service, appropriate for all ages, that includes a scripture, a psalm, written prayers, and time for worshippers to add their own prayers. Our daily noonday prayer services are hosted on Zoom. Recordings of the Zoom session will also be posted on our YouTube channel, where you can watch them in real time or afterward.

Compline, Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 9 p.m. — Compline is a beautiful, reflective service of evening prayer that includes scriptures, psalms, and prayers. We are hosting Compline on Zoom, and scheduling it for later in the evening to give everyone a chance to finish their evening routines before settling in for a time to reflect, pray and worship.

Small group meetings, times TBA — Some St. John's committees, classes and other groups will meet using Zoom. Your group's leader will let you know of this option when it is available.

How do I tune in to any of these online offerings?

To recap, here are the ways you can access each of our offerings as of today.

Sunday morning worship, 10:30 a.m. – Watch on our web site or YouTube.

Noonday prayer, Monday through Friday, 12 p.m. – Participate via Zoom, or watch on YouTube.

Compline, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 p.m. – Participate via Zoom, or watch on YouTube.

***Important:** In order to participate in the gatherings we are hosting on Zoom, such as noonday prayer and Compline — to see who is participating, speak and be heard by other participants, and use the chat function to post questions, comments or prayer requests — you must join the gathering in Zoom. If you choose instead to watch these services on YouTube, you cannot participate in these ways. Think of it this way: Participating via Zoom is like attending a lecture in person, where you can raise your hand to ask a question or be invited up on stage to do an experiment. Watching via YouTube is like watching a*

recording of a lecture instead. You can see what happens in the Zoom gathering, but can't be an active part of it.

You can access YouTube on the YouTube web site, or download their app on your phone or tablet. You can also access a YouTube app on any smart TV (such as Apple TV), via TV streaming services (such as Roku), or on your regular TV if you have Comcast/Xfinity cable service.

To participate in Zoom gatherings, you need a tablet, smart phone, or computer with microphone and camera (camera optional but recommended).

- Download the Zoom app before participating.
 - [Getting started with iPhone or iPad tutorial](#)
 - [Getting started with Android tutorial](#)
- Use our specific Zoom link (below) and follow the directions. [Here is a video](#) that goes step-by-step through the process for joining a Zoom meeting on a computer.
- Find a quiet place to join us online.

Our Zoom link for our Noonday and Compline services: <https://zoom.us/j/173504417>

Can I follow the service using a bulletin?

Yes! We will ways for you to follow along with our services on a computer, tablet or phone.

For Sunday morning services, we will send an e-mail blast shortly before the service that will include a link to the bulletin. Or you can find a link to the bulletin on our web site's *Service Previews, Recordings and Sermons* page at sjparish.net/services. We will also provide copies of hymns or other supplements to the service.

For Noonday Prayer, you can find the bulletin at <https://tinyurl.com/noondayprayerbulletin> and we will also include a link in the e-mail blast sent prior to the service.

For Compline, you can follow along in the Book of Common Prayer or the BCP online at <https://www.bcponline.org>. The order for Compline is on page 127.

If you need help, or if you have good technical skills and can provide phone guidance to others, contact the parish office at office@sjparish.net or 860-523-5201.