



THE SANCTUARY

FAITH-BASED TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

The Sanctuary is an Eastern Orthodox Christian faith-based residence in Chilliwack, BC, run by St. Silas Orthodox Prison Ministry (orthodoxprisonministry.ca). Located in a main-floor suite of a residential home, The Sanctuary is designed for those who seek a quiet, respectful home environment, practical structure, and the encouragement of a small Christian community while continuing their reintegration journey.

Private, individual rooms for up to three (3) residents.

Shared bathroom and living spaces.

Rent is not charged and no financial commitment is required. Residents may contribute financially on a voluntary basis through charitable contributions or as they qualify for housing benefits.

A Chapel is available for Orthodox Christian services. Participation is welcome and voluntary.

PURPOSE

The Sanctuary is not a halfway house, clinical treatment program, or rehabilitation residence. It is best suited to semi-independent individuals who would benefit from a stable, structured, faith-based home community as an interim step between supervised settings and independent living.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Low risk individuals leaving CRFs who are motivated to build a stable future.

Preference will be given to applicants aged 55+ for whom faith is important.

The nature of the offense is not a barrier to acceptance.

LIFE IN SANCTUARY

Transition Living with Structure: residents collaborate to develop and manage daily routines with expectations for cleanliness and shared responsibility.

Household Contribution: participation in upkeep of the home (food preparation, cleaning, gardening, maintenance).

Community Life: opportunity for shared meals, regular social interaction, and hosting visitors.

Reflection and Personal Development: informal support, mentorship, and life planning.

Spiritual Support: chapel services, studies, and pastoral care.

STRUCTURE AND OVERSIGHT

The Sanctuary is operated by a federal charity and BC non-profit, funded by individual donors. Day-to-day support includes an experienced property manager, and pastoral care is provided by St. Silas clergy/volunteers.

St. Silas leadership will assist residents to develop consensus-based expectations for respectful shared living. Alcohol use and illicit drug activities are not permitted in the residence.

Community Parole Officers and other supports are welcome to attend the Sanctuary, supporting transition and reintegration into the community.

CONTACT

Daren Arends
Property Manager
(resident vetting)

sanctuary@orthodoxprisonministry.ca

Fr. Mircea Tihon
Pastoral Support (resident vetting, ETA Community Assessment contact, back-up pastoral support)

sanctuary@orthodoxprisonministry.ca

Fr. Richard Rene
Pastoral Support (one-on-one counselling, teaching, liturgical services)

sanctuary@orthodoxprisonministry.ca



**St. Silas
Orthodox**
PRISON FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

I'm not familiar with the Eastern Orthodox Church. What is it?

The Eastern Orthodox Church is an ancient Christian tradition that seeks to follow the teachings and practices of the early Church. The residence has a Chapel built in the Orthodox tradition and is supported by volunteer clergy who are available for pastoral care.

Am I required to be an Orthodox Christian to stay at The Sanctuary?

No, this is not a requirement. The Sanctuary is open to all individuals for whom faith is important and who are committed to being respectful concerning the faith-based nature of the home, including services in the on-site Chapel. Direct participation in these services is voluntary. If you have participated in faith ministries or accessed chaplaincy services of any kind while in an institution, this may indicate your suitability to stay at The Sanctuary.

How long can I stay at The Sanctuary? Length of stay is based on your circumstances, transition goals, and suitability for the residence. These details can be discussed during the interview process.

How much should I contribute to the cost of my room? Financial ability or contributions are not a barrier to stay at The Sanctuary. As financials means permit, residents are invited to make voluntary donations to St. Silas to help offset the cost of their room and support the financial resiliency of The Sanctuary.

Can I work or attend school while living at The Sanctuary?

Yes. Residents are encouraged to pursue employment, education, volunteering, or other activities that support successful reintegration and movement toward independent living.

Can I have visitors? Overnight visitors will not be permitted. All other visitor arrangements are considered in a way that supports the safety, privacy, and comfort of all residents as per the house guidelines.

Can I leave the residence during the day? Yes, you are free to come and go as you wish, provided you comply with your release conditions and any expectations agreed upon within the household, *e.g. quiet time after 11:00 p.m.*

Is transportation available? Residents are responsible for arranging their own transportation. Bus services are within easy walking distance. We will assist individuals with physical disabilities find suitable transportation.

Are meals provided? Residents share responsibility for daily living and household management, including groceries and food preparation.

What support is available if I am struggling with challenges in my transition? Residents may receive informal guidance, mentorship, pastoral support, and encouragement from the St. Silas community. The Sanctuary also welcomes involvement from parole officers and other community supports.

What should I expect during the suitability interview? The interview is an opportunity to discuss your background, goals, faith journey, support network, release plans, and reasons for wanting to live at The Sanctuary. It also allows you to ask questions and determine whether the residence is a good fit for you.

What happens if there are more applicants than available rooms? As The Sanctuary has only three resident rooms, there may be times when demand exceeds available space. Applicants who are not immediately admitted may be contacted if a room becomes available. Interested individuals may also request to visit The Sanctuary and participate in Orthodox worship services in the on-site Chapel.

INTERESTED IN APPLYING?

1. Complete a Consent for Disclosure form (0487), including the following information:

Personal Information:

Full name, Date of Birth, Release Plans, Conditions of Release, Offense History, Mental Health or Other Needs, Community Supports

Name of Individual:

Daren Arends (Coordinator),
sanctuary@orthodoxprisonministry.ca

Description of Purpose: Application for transitional housing in The Sanctuary

2. Contact us to request a suitability interview:

Call 778-600-1223

Email sanctuary@orthodoxprisonministry.ca

Write to St. Silas Prison Ministry
PO Box 21048 Southgate,
Chilliwack, BC, V2P4B8

In your request, please share the following:

- Your contact information
- Your current CRF, CCC, or halfway house location
- Expected timeline for release
- Why you want to live in the Sanctuary
- How faith is important for you
- Contact information for any references, *e.g. a chaplain, a sponsor, a faith leader*
- Your goals for the coming year



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