



Casa San Salvador Intentional Living Community Frequently Asked Questions

This information is intended for potential Nonprofit Servant Leadership Program volunteers and incoming long-term residents.

What is Casa San Salvador?

Casa San Salvador is the hospitality house of Franciscan Mission Service. The house serves multiple purposes including: intentional community housing, FMS guest housing, meeting space, and retreat space. In addition, Franciscan Mission Service runs missionary formation and reentry programs from the house and organizations like a local Secular Franciscan Fraternity regularly use the house for their meetings. The three-story house includes private bedrooms, shared bathrooms, a shared kitchen and dining space, and shared living areas such as a classroom, reading room, and basement.

Who lives at Casa San Salvador?

As a house of hospitality, Casa San Salvador hosts guests associated with Franciscan Mission Service for varying lengths of stay.

- **Intentional living community and long-term guests:** The casa is home to an intentional living community of long-term guests, primarily made up of FMS Nonprofit Servant Leadership volunteers, FMS missionaries, and interns/volunteers from similarly-focused nonprofits in the Washington, DC area. These “community members” engage in shared meals, prayer, and fellowship together on a regular/daily basis.
- **Short-term and mid-term guests:** Many short-term guests are long-time friends of FMS or are returning guests from similarly-focused local, national, or international organizations. Mid-term guests are in the area for several weeks to two months for special conferences, projects, etc. Mid-term guests do not always integrate into the intentional living community.

How does being part of an intentional living community differ from just having roommates?

The intentional living community of Casa San Salvador is much more than a collection of young adults living in the same housing space. Each community member has made a commitment to actively participating in community activities and taking on the shared responsibilities of creating and maintaining an environment focused on learning, respect, support, and faith development. We do this with openness to developing friendships and shared experiences while encouraging each other to balance personal time and community life activities. The house manager(s) will also help support the community towards living out these values in a spirit of joy.

Pillars of Community	Community Applications
Community and Hospitality – <i>to bear witness to the Gospel through the Franciscan lifestyle and promote a welcoming spirit of inclusion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community dinners Sunday-Thursday evenings • Fellowship through shared meals, social outings, reflection activities, etc. • Invitations to friends, guests, neighbors to join the community for weekly dinner
Prayer – <i>to encourage union with Christ through developing active and lasting prayer lives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evening prayer together before dinner • Community faith sharing nights
Compassion for Those Living in Poverty – <i>to live in solidarity and friendship with the marginalized and people who are experiencing poverty</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to service in the local DC area • Use of extra community money • Communal Lent and Advent projects
Simplicity and Reverence for Creation – <i>to live the Gospel teachings of freedom and detachment in union with all of creation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to care for Casa San Salvador and serve one another through shared responsibilities of housekeeping chores • Attention to our use of resources: time, food, material goods, technology, etc.

What are the rules of the house?

Full community guidelines and a housing contract will be provided upon move-in. The house manager(s) will also provide additional information and an introduction to the house upon arrival. Basic rules include:

- Smoking and drug use is prohibited inside Casa San Salvador.
- Wi-Fi is provided, but please no illegal downloading.
- Community members are allowed to have guests stay overnight at the house with prior approval. When needed, guest rooms are available at a 50% reduced nightly rate.
- There is no curfew. Come and go as you please while being considerate of others in the house, especially during early/late hours.

What is provided in the rooms?

Emphasizing St. Francis' model of hospitality and simplicity, each bedroom in the house comes fully furnished and most include a sink and mirror. Each floor has a shared bathroom with shower and toilet stalls. Basic housing items such as sheets, blankets, towels, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, and hand soap are provided. Items for personal use, such as shampoo, toothpaste, body soap, laundry detergent, etc. are not provided. There is a washing machine and dryer available in the basement. The house also has a fully furnished kitchen with appliances, utensils, dishware, etc.

How do community dinners work?

The Casa San Salvador community gathers together for evening prayer and dinner on Sunday-Thursday evenings. As part of the intentional living community, members are expected to participate in community meals on a daily basis as often as possible. Community members take turns volunteering to make dinner each of these nights. There is a weekly and monthly community

calendar to track dinner sign-ups. This calendar is also used to let the community know if someone is unable to make it for dinner.

Post-dinner clean-up is always a group effort. For example: one person might do dishes, one person might wipe down the table, one person might sweep, and one person might wipe down counters/oven-top. Typically the person who cooks does not have to help clean up.

How do “community nights” differ from every other dinner?

One night a week we have community nights, usually following dinner. Community members take turns scheduling spiritual or fellowship activities. Typical activities include prayers or spiritual reflections, movie nights, guest speakers, games, ice-breakers/get-to-know-people activities, or outings. Occasionally, community meetings are also held on community nights to share any announcements or discuss any matters that need to be addressed. The house manager(s) may also use this time to discuss house issues.

How does food/grocery shopping work?

- Every week each community member contributes \$20.⁰⁰ towards groceries for breakfast, lunch, and dinner meals. The community shares five dinners together each week; all other meals are prepared individually. If a community member will be out of town for an entire week they do not have to pay.
- Once a week the community grocery list is compiled with each member listing the items they would like purchased (whether for breakfast, lunch, snacks, dinners, etc.). Items needed specifically to prepare community dinners are labeled as such so they do not get used before the appropriate dinner.
- Each week community members take turns going grocery shopping. Often two people will go together, just to make the job easier. Depending on the size of the community, grocery shopping may be scheduled on the chore list due to its time-consuming nature. Shopping is typically done at the local ALDI, but other local grocery stores, such as Shoppers and Giant, are other alternatives.

What are the rules of the kitchen? What am I allowed to use?

- All food bought with community money is for the whole community to use. Be sure to label any items needed for community dinners so they do not get eaten before the meal preparation.
- There are cabinets and shelves for community food as well as storage space for personal food. Because of the limited cabinet space and constantly changing nature of the community, there are not necessarily designated places for each person’s food. This makes labeling important.
- Most of the kitchen supplies and utensils belong to FMS and are provided for community members to use. Please be respectful while using them and do not loan them out or leave them places in an irresponsible manner.

What is expected of me in terms of house chores?

A community chore list is created every week and community members sign up for specific duties on a rotating basis. Chore duties will adjust depending on how many people are living in the house. The chore schedule has specific details about what needs to be done and how to do it.

In addition to weekly chores, all community members are responsible for regularly tidying up after themselves and assisting with clean-up following community dinners. Basic housekeeping such as taking out the trash/recycling and washing dishes are daily necessities.

Is parking available? Can I use public transportation to/from the house?

There are a limited number of parking spaces at the house. If you will be bringing a vehicle, please notify us in advance so that we can confirm the availability of parking. Street parking is also available; however, per Washington, DC law only cars with DC license plates may park on the streets overnight.

Public transportation is easily accessible to/from Casa San Salvador. The Brookland-CUA Metro station is within walking distance and it is a 10-minute train ride to downtown on the red line. Multiple MetroBus lines are also within walking distance.