



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Apr 22, 2022)

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Chappaqua, New York
PO Box 380 (191 S. Greeley Avenue), Chappaqua, NY 10514, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/22/22.

search.smtv2022@gmail.com

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 50	Number of Weekend Worship Services 1	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Full family	Dental Yes	Housing Equity Allowance in budget Yes	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks 2 (standard)	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget \$501-\$1000/year	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account

We are calling a Priest-in-Charge, compensation & benefits according to diocesan guidelines.

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

During the pandemic, our worship practices had to be reinvented. With inside and in-person services not allowed, we moved the Sunday service to our outside stone altar. This was received with enthusiasm by parishioners and regular attendance numbers increased. In addition, we scaled back from two Sunday morning services (at 8:00 AM Rite I and 10:00 AM Rite II) to just one service at 9:30 AM (Rite II). This has also been favorably received by the congregation. In addition, we set up a live streaming of our Sunday morning worship service. This new way to reach out to our parishioners has meant that we are reaching a greater group of people on a weekly basis, when many still do not feel comfortable coming to church in person. Around 30 people have been listening in, live, on any given Sunday.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

Good communication is always important, and even more essential with effects of Covid over the past two years. The Bell, our newsletter, goes out monthly via email, with printed copies also available. In addition to reports from Vestry commissions and special events coverage, in each issue an individual or family is invited to write about themselves, helping us get to know each other better. Recently we added an email Weekly Update, occasionally supplemented by additional email "blasts" for important announcements. We are also currently revamping our Facebook page. Our Website also provides information on life at Saint Mary's. Due to Covid concerns, we have found new ways to "be present" at Saint Mary's, and if necessary bring the church to parishioners. When we were unable to gather in church during lockdown, services were moved outside and captured by live streaming. One could hear the service live or recorded, with an archive dating back to March 2020. We are now again in the sanctuary but continue to offer live streaming Sunday services to anyone unable or hesitant to attend in person. It's a useful tool to reach everyone in this electronic age.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Inspire Engagement. Family Ministries. Pastoral Care. Collaborative Evangelism.

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Pre-pandemic, we celebrated Holy Eucharist twice on Sundays: 8:00 AM Rite I and 10:00 AM Rite II. Live music at the 10:00 AM service included organ, piano, and adult choir. Oftentimes parishioners who played an instrument (i.e. violin, cello, or flute) would be invited to participate in the Rite II services. We also hosted special guest soloists. Since the pandemic, we have celebrated Holy Eucharist (with host only) twice a month on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM, using Rite II, with our part-time Interim Priest officiating. For the alternate Sundays, we have instituted Morning Prayer also at 9:30 AM, with 5 parishioners who currently rotate leading this service. Live music has also been featured each Sunday, on the organ and piano. The choir has recently returned to further enhance our worship experience.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Saint Mary's has always offered many ways for members to be involved, including serving as ushers, acolytes, lay readers/lectors and chalice bearers. Such roles are increasingly served by a small pool of regular volunteers, although an online sign-up is circulated monthly in the hope of including new volunteers. We try as a parish to be open and welcoming to newcomers and newer members. In the past five years a new Newcomers and Membership ministry was created on the Vestry. Vestry members hosted a few informal gatherings at members' homes and welcomed new families more formally in special Sunday services. Saint Mary's also has special opportunities for members to participate in our services more directly, such as the Christmas pageant, presented by the Sunday School children every December. More recently, in an effort to broaden participation during Advent, the Rector invited a different family to assist every week in reading from scripture and lighting the wreath. Outside of services, members may further be involved through leadership roles in the Vestry, outreach opportunities in the community, or hosting coffee hour.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

Saint Mary's is a warm and supportive church. During the Sunday service, at Prayers of the People, we remember those needing our intercessions. Until Covid required social distancing, Passing the Peace was a moment of warm hugs and hearty handshakes which we hope to return to soon. Following the service, Greeters say hello, perhaps chat briefly, and introduce themselves to newcomers. These are all reminders that we are part of a church family that is also eager to welcome new members. Offering an extra hand in times of need, the Good St. Maryans are volunteers helping parishioners deal with challenges like illness, a new baby, or the passing of a loved one. Members offer rides, do shopping, or take turns delivering home-cooked meals. Recently Saint Mary's started a walking group which meets weekly, weather permitting. Participants welcome a chance to see old and new friends while safely distancing outdoors. Walks become more than mere exercise: they provide a support group and a chance to share God's gift of nature. One returns home feeling spiritually refreshed. In a similar fashion, the labyrinth and memorial garden outside our church provide a place for quiet contemplation

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

At Saint Mary's, we feel pastoral care means ministering to the bodies, minds, and spirits of those in need. We give money to support charities, and we also believe it is important to provide hands-on service to others. Programs too numerous to list include providing food and clothing for homeless people, refugees and immigrants, buying Christmas gifts for needy families, and contributing to a local food pantry. We are committed to teaching our children the value of service to others, and our projects are designed to encourage their participation. For example, young parishioners sell home-made soup at our Souper Bowl Sunday of Caring, followed by a trip to a supermarket to stock a local food pantry; our Sunday School makes lunches for children visiting their mothers at a nearby correctional center; older children participate on Midnight Runs, delivering food and clothing to the homeless in NYC.

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Saint Mary's is part of our local Interfaith Council, a consortium of faith groups that work together to build understanding and promote conversation in our community. We collaborate with other congregations in various charitable endeavors, for instance, Northern Westchester's Emergency Shelter Partnership, which delivers temporary emergency shelter to those in need; Midnight Run which distributes goods to the homeless on the streets of NYC; and the Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry of Pleasantville. We have an ongoing relationship with our sister Anglican church in Monken Hadley, England, with reciprocal visits of delegations in 2019, and more planned. Saint Mary's also is tightly woven into the fabric of the Chappaqua community. We host two annual community events on our grounds, the Annual Strawberry Festival and the Pumpkin Patch, each a colorful, outdoor, children-themed event attended by hundreds of town residents.

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Several years ago, a group of parents decided to re-initiate a youth group for middle and high schoolers in our parish. Quite a few families expressed interest, an online newsletter was created, and several events were organized including a teen archery event on the church grounds, and a visit to the local grocery store to help restock the local interfaith food pantry. However, as with so many ministries, Covid put a stop to these activities, and now as we emerge from the pandemic, our parish has yet to re-engage our teens in any organized way. The Rite 13 program is no longer offered, only an annual confirmation option, and teen attendance on Sunday mornings is low. There is interest at our parish in teen-oriented activities, but we have struggled to create a consistent and meaningful program for our teens. (Contact: Cindy Forrest, cyoungforrest@gmail.com)

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Stewardship at Saint Mary's has always emphasized "time, talent and treasure" as essential to our parish life. We are fortunate to have an abundance of "talent" in our parish: expert professionals of all backgrounds, and a wide array of individuals with diverse skills who contribute significantly to projects. However, "time" has become more of a challenge, especially for families whose children participate in many activities outside of church. "Treasure" has also been a challenge for our parish, as the number of pledges has gradually declined, and we often struggle to avoid a financial deficit. Recent large gifts have provided endowment funds that assure our ability to continue to have a full-time priest, unlike many parishes that have been forced to cut back for financial reasons. We welcome leadership to help us better inspire and manage our "time, talent and treasure."

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Outreach "beyond our walls" has long been important, with a long-standing practice to donate up to 10% of total revenue, minus Diocesan assessment, to both local and worldwide charities. Over time, with stable expenses but a gradual revenue decline, an annual deficit would often occur. Some questioned if a parish without a significant endowment could have recurring deficits but continue to send substantial sums to other organizations. The suggestion to cut Outreach disbursements, although financially sensible, was met with concern by some parishioners. Some suggested they might reduce their pledges if this idea went forward. After much discussion that involved several parishioners, the Vestry nevertheless decided to make that change. Continued struggles to break even each year seem to have confirmed that this was a good financial decision. It now seems accepted for donations to other charities to be made when the parish financial position is stronger. Cuts in direct grants have led to increased attention to various "hands-on" Outreach activities, with more direct parishioner involvement and increased attention to local community needs.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

Like all parishes, Saint Mary's has been affected by the Covid pandemic. Some parish members have moved away, leaving a smaller pool of people able and willing to participate and donate time to activities. Demands of family life and activities of children have often meant less time available for church activities. However, the core values, devotion and commitment to Saint Mary's of many parishioners continue. Even during the worst of the Covid lockdown, church services were live streamed, and in warmer weather we were able to use our outdoor altar before services in church could resume. Our location in the heart of Chappaqua gives us an advantage. Our church is beautiful and historic, its history rich. With an influx of new people to the community, we hope to attract new members through activities like our long-running Strawberry Festival in spring, the Pumpkin Patch in the fall, as well as Ars Antiqua concerts and involvement in various community programs.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Margaret Tuttle	Interim	2022-03	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Canon Alan Dennis	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2016-09	2021-09

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Joel Clark Mason	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1996-08	2014-07

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
YES	1	6

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School



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Worshipping Community Web site: www.smtv.org

Media Links:

> <https://www.facebook.com/SaintMaryChappaqua>

Online References:

> <https://www.spreaker.com/show/st-marys-chappaqua>

> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/603241227268048/about/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Diocesan Transition Minister

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader