



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 19, 2022)

St. James' Church, Manhattan, New York

865 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10021, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 11/18/22.

rectorsearch@stjames.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

304

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

4

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

11

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail
\$180000

Utilities
\$10000

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position
\$150000

Housing Available for

Pension Plan
**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options
Full family

Dental
Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

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
\$1001-\$2000/year

Sabbatical Provision
Yes

Travel/Auto Account
Yes

Other Professional Account

We are calling a Rector, 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.

At the outbreak of COVID when everything shut down, our morning and evening prayer services, which historically drew 5-7 people to St. James', went online. Very quickly, more parishioners began to participate, and attendance grew rapidly. These simple services at 8:00 AM and 5:30 PM are the perfect way to begin and end each day, centered in prayerful attention to God. They used to be led by clergy but now are led by trained lay members of the parish, who serve on a rota. While most church meetings have returned to in-person or hybrid, we have kept morning and evening prayer services online to make them as accessible as possible. These services have been especially successful in connecting parishioners to one another, and they have attracted parishioners of all ages, who seem to have grown in numbers because of the easy access. In addition, we now stream the weekly 11:15 choral Eucharist and the 6PM candlelight Eucharist online every week which are a great benefit for our homebound parishioners, for those who are traveling and those who missed a week and want to catch up. We have gained parishioners from a few other parts of the country and enabled others to find out more about us.

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

When we serve others, we grow the Kingdom of God. There are a number of priorities as we go forward. ● Our mission program is strong, reaching diverse communities throughout New York City. However, we realize the need to re-engage in international mission work. ● We have a robust stewardship program that has transformed our giving, yet we need to expand stewardship in order to fully support ourselves in the future. ● Our sanctuary and parish house are our most beautiful and expensive assets. We recognize that, to grow in discipleship, we need to evaluate their state of repair and invest in their upkeep. ● We anticipate that several senior staff members probably will retire in the next few years, and the next rector will have the opportunity to hire staff who will shape our parish life. ● During the pandemic, we offered online worship, forums, and Bible studies. In the process, we discovered the need to improve our website, technology, and communication. ● Certain programs have existed for many years, and they may need to be re-imagined to best serve our needs and our goal of discipleship. ● To grow in the future, we want to attract members who reflect the diversity of our city.

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

Jesus-focused. Collaborative. Honest. Teacher and preacher. Administrative.

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

St. James' offers four different worship services each Sunday from September through May. ● 8 a.m. - Holy Eucharist: Held in our intimate chapel, this spoken Rite I service is frequented by those who want a quiet, simple introduction to the Sabbath. ● 9:10 a.m. - Family Eucharist: This Rite II service appeals to families of all ages whose children and youth take on important leadership roles in worship. ● 11:15 a.m. - Choral Eucharist: From soul-stirring music to ancient rites shared with the worldwide Anglican Communion, this Rite I choral eucharist is rich in visual and verbal praise. ● 6 p.m. - Candlelight Communion: At dusk in a candlelit sanctuary, we close the Sabbath with reflective, calming worship graced by instrumental music and contemplative prayer. Wednesday 8 a.m.- Midweek Holy Eucharist: Held in our intimate chapel, this spoken Rite I service offers a time of prayer and reflection in the middle of the week. In the summertime, our Sunday worship schedule shifts to worship at 8am, 10am, and 6pm.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

God invites us all to share in his ministry, and there are dozens of volunteer opportunities for all ages at St. James' - both short-term commitments and long-term projects. Our clergy, who encourage us to dive into ministry areas that excite us, sometimes identify our spiritual gifts for us when we may not have seen them in ourselves. Service opportunities allow us to serve our immediate community and to provide for those beyond St. James'. Reinvigorated in 2017, our newcomer program now hosts five Sunday brunches for prospective new members during the course of the year. At these gatherings, the Rector, Vicar, and parishioners speak about our call to discipleship and the ways this parish has supported and nurtured our parishioners to grow in faith and community. Newcomers also connect with one another as well as current parishioners. Twice each year during worship services, we welcome into the parish new members who have signed a covenant to work, pray, and give for the work of God at St. James'.

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

Every Sunday a dozen members of the healing prayer group phone parishioners who have requested prayers for themselves or others. These confidential prayers continue throughout the week, blessing both those who request them and those who pray for them. In the same spirit, our lay Eucharistic ministers bring the sacraments to St. James' members at home and pray with those who may not be able to join the congregation in church. After Bible study on Wednesdays, a group of parishioners join together to lift up prayers for each other, and those beyond our walls. A few small groups meet weekly to check in with one another in safe and confidential ways. Our Vestry dedicates the first portion of their meetings to Bible study and prayer, with an invitation for each member to offer a prayer of thanks and a prayer of help for themselves or someone in need. The Clergy Discretionary Fund makes assistance available to persons in need, both parishioners and neighbors who come to us in moments of crisis. The Rector and other clergy visit homebound and hospitalized parishioners. We offer a dedicated email address for anyone who may want to let the clergy know about any pastoral need in the parish.

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

Prior to the COVID pandemic, St. James' parishioners took part in service trips in the United States and abroad. More recently, a parishioner suggested, and the Vestry concurred, that St. James' should offer some spaces in our columbarium to unclaimed people who died during the pandemic, whose remains would otherwise remain in the NYC morgue and then be buried in unmarked plots. When someone among our community of people experiencing homelessness has died, St. James' has provided funeral services and conducted a full Episcopal service for the deceased at no cost. In fact, our parish has a longstanding policy of providing the Episcopal service of burial for anyone who requests that of us. Our website invites prayer requests, those names are added to our prayer list, and those who submit them are contacted by the clergy. Our meals programs and our clothing closet provide opportunities for our guests to connect with staff and clergy for pastoral conversations.

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

St. James' mission ministries serve our neighbors and create a safe environment for youth and adult volunteers. Activities include the Community Kitchen at St. James' on Tuesday at lunch and Friday at dinner, the Osborne Association, Samaritan's Closet, St. James' Fordham Food Pantry, and New York Common Pantry. Historically, we have had mission trips to Southern Malawi and Haiti. Currently, St. James' offers the Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground curriculum every year. Our Grants Committee reviews requests from local organizations and provides money raised through parish events during the program year.

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

When the COVID pandemic began, St. James' had to suspend its Second Time Around ministry—a series of thrift sales held throughout the year, with all proceeds going to community-based organizations across New York City. At the same time, low-income and homeless New Yorkers were being hit hardest by the effects of the pandemic. Working with Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church (MAPC), St. James' began a free clothing closet, the Samaritan's Closet, which provides toiletries and items of clean, gently used clothing. Volunteers welcome guests and help them find the items they need. In addition to distributing clothes collected for the thrift sale, St. James' has begun collecting clothes especially for the closet, including a yearly coat drive. This ministry was initially run out of MAPC's basement on Sunday. Because the ministry has grown, St. James' has moved the closet into our own parish house so that it can operate more frequently and reach more people. To learn more about this ministry, contact Grace Beacham at gbeacham@stjames.org.

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

Beginning in 2015, we shifted the focus of our stewardship efforts from paying the bills to discerning God's will. Using Herb Miller's "New Consecration Sunday" program, the parish has redefined what stewardship means, and that new understanding has found a place in our spiritual lives. We continually ask ourselves, what percentage of our income is God calling us to give? We no longer set aside just one day for stewardship; we think about how stewardship fits into our lives throughout the year. The position of Vestry Officer for Stewardship was created with the commitment and support of the Rector and the Vestry. Initially, the Vestry Officer met weekly with the Rector, the Vicar, and key staff members. In 2018, the Wardens also committed their time to the weekly meetings and to the program. The Vestry Officer attends part of monthly Vestry meetings. Consequently, the stewardship program is fully supported by all of our senior leadership. This profound commitment has resulted in significant growth at all levels of giving since 2016.

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

Our clergy and Vestry issued a statement opposing the 2017 American ban on Muslim immigrants because of its fundamentally discriminatory nature. In 2019, St. James' acknowledged the role of enslaved people in the very foundation of our church. A memorial plaque near the Madison Avenue entrance reads as follows: Jesus said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." — John 8:32 In solemn remembrance of the enslaved persons whose labor created wealth that made possible the founding of St. James' Church, Hamilton Square, 1810 Christ, have mercy. More recently, we have flown the Ukrainian flag and have displayed the rainbow colors of LGBTQ+ Pride in solidarity with our brothers and sisters. We at St. James' recognize the fine line between preaching the Gospel of righteousness and justice and not wading into partisan issues that could stir divisions within the parish – a phenomenon we see every day in our country and the wider world. St. James' is generally a progressive parish, yet a range of views exist among us, and the potential for conflict is real. Our goal is to preach so everyone can hear the message of Christ's love for all.

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?

In 2015 and again in 2018 RenewalWorks was retained to lead us through a process of self-reflection. The surveys captured a snapshot of the parish's spiritual health. The 2015 results were disheartening. We discovered that many parishioners, stalled in the early stages of spiritual growth, were committed to their faith but still had many questions. The clergy and Vestry went through a period of soul-searching to discern a way forward. We reimagined our adult formation process and focused more purposefully on Jesus. This led to the introduction of small group studies of the Bible, Education for Ministry, prayer retreats, and the Daily Office offered weekdays. By 2018, parishioners had noted significant spiritual growth. In the follow-up survey, a remarkable number had progressed in their faith, saying that they relied on God's presence and power in their lives. This process deepened our collective faith by refocusing us on Jesus. We were intentional in becoming more Jesus-centered and some parishioners found this new emphasis unfamiliar and even uncomfortable. However, thanks to thoughtful leadership, most parishioners eventually embraced the opportunity to grow in faith.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Brenda G. Husson	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1996-11	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Mark Anschutz	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1992-01	1995-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rt. Rev. Hays Rockwell	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1976-01	1990-01

Students in Teen/Young Adults School are combined teens and 20's-30's.

Church School YES		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School 14	Number of Students for Children School 70
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School 4	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School 30	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School 17	Number of Students for Adults School 177
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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: stjames.org

Media Links:

Instagram: [stjameschurchnyc](https://www.instagram.com/stjameschurchnyc)

Facebook: [St. James' Church, Manhattan](https://www.facebook.com/St.JamesChurchManhattan)

Online References:

YouTube: [St. James' Church NYC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K8K)

Sermon Podcasts: [St. James' Church](https://www.stjames.org/sermon-podcasts)

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