St. John the Evangelist
Vicar Job Description

The Episcopal Church of St John the Evangelist is seeking a half-time vicar. We are looking for a priest who is passionately committed to providing pastoral care for parishioners and the broader St. John’s community, preaching and leading our liturgy (in collaboration with our volunteer clergy and lay leaders) and serving as St. John’s organizer-in-chief by coordinating our mission and outreach activities, facilitating consistent and clear communication, recruiting volunteers, and empowering lay leadership to serve our neighborhood, city, and broader world community.

We seek a priest who is aware of the beauty and challenges of a diverse, urban parish on the front lines of social change. Our vicar should balance a spiritual depth with a healthy dose of resilience, adaptability, humility, and a sense of humor. The vicar may quickly go from finishing a thought-provoking sermon to attending to problems with neighbors (unhoused or housed). We believe a successful vicar should be generous with their time and flexible and open-minded to various ways of connecting with our parish’s members, for example, Sunday morning service (now on Zoom), one-on-one zooms or smaller groups exploring various topics and life changes. Additional qualities that will make our next vicar successful include open-mindedness, patience, maturity, ability to maintain their own mental health/grounding. Last but not least, we want a vicar who will embrace the work in our community, be it in our partnership with the Gubbio Project, our Julian Pantry, or other community and neighborhood groups, as well as with interfaith groups such as Faith In Action.

We look for a priest who embraces collegiality as a guiding principle. St. John’s has a long-established and capable lay leadership in both pastoral and social justice ministries. The vicar will need to monitor these ministries and provide insights, inspiration, and support as required. St. John’s is also served by four volunteer assisting clergy who support the community through pastoral and liturgical support (preaching and presiding). The following sections provide more detail about the role of our vicar in four areas: pastoral care, preaching and liturgy, community organizing/social justice, and administration.

**Pastoral Care**

We seek a vicar who will devote time and attention to providing pastoral care to those in need during the normal spectrum of difficulties, disappointments, challenges, and joys in life. The vicar should also guide and nurture the pastoral care team in carrying out its vital work. St. John’s members are diverse in education, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation, including LGBT individuals, seniors, a handful of children and young families, members of the middle and professional classes and the unhoused. A comfort level around ministering to those experiencing poverty, insecure housing, loneliness, unemployment, long-term illness, and/or addiction or mental illness, etc. is helpful. We expect the vicar to provide spiritual guidance, support and comfort as necessary and to help provide referrals to appropriate services as needed.
**Preaching and Liturgy**

Our Sunday sung Eucharistic liturgy is the main point of connection for many members of St. John’s. Compelling, theologically grounded, social justice-oriented preaching helps inspire and illuminate the members to become the body of Christ in their daily lives. The Sunday liturgy is our opportunity to worship God in community, in a setting of prayer and beauty, and to learn, reflect and grow spiritually.

St. John’s primarily uses the Rite II Eucharistic liturgy modified for contemporary inclusive language. Our liturgical practices include the use of Eucharistic vestments, chanting, incense and bells. Our Deacon and lay ministers assist in the communal celebration of the Eucharist at which our priest presides. Our vicar should be capable of presenting the liturgy in a welcoming and accessible manner to an audience with a variety of ethnic and educational backgrounds.

St. John’s has a history of thoughtful, inspiring, and illuminating preaching by volunteer assisting clergy and lay people, and the vicar should be comfortable with continuing this inclusive practice at St. John’s. Our vicar’s sermons should include thoughtful connections between theology and the social justice work (e.g., related to immigration, housing, peace and justice, LGBT issues) that our members support and/or participate in. We are looking for a priest who enjoys homiletics, has a passion in sharing the gospel, and incorporates social mission in theology.

**Community Organizing**

St. John’s has a long and proud history of outreach in the neighborhood, the city, and the world. Our vicar should be passionate about social justice, including: immigrant rights, LGBT equality and rights, women’s rights, and neighborhood/city challenges. The neighborhood challenges include ongoing violence by gangs and the police, immigration/sanctuary status, homelessness, hunger, addiction and mental illness and the complexities of gentrification. We are looking for a vicar who is driven to give voice to these issues, grounding them in theology and helping lead our efforts to serve those in need and create a more just and fair community. We do not expect a vicar to do all this work, but instead to articulate a vision and help coordinate our work by delegating to others, for example by recruiting volunteers, and managing relationships with partner organizations, other religious congregations and clergy, and local officials to carry out this work. The vicar should possess the ability to inspire, organize, delegate, and encourage volunteerism and leadership.

**Administration**

Lastly, as with any church, the vicar will supervise the many administrative tasks at St. John’s. In collaboration with the Bishop’s Committee, the vicar supervises the part-time music/choir director and parish administrator. The vicar maintains regular communication (electronic and other) with members of the parish, cultivates and respects strong lay leadership, and attends Bishop’s Committee meetings. In the coming years, our vicar will need to champion improvements to our property and coordinate, when necessary, grant writing and project management. We do not expect our priest to handle every administrative task themselves, but she/he/they need to ensure that these duties and tasks are covered. We expect the vicar to welcome and engage prospective members and to coordinate spiritual formation.
How to apply:

Thank you for your interest in The Episcopal Church of Saint John the Evangelist.

To discern with us, please follow the instructions outlined below:

1. To receive permission to apply contact the Diocese of California’s Transition Minister, Denise Obando, at deniseo@diocal.org or (415) 869-7804. Requests should be made well in advance of the deadline.

With an invitation from Denise, as well as additional instructions, you are welcome to begin the application process.

2. Applications must include:
   1. A cover letter expressing why you feel called to Saint Johns.
   2. Your resume
   3. Your OTM portfolio
   4. Links to two recordings of sermons; video preferred. (Additional links to recordings of recent shelter in place worship offerings welcome)
      • preferably one that draws connections between the gospel message and present-day concerns, especially issues of justice.
   5. Answer to the following question:
      a. What experiences do you have working with people who are different from you, perhaps in race, economic class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin or immigration status?
      b. Please share a transformative pastoral care experience. (respecting privacy of individuals)

The deadline to submit your application is March 24, 2021.

*A housing subsidy may be available so don’t let the cost of housing in San Francisco prevent you from exploring this opportunity to join an amazing congregation.