



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 18, 2023)

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

1015 E. Del Webb Blvd, Sun City Center, FL 33573, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 10/02/23.

rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
140	3	5	4
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$90000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
over \$2000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

Compensation is negotiable.

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

At a recent vestry retreat we established three goals aimed at growing and strengthening our congregation, all of which were successfully achieved. The evangelism goal led to TV ads in local restaurants to inform the community about our presence. The stewardship goal resulted in members giving testimonials during worship services about their personal experience with tithing. The fellowship goal focused on establishing a Foyer Group program (in-home suppers, dining out, and games groups) and has continued to be popular (now in its third iteration).

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

We continually seek opportunities to attract members of our diverse and evolving community so our congregation will better reflect the wider area in which we reside. We have incorporated contemporary worship into our traditional services to appeal to people from a variety of religious backgrounds and age groups. We have leveraged technology to 1) enhance our worship services by projecting liturgical responses and hymnal and praise lyrics on large screens, 2) livestream our services to make them available to a larger number of people, 3) tap into social media with an engaging website and a Facebook presence, 4) provide a QR code for parishioners to make pledge payments and contributions, 5) use Realm to reserve and pay for events and make credit card pledge payments, and 6) use Zoom for meetings when necessary or convenient.

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

excellent preaching, Strategic Leadership, change management

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

Our Sunday services are designed to attract and retain worshipers with a variety of preferences. The Rite I contemplative Spoken Service at 8:00 am appeals to traditionalists. Our 10:00 am Rite II blended service incorporates contemporary “praise and worship” with traditional worship including sacramental prayer/healing stations. The 6:00 pm Rite II service, held offsite at a senior living facility, demonstrates our willingness to accommodate worshipers outside the walls of the church. Weekday services are comprised of Morning Prayer, conducted by lay ministers on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and a clergy-led Eucharistic healing service on Wednesdays.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We hold periodic “inquirers” classes for new members that stress “the priesthood of all believers” to encourage their participation in our ministries. Our Welcome Ministry provides information to newcomers about the ministries we are engaged in and offers to get them connected. We hold monthly newcomer sessions during coffee hours to discuss opportunities to participate in SJD ministries. We publish a biweekly pew pamphlet that features a different ministry in each issue. We highlight our ministries in our monthly newsletter Revelations, and we also personally invite people to participate. Brochures that contain descriptions of our ministries and contact information for the leaders of each group are in our pew racks.

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

Groups meet weekly for Bible study and book discussions that focus on spiritual development and enrichment. Our Good Shepherd Ministry team visits housebound parishioners and provides rides to church for those unable to drive themselves. One clergy member is dedicated to pastoral care and regularly visits parishioners in their homes and in the hospital or hospice. Our kitchen crew supports grieving families by hosting funeral receptions. We offer the healing sacrament at prayer stations on Sundays during communion as well as a Eucharistic healing service each Wednesday. We pray for members in our congregation through a prayer group that meets weekly and a prayer chain consisting of 75 people who pray daily for parishioners who are referred. Our Grief Support group meets biweekly to support people who have sustained a loss. Parish nurses and other qualified caregivers offer monthly blood pressure checks on Sundays. Our Foyer Group program promotes cohesion among parishioners by enabling them to enjoy fellowship with a new set of people every six months.

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

We participate in the local Meals on Wheels program to deliver food to needy Sun City Center residents. Our Outreach Committee manages efforts to support several local organizations through funding and donations of food and/or clothing. The organizations include Lord's Lighthouse which provides food and clothing to migrants; Choices, a pregnancy clinic; and Miracles Outreach, a program that helps victims of human trafficking.

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

We support churches in South Sudan by providing Bibles and other supplies they request. We support the Dominican Republic through donations and annual mission trips to help with church construction efforts. We also contribute to the national church's Episcopal Relief and Development fund.

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

The Good Shepherd Ministry was created two years ago to provide a caring presence for parishioners who are housebound. The team encourages referrals for people who would appreciate and benefit from the service and then do an intake session. Members of the team also drive parishioners to church if they are not able to drive themselves. In the past few months, we have opened the Jewelry Thrift Shoppe as a service to the community and a fundraiser for the church. The shoppe has generated enough money to complete two small landscaping projects between the church and the office/meeting rooms building.

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

Our annual stewardship program features a narrative budget that illustrates how contributions are allotted across programmatic areas (including clergy and staff salaries) rather than presenting that information in columns of figures. Parishioners also give testimonials about their personal experience with tithing during worship services over the course of several weeks. This year the testimonials focused on how the speakers had prayerfully arrived at their decision to tithe and how that decision has impacted their spiritual life and their financial well-being. They revealed how tithing has enriched their lives and how their financial situation was not negatively affected, and in one case, how they had benefited from a timely and unexpected windfall.

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

During Covid, when our Sunday school was closed, several members started a thrift shop in the Sunday school room. The shop became quite popular within the community and was highly profitable for the church. However, the long-range plan for the church is to continue to build a multigenerational congregation, so when it was possible to reopen the Sunday school room, the thrift shop was shut down. The decision was made rather abruptly and was initially unpopular with many parishioners because the shop was generating income the church needed, and our Sunday school had been decimated so we had no students. Our rector reminded those upset about the closure that there had always been the understanding that the location of the shop was temporary, and we intended to reopen the room as an active Sunday school room as soon as we could offer a viable Sunday school program. [Currently the room is being used for a jewelry thrift shop. However, adjacent neighborhoods continue to draw young families, so we have significant potential for creating a thriving Sunday school program once we call a new rector.]

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?

Our most recent change occurred this past year when we moved from three Sunday morning services (8:00, 9:15, and 11:00 am) to two (8:00 and 10:00 am). This action created two-fold change: a new service time and a new worship format comprised of a blend of contemporary and traditional worship. Initially, for some parishioners, it was not a popular change but the fact that it required compromises from each constituency helped achieve its eventual acceptance.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev'd Kevin Warner	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2014-09	2023-02

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev'd Tracy Wilder	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2001-01	2001-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev'd James Bingham	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2001-01	2001-12

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
Yes		

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
		3	22

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.stjohndivine.com

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnDivineSCC/>
> <https://www.stjohndivine.com/live-streams>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

The Rt. Rev'd Douglas F. Scharf

phone: 941.556.0315 email: dscharf@episcopalswfl.org

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev'd Canon Richard Norman

office phone: 941.556.0315, extension 978; mobile phone: 941.212.8009 email: rnorman@episcopalswfl.org

Current Warden/Board Chair

Donald R. Fisher

phone: 727.560.8876 email: dfisher@stjohndivine.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Howard Roshaven

phone: 813.220.9122 email: revival@howardroshaven.net

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader