



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Dec 5, 2025)*

## St. John's Old Town Saginaw, MI, Great Lakes

123 N. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48602, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 01/15/26. [transitions@greatlakesepiscopal.org](mailto:transitions@greatlakesepiscopal.org)

Weekly Average Sunday  
Attendance (ASA)

**41**

Number of Weekend  
Worship Services

**1**

Number of Weekday  
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month  
Worship Services

Current Annual  
Compensation

**\$77900**

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for  
New Position

**\$80000**

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

**Other**

Continuing Education Weeks  
Details

**1**

Continuing Education  
Funding in budget

**\$501-\$1000/year**

Sabbatical Provision

**Yes**

Travel/Auto Account

**Yes**

Other Professional Account

**Yes**

*Negotiable*

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

St. John's has an excellent music program in the historic Anglican tradition. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has been part of our Advent music for over 20 years. Our 2024 service was a success and the church was filled with participants, including members and visitors. We partnered with the Shepherd High School Choir, a town about 40 miles away, whose choir director is a member of the St. John's choir. Readers included members of the church, the high school choir, and a Canon of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. Choir music included traditional carols as well as recent compositions, and the congregation joined in with well-known Advent hymns. The reception that followed allowed musicians, their families and congregational members to mingle over refreshments to begin the Christmas season.

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

We began streaming Sunday services during COVID and continue to make worship accessible online. Realizing our Wi-Fi could not support both livestreaming and daily needs, we completed a building-wide upgrade with new Ethernet cabling and high-performance access points covering all three floors and the basement. Separate networks were created for streaming, staff, and guests, with prioritized traffic management. Now high-speed wireless internet is reliably available throughout the church. Our Youth Group meets weekly September–May to play Kingdom's Call: A Gospel Adventure, a role-playing game designed by our Christian Formation team. Students create characters and engage in Biblically inspired adventures for about 90 minutes, followed by 30 minutes reflecting on scripture. Just as the game requires armor, gear, and hierarchy, students explore church equivalents—learning about bishops, priests, deacons, and laity, as well as vestments and tools of ministry. They are encouraged to put these lessons into practice by serving as acolytes, choir members, and altar guild participants.

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

relationship builder, thoughtful preaching, pastoral care, supportive leader

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

The people of St. John's uphold a strong Episcopalian tradition using liturgies from the Book of Common Prayer. Our principal service is Holy Eucharist Rite II; in a priest's absence we use Morning Prayer Rite II. We are invested in worship that inspires and reflects the beauty of Anglicanism, including Evening Prayer, Compline, Stations of the Cross, and Christmas Lessons and Carols. Small services are also held in Calvary Chapel. We believe worship should be inspiring and invigorating, so that people may know and feel Christ's love and be enabled to share it. Traditional music is central to St. John's identity. Our volunteer choir, from amateurs to professionals, leads worship in the nave's resonant acoustic with pipe organ. Most congregational music comes from the 1982 Hymnal, with occasional approved supplements. The church is adorned with vestments and seasonal hangings, including festal sets and a cope for Christmas, Easter, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. St. John's maintains a full array of liturgical colors, many gifted in memory of parishioners. These ecclesiastical furnishings enrich the beauty of worship at St. John's.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Members participate in worship serving as vergers, ushers, lectors, acolytes, eucharistic ministers, altar guild, choir members and worship leaders. We recently held a training session for young people to become acolytes and readers. We frequently have receptions after special services, which are hosted by parishioners. We enjoy hospitality and welcoming others. We have coffee hour after church services to welcome visitors to mingle with congregational members. In the early 2020's we began intensive work involving our entire congregation on our approach to Stewardship and Giving. That effort proved too narrow and quickly broadened into the concept of Service and the role of Shared Ministries. Parishioners began suggesting ministries and implementing them. Unfortunately COVID happened, but the initial "bones" are still in place. We look forward to continuing in that direction. Our Associate Priest, The Rev. Pamela Renna, leads our Pastoral Care team. They bring the Eucharist, as well as the comfort and news of St. John's, to our parishioners in assisted living facilities and hospitals. Other member-supported ministries include: Buildings & Grounds and the Finance Committee.

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

As a community we care for each other through illness, struggles and life's joys. The Rev. Pamela Renna leads a committed pastoral care team for our congregation. Team members deliver in home communion, perform hospital visitation, and give other care as needed. A number of church members give regular rides to church for those unable to drive. New members who have joined over the last two to three years are involved in various ministries. Some members express the need for more spiritual and emotional caring from both the congregation and a priest. We hope to have a priest who will shepherd us.

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

While St. John's is committed to providing services to the community beyond our congregation, we have not had the resources or the leadership to provide pastoral care to those outside of our worshipping community. This is an area where we would like to grow. Our Food Ministry is currently our most successful and active engagement with our local community. Please see item #8 below for more information.

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

The wider church is centered in St. John's, Old Town, Saginaw, as the Diocese of the Great Lakes, having offices on the second floor of our church building. A member of our congregation was President of the Standing Committee for the former Diocese of Eastern Michigan. St. John's also connects to the Great Lakes Bay community through its music. In addition to our strong music tradition, led by our choir director and organist, many of us are supporters of classical music in Saginaw and regularly support the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra and Saginaw Choral Society. Our church has a longstanding relationship with Saginaw Choral Society in particular, whose 50-60 member adult choir and a large youth choir of about 45 Students both use our community room as their rehearsal space. Youth and adult SCS choirs unite during Christmas for a large community concert broadcast locally. Both choirs are directed by professional musicians who are also members of our church choir. Our accomplished choir director and organist lead the church's strong music tradition. At Easter and Christmas, he also engages instrumentalists from the local community to enhance our festive music.

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

St. John's Food Ministry program is a food distribution effort organized by St. John's to help alleviate hunger in the Saginaw community. The program was initiated in May 2021 and occurs on the second Tuesday of each month. In 2022 we served 70 to 75 families a month, coordinating with Hidden Harvest and other local food programs. During 2023, a federal grant from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan allowed us to expand the number of families to 80 to 100. This grant resulted in free food products to distribute and a new freezer/refrigerator for storage. We have since been awarded several other grants to support this outreach. Additionally, we regularly raise funds by collecting returnable bottles and cans. A group of about 15 regular volunteers supports our monthly food giveaway. They are essential to our operation. We draw volunteers from other churches and denominations for this ministry. Please contact our parish administrator at [admin@stjohns-saginaw.org](mailto:admin@stjohns-saginaw.org) to find out more.

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

As the congregation has decreased in size over the last 5 years, so has the number of giving units. During the past 2 years, however, the pledge amount per giving unit has increased in response to our needs. The congregation has also responded positively to large single “asks” for projects and needs over the past 15-20 years, such as our stained-glass window repair and a new boiler. Our experience in Stewardship and Sharing mentioned in item 4 above led us to discussion and interest in pursuing Stewardship as a year-round ministry based in scripture and built on relationships. We would love to find leadership to engage in a new model of giving to better meet our needs for the future and to enhance the impact on our community.

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

Within the last three years, there was conflict over air conditioning in the sanctuary. Our priest wanted air conditioning, but the expense seemed prohibitive. Several church members knew of another local church that acquired a large and very expensive air conditioner and were very concerned about the cost of installation and running expenses in our historic church. The lack of air conditioning, however, was impacting the comfort of our summer services and weddings. Fans were noisy, not effective, and disruptive of worship. Holding summer services on the lawn was problematic. A successful compromise was reached by the seasonal installation of quiet portable air conditioners which were purchased using a grant from the diocese and have proved very effective.

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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?

The church has had two priests in the past 11 years. We have learned much from these experiences. With the changing of priests, the congregation showed resilience in our adaptation to new ideas while sustaining our sense of community. During the changes, the congregation and search committees have responded to perceived shortcomings in one priest by emphasizing different qualities when looking for the next. This time in our job description we have attempted to write a more balanced description of what we want and need. When we started doing online services in 2020, this was a big change. Some things caused confusion which carried over into our in-person services. A lot of new rituals were added to our service which didn't go over well because of the lack of education about these rituals and lack of involvement of the congregation. We hope our new priest will work with the congregation to educate and involve the congregation in changes going forward.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Curt Norman	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2016-01	2023-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Daniel Cannon	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2011-01	2015-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School yes		Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School 2	Number of Students for Children School 5
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Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School 3	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School 3	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School
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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: <https://stjohns-saginaw.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9YGvcYQGZiTxLMWlfJ1mbw>  
> <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsSaginaw/>

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop:

**Standing Committee is  
Ecclesiastical Authority**

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Alan C. James**

[transitions@greatlakesepiscopal.org](mailto:transitions@greatlakesepiscopal.org) 216-235-5734

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Lucas Curell**

Phone: 989-798-0031 Email: [lcurell@gmail.com](mailto:lcurell@gmail.com)

Previous Warden/Board Chair

**Lucas Curell**

Phone: 989-798-0031 Email: [lcurell@gmail.com](mailto:lcurell@gmail.com)

Search Chair

**Burris Smith**

Phone: 989-274 4411 email: [burrissmith@gmail.com](mailto:burrissmith@gmail.com)

Parish/Institution

**Pamela Renna**

Phone 989-798-0229 email [psrenna12@gmail.com](mailto:psrenna12@gmail.com)

Local Community Leader