



Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 20, 2026)

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 02/28/26. transitions@greatlakesepiscopal.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
35	1		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$77900			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
	\$80000		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 2 (standard)	Continuing Education Weeks Details
One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)			
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
\$1001-\$2000/year	Yes	Yes	Yes

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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.

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

The COVID pandemic necessitated livestreaming church services. This change continues to bring church to those members unable to attend and those wishing to worship in their pjs. Successfully adapting to livestreaming required a full upgrade our technology infrastructure so now all three floors and the basement have highspeed wireless access, with separate networks created for staff and guests. As resources allow, we continue to improve, with 4K streaming planned for 2026. Our Christian Formation Team has developed a role playing game - Kingdom's Call: A Gospel Adventure designed for our Youth Group. Students create characters and engage in Biblically inspired adventures reflecting on scripture. They learn about bishops, priests, deacons, and laity, as well as vestments and tools of ministry. They help ensure the future of the church by putting these lessons into practice by serving as acolytes, choir members, and altar guild participants. We look for a priest in charge who will inspire us to discern and create a future of creativity, diversity and growth.

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.

Our principal service is Holy Eucharist Rite II. In a priest's absence, lay leaders use Morning Prayer Rite II. Morning and Evening Prayer, Compline, The Way of the Cross, and A Festival of Lessons and Carols are Anglican resources we revere and treasure. Prayer and meditation services are held in Calvary Chapel. Our worship services inspire and invigorate us to be people that know and feel Christ's love is to be shared beyond the parking lot. Music is central to St. John's identity. Dr. Kevin Simons, Director of Music and Organist for over 20 years fills the nave with the resonant sound of the Cassavant Freres organ. The 1982 Hymnal is our mainstay, with alternative music supplementing special occasions. St. John's maintains a full array of vestments and seasonal hangings, including festal sets and a cope for Christmas, Easter, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. We maintain a full array of liturgical colors, many gifted in memory of parishioners.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Members participate in worship serving as verger, 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.

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.

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

St. John's is located in Old Town, Saginaw, a historic, vibrant city neighborhood. Many members take advantage of its 19th-century architecture, walkability, local eateries, shops and participating in civic activities. The Diocese Staff lease offices on the second floor of our church. Members of St. John's actively participated in the merging of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan to the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. Music is central to St. John's community involvement. The Saginaw Choral Society and the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra benefit from our parishioners as singers, patrons and directors. The Choral Society has a long history of rehearsing and maintaining their music library on our campus. Our Food Ministry has evolved into a traffic jamming event that surrounds the church for blocks. This ministry has expanded over the years, creating alliances with the East Side Soup Kitchen and other local and statewide agencies. It now feeds nearly 100 families monthly. We are a founding member of Interfaith Saginaw, a group of nine diverse religious communities that are dedicated to creating peace through interfaith dialogue, cooperation and understanding.

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 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.

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.

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

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

References

Bishop:

Standing Committee is Ecclesiastical Authority

Diocesan Transition Minister

The Rev. Alan C. James

transitions@greatlakesepiscopal.org 216-235-5734

Current Warden/Board Chair

Lucas Curell

Phone: 989-798-0031 Email: lcurell@gmail.com

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Lucas Curell

Phone: 989-798-0031 Email: lcurell@gmail.com

Search Chair

Burris Smith

Phone: 989-274 4411 email: burrissmith@gmail.com

Parish/Institution

Pamela Renna

Phone 989-798-0229 email psrenna12@gmail.com

Local Community Leader