St. John's Episcopal Church: At A Glance

Mission:

To worship and glorify Jesus Christ,
To proclaim God's love joyously,
To serve the world through God's Grace

Highlights:

The central historic district of Troy
2 Sunday morning services with Holy Eucharist
140+ members
1 dedicated deacon
5 part-time staff members
30+ groups and ministries

We are a warm and welcoming church family.

Relationships matter. People often describe St. John's as a place where they feel known, cared for, accepted, and at home. We support one another, enjoy being together, and genuinely care about the people who walk through our doors.

We are a diverse parish with room for people at many different places in life and faith.

Our parish family includes people of different ages, backgrounds, life experiences, economic circumstances, and religious journeys. Some have been Episcopalians all their lives, some came from other Christian traditions or faith backgrounds, and some are still finding their way. We value being a place where people can come as they are, ask questions, grow in faith, and become part of the life of the parish.

We are rooted in Episcopal worship and traditions.

Our Anglican and Episcopal identity matters to us. We value reverent worship, Holy Eucharist, thoughtful preaching, familiar liturgical traditions, and the beauty of worshipping together in our historic sacred space. At the same time, we are not afraid of thoughtful change. We want to preserve what is meaningful while being open to new ideas and new ways of welcoming people.

Music is part of who we are.

Our organ, choir, congregational singing, traditional hymnody, chime, and special music are treasured parts of worship at St. John's. Music doesn't just fill the silence, it accompanies our worship and helps to shape it.

Serving others is part of our identity.

St. John's has a long history of reaching beyond its walls. Through ministries such as The Shepherd's Storehouse, The Basement on First Street, the Angel Tree, our Haiti partnership, community breakfasts, and other outreach, caring for our neighbors has become part of the fabric of parish life.

We believe everyone has gifts to share.

St. John's has a strong tradition of lay leadership. Parishioners lead ministries, serve on committees, care for our buildings and finances, support worship, organize fellowship, teach,

serve our neighbors, communicate our story, and help shape the life of the parish. We want to continue encouraging new people to become involved and share their own gifts and ideas.

We treasure our history while looking to the future.

Our historic church, beautiful sacred spaces, traditions, and nearly two centuries of ministry are gifts we have inherited, a trust that we value, care for and share with others. St. John's is more than its building and its past. We want to grow, welcome new generations, strengthen parish life, care responsibly for our resources, and continue to find new ways to serve God and our community.

Blessed with a strong financial position.

Our treasurer and finance committee oversee an operating budget of approximately $488,000 which is funded by pledge contributions, endowment distributions, and other sources of revenue. We take pride in being financially responsible and sustainable to maintain our services, programs and ministries.

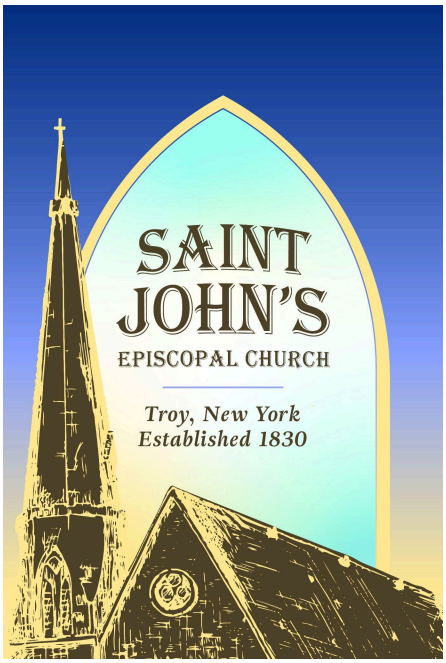
What We Hope for Our Future

As we look ahead, we hope to:

- Welcome new members and become an inviting church home for younger adults, families, children, and people seeking a faith community.
- Continue the worship and Episcopal traditions that are important to us while remaining open to thoughtful change.
- Strengthen music, Christian formation, children's and youth ministry, fellowship, and pastoral care.
- Continue our strong commitment to outreach while deepening our connection with the wider Troy community.
- Invite more people into ministry and leadership, welcoming new voices alongside the experience and wisdom already present in the parish.
- Grow in communication, openness, collaboration, mutual respect, and our ability to listen well to one another.
- Strengthen stewardship and financial sustainability.
- Care responsibly for our historic church and campus so that these spaces can continue to support worship and ministry for generations to come.
- Most of all, continue to be a welcoming, caring, Christ-centered parish while discerning where God is calling St. John's next.

Our next rector will lead us in collaboration with our strong lay leadership to support our growth in faith, community and tradition.

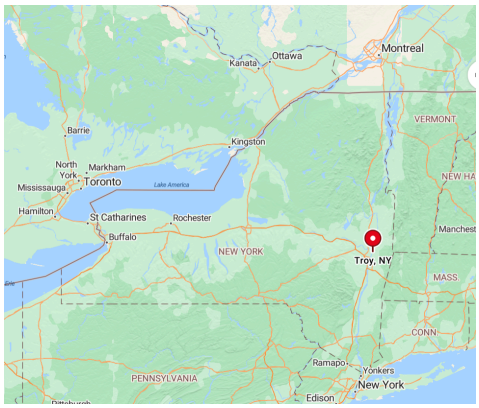
More details about Troy, NY, our history, building and ground, our groups and ministries, and what makes us unique can be found in our full Parish Profile.



PARISH PROFILE
St. John's Episcopal Church
Troy, NY

Mission Statement:
To worship and glorify Jesus Christ,
To proclaim God's love joyously,
To serve the world through God's Grace

Surrounding Area: St. John's Episcopal Church, at the corner of First and Liberty Streets, Troy is in an urban residential and historic district in upstate New York. Troy is on the east bank of the Hudson River and is part of the Tri-city area that encompasses Albany, the State Capital located a few miles south on the west bank and Schenectady located to the west on the Mohawk River that flows into the Hudson River above Troy. No longer an industrial gateway and despite a few 'scars' from decades-old urban renewal projects, the city has retained her Victorian-era charm and has a small-town atmosphere. Troy is the county seat of Rensselaer County, home to the historical society, parks featuring trails, tennis and pickle ball courts and an 18-hole golf course, a library, hospitals, bowling alley, ice skating rinks, and a minor league baseball team. It is known for a weekly farmer's market, diverse restaurants, antique shops, and artist studios. Unique to Troy is the Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, a striking 19th century building that is internationally renowned for its remarkable acoustics. The city also sponsors several popular city-wide events; *The Victorian Stroll* and *The Hidden Garden Tour* are two in which St. John's participates each year. The immediate area has cultural resources including museums, historical sites, and film, theater and music venues such as the Saratoga Performing Arts Center as well as sporting facilities and shopping centers. The Adirondack and Berkshire mountain and lake regions offer a multitude of four-season recreational activities. Troy benefits from both the natural elements of the surrounding waterways and countryside and the amenities of a nearby capital city, such as a civic center, the Amtrak Train Station, and the Albany International Airport.

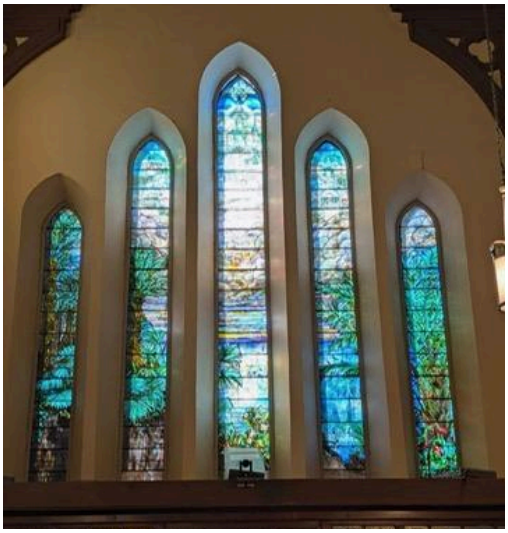


There are numerous colleges and universities in the Tri-city area with Troy having three well-respected schools of higher education: Russell Sage College which is slated to become a university this year, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), and Hudson Valley Community

College. Over the years, church leaders have come from each of the schools. Russell Sage College is a close neighbor to St. John's; the college used the church parish house in the 20th century for a staff daycare facility that also afforded student teaching experiences. The current Troy Campus for Russell Sage College was also the initial site of the Emma Willard School that remains a leading institution in Troy. Emma Willard, a female education activist and founder of the Troy Female Seminary, the first school of higher learning for women in the United States, was an original and formative church member who attended St. John's with her students.

History: The Troy area was originally home to the Mohicans and then in the 17th century to the Dutch. Slowly through the next century, the English became the predominant settlers, renaming the community Troy. As the city expanded with trade and significant innovations, St. John's Church, the second Episcopal church in Troy was incorporated in 1830. The church leadership reflected the mercantile community and government officials; early records show a small and racially mixed congregation. These Godly men and women placed their faith in the strength of God's Word and believed in the importance of good works. The decades at the close of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century brought prosperity to the city and to St. John's. Troy was central to the transportation of goods on the rivers and the Erie and Champlain canals. Waterpower from streams supported iron and steel production and textile manufacturing. Within two decades, St. John's had grown enough to undertake the construction of a new church building. Despite periods of financial difficulties, illnesses, deaths, extensive fire damage, and two devastating floods, for nearly two hundred years, St. John's congregations have continued to forge ahead in their devotion to God and to helping their neighbors. St. John's Church is much more than an outwardly beautiful treasure.





Architecture/Properties: The current brownstone church, an English Gothic design, was completed in 1853 to be followed by an 1874 addition that allowed a chancel expansion in 1896. The nave can seat approximately 450 people. There is a sacristy behind the baptistery, and a choir-robing room and small restroom behind the chancel with a meeting room overhead. Parishioner gifts included an 1858 spire, a

1908 center entryway into the narthex, an 11-bell chime by the Meneely Company of Troy that continues to be regularly played today, and a pipe organ; the most recent organ is a 1954 model by the Aeolian-Skinner Organ Company. The philanthropic industrialists were responsible for large memorial gifts created by important artistic designers of the day: stone and marble features executed by J. Massey Rhind; symbolic mosaics and murals by J. Holzer; and stained-glass windows by J. & R. Lamb, M. Tillinghast, English Gothic Revivalists: Westlake & Barraud, Cox, Sons, & Buckley; and Sperry, Wilson, and Northrup for L. C. Tiffany. The five lancet Northrup window for Tiffany, *St. John's Vision of the Heavenly City* is a unique and significant piece, groundbreaking in its use of spiritual imagery. A successful renovation of the original wall stenciling and ceiling elements of the baptistery was completed this year.



In 1958 the present parish house replaced the 1888 parish house. In addition to outside entrances, an interior passage connects at the rear of the church. Its basement floor is now devoted to the church thrift shop which is open two mornings each week. The main floor has a full-size gymnasium with a small stage, a kitchen with commercial appliances, a meeting room with AC and a working fireplace, a library/meeting room, church offices with AC, three restrooms, and pantry storage. The upper floor rooms include a nursery/childcare room, Sunday school classroom areas, an archives room, a music room with a grand piano, staff offices, and a small restroom. The new parish house construction became possible when the church was able to purchase the adjacent apartment house where church activities could be temporarily held. Since then, this three floor apartment house circa 1863 has provided the living quarters for the church sextons, an assistant rector, and rental income. The upper two apartments have been renovated, and a renovation of the first-floor apartment is in process. St. John's has both owned and rented rectories in the past, but the rectors and the vestries of recent years have found a housing stipend to be preferable. St. John's vestry has also recently accepted a matching grant to conduct a structural survey of the church, parish house, and apartment house to inform long-term planning.

An important addition in 1960 was the completion of a church parking lot since many of St. John's members had moved to or resided in Troy's suburbs and surrounding towns. Ramp access

has also been added to both the nave and the parish house, and in recent years an ADA-compliant restroom with an infant changing station was completed.

Worship: Sunday morning services are held at 8:00 a.m. without the organ and choir and at 10:00 a.m. accompanied by the organ year-long and the choir during the school year. Using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, Rite I has retained an appreciation and presence, specifically during the 8:00 am service; however, it is Rite II that is more routinely followed. A Morning Prayer service is held on Wednesday mornings. Additional services are conducted during Holy Week. The practice of the congregation kneeling at the altar during Holy Communion is an integral part of services at St. John's. In addition to St. John's generational parishioners, many have backgrounds from other denominations. St. John's has always fulfilled the area's niche for a church that could meet the needs of those who are searching for a middle ground between a Protestant and a Roman Catholic faith. Such couples and individuals find comfort in St. John's use of liturgy combined with fewer ritualistic practices. Historically, St. John's traditions have been termed 'low church.'



There are many opportunities for lay ministry at St. John's: lay Eucharistic ministers, visitors, readers for the lessons and prayers of the people, as well as a verger. In the past, teens always performed the role of church acolytes, however, at the present time, adults also serve in that capacity.

Music: The organist/music director and choir are integral to St. John's worship services. Most hymns are taken from the Episcopal Hymnal 1982. The choir members receive a stipend and rehearse prior to the service. St. John's chime is the only remaining manual chime to be heard in Troy. In addition to being played each Sunday; chime concerts are given each year. Weekly during Advent and Lent, St. John's nave is lit solely in candlelight and opened for an early evening meditation time. Instrumental music from a guest musician periodically breaks the silence. An electric piano was placed in the nave a few years ago.



Outreach/Service: St. John's has always been devoted to helping those in need and consistently adapts to the times. However, there are also continuous threads evident throughout church history. An example is how the several ministries for sewing and distributing clothing in the late



19th century expanded into visitor relief programs in the early 20th century, that led into the rummage sales of the mid-20th century and then evolved into the current 21st century thrift shop, *The Basement on First Street*. The popular shop serves as a community source for low-cost clothing and small housewares with all its proceeds going to local not-for-profit organizations. Throughout the years, St. John's has supported her neighbors in numerous ways: one successful program provided a parochial nurse and when green spaces within the city were rare, the church responded by opening her gated garden areas to the Troy public. For many decades, a variety of community groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and youth basketball clinics have routinely used the parish house spaces. Another long-time outreach program has been the Angel Tree that provides Christmas gifts requested by needy families. St. John's, since 2009, has offered a dynamic Saturday morning food pantry, *The Shepherd's Storehouse* that focuses on fresh produce and necessary toiletries. In recent years, a community hearty breakfast has been added and held quarterly. Saturday mornings are a time when pantry and thrift shop visitors can partake of the free coffee and tea and be welcomed into informal Bible studies and conversation groups. St. John's outreach efforts offer hospitality and fellowship, grow relationships, and build friendships as the love of Jesus Christ is shared.



St. John's also has a long relationship with the Troy Police Department that began in the 1890's and continues to this day. St. John's deacon is chaplain for the Troy Police and holds a prayer service each week at City Hall. The church is also a long-standing and active member in the organization, Troy Area United Ministries (TAUM).

Missions: Since its beginnings, St. John's has been committed to missionary work. In early years, aid was sent to foreign missions and distant states supporting women and minority populations. Between 1865 and 1961 the mission-work focused on the founding of five churches for the Troy iron and steel workers, the textile mill workers, and outlying residential areas. In the late 20th century, help was again given to three local Episcopal churches in need of support. Since 1988, St. John's mission efforts have been centered on L'Eglise St. Esprit in Lascohobas, Haiti, a partner parish consisting of a church and school. People, building expertise, items,

financial assistance, medical care, and prayers have been sent regularly to assist with their specified needs.

Children's Education: The 1958 parish house was designed with the hopes of providing a St. John's Episcopal Church Day School; the school operated until closing in 1970. It had PreK – 6th grade classes and the first preschool class for developmentally delayed preschoolers in New York State. St. John's also established a Vacation Bible School program that was coordinated with other Troy churches and flourished for 25 years, until 2015. St. John's has always valued her young parishioners and strived to provide a vibrant Sunday School. The curriculums have varied over the years with a part-time Director of Education being an important staff member since the mid-20th century. Each June graduating seniors are recognized at a Sunday service and gifted with a prayer book inscribed with their name. Confirmation preparation remains the responsibility of the rector. St. John's most recent rector was a proponent of the *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd* which is presently being taught by the Director of Education. The children's 2025 annual events included the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Easter Egg Hunt, Father's Day Sundae Social, Garden Scavenger Hunt, Advent Wreath Workshop, in addition to Children's Sundays and an in-house service activity. In past years, St. John's youth have participated in evening programming, lock-ins, community service projects, field trips and the middle-school and high-school offerings by the diocese such as overnights in the Cathedral in Albany, the Acolyte Festival, and school-break activities held at the Christ the King Spiritual Life Center (CTK) which is a diocesan site in the countryside. St. John's annually sponsors children who attend the diocesan summer camp, Beaver Cross, which is also held at CTK.





Adult/Formation Education: An historical introduction to the Episcopal Church has frequently been a topic led by the rector. Rectors typically hold Bible study groups while book studies are led by lay persons. Opportunities for religious education are offered in-person, using videos, or through Zoom which allows parishioners to participate from their homes, both local and out-of-state. After a Sunday church service, speakers from the community will occasionally give informative lectures or a parishioner will address a church issue.



Communication: The 21st century at St. John's saw the installation of an upgraded sound system and FM receivers are available for hard-of-hearing individuals upon request. In response to the COVID pandemic, equipment was purchased to set up a live-streaming capability. St. John's continues to live-stream the church services to be available on YouTube for those unable to attend in-person. This accessibility has been well-received by parishioners, especially those who are elderly, ill, or have moved or retired to other states. St. John's has an informative website and a Facebook page that is kept updated. Throughout church history, there have been three time periods when a church newsletter was printed; fortunately, now is one of those periods. *The St. John's Herald* is a quarterly, 20 – 24 page newsletter chocked full of photos. St. John's also has formed a Docent Committee to lead tours of the nave in response to the public interest in Troy's historical architecture and art.

St. John's rector, staff, and volunteers diligently use email to notify and connect with parishioners. On Welcoming Sunday each September, parishioners are asked to update their contact information and a parish directory with everyone's info is made available. Periodically, photographs are taken and included in the directory. The church office sends out a weekly eblast enhanced with images that presets the upcoming Sunday's Gospel and shares news regarding events, activities, needs, and thank-you notes. Announcements are also noted in church and included in writing with the Sunday service bulletin. Bulletin boards line the main hallway of the parish house and are still used to post paper sign-up sheets, share photographs of events, and highlight the art projects of Sunday school students. Vinyl banners are hung on the sidewalk fence, and sidewalk poster stands are used to invite the public to special events. In addition, the Diocese provides a weekly email venue where St. John's can post news of an upcoming happening.



Fellowship: After-church fellowship typically includes a weekly "coffee hour" with donated refreshments. The Wednesday morning prayer service is followed by a light breakfast, dubbed The Muffin Club. Several intergenerational events each year involve luncheon fare or dinner and are held for a church holiday celebration or church-wide meeting. In years past, evening events also had social or fund-raising focuses. Each year, the rector and committee chairpersons meet and sketch out a fellowship event calendar for the year. A master calendar is on display in the church office and overseen by the office manager. At the beginning of the year, a parish-wide

event is held after church, titled Welcoming Sunday when each committee and group hosts a table to showcase their activities and recruit new members. An opportunity for a more intimate fellowship is the Foyer Groups, which are small groupings of parishioners who share a meal at one another's homes throughout the year. The following year, the participants are reshuffled into a new grouping. A group that encompasses more than fellowship is The Order of the Daughters of the King who are a devout group of women supporting the church through prayer, service, and evangelism. St. John's newest fellowship group is the Young Adult Ministry that has focused on Bible Study this year. One long-standing tradition for social fellowship is the Parish Picnic that has been held in a variety of fun outdoor locations.





Clergy: St. John's has been an active and well-respected Church, in the community and in the diocese. Both clergy and parishioners have held key posts in the Episcopal Diocese of Albany. Each year, St. John's delegates attend the diocesan convention. St. John's has had a total of 25 rectors with terms ranging between one and 38 years and 28 assistant clergy who served between one to seven years. The last was in 1993 when St. John's Church broke barriers by welcoming as an assistant, the first female priest in the Albany Diocese. St. John's has been blessed to have had three deacons since the turn of the last century. Church history reveals that two rectors, one assistant rector, and one interim rector of St. John's have become bishops; several parishioners have become clergymen.



Groups: Many dedicated persons serve St. John's Church: St. John's staff consists of the Rector, the Deacon, the Office Manager (part-time), a Bookkeeper (part-time), the Music Director/Organist (part-time), and the Children's Education Director (part-time). A part-time cleaner as well as a cleaning service with a weekly contract , and outside services are routinely hired for lawnmowing, garden maintenance, snowplowing and salting. In the past, the church sexton did some of these tasks

including monitoring the church security system. Vestry plans are to fill the position of sexton in the upcoming year.

The current groups and volunteers in the Church are the Vestry consisting of two Wardens and nine Members, the Vestry Secretary, the Properties Committee, the Finance Committee and Treasurer, the Stewardship Committee, Human Resources, the Strategic Planning Committee, Acolytes, Lectors, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Ushers, the Altar Guild, the Flower Committee, the Garden Committee, the Daughters of the King, the Fellowship Ministry, the Foyer Groups, the Young Adult Ministry, the Education Committee, the Basement on First Street, the Shepherd's Storehouse Pantry, the Haiti Committee, the *St. John's Herald* Newsletter Team, the Archives Committee, the Communications Committee, the Live-Stream and Audio/Visual Tech Team, the Docents Committee, the Website and the Facebook Team, Adult Formation/Education Leaders, and the Library Team.



Financial Overview: Each year parishioners are asked to please identify and make a commitment of their time, talent, and/or treasure to glorify and do God's work.

St. John's finances are overseen by an experienced Finance Committee and a Treasurer who are responsible for the Church's financial management, budgeting, and ongoing financial review. The Finance Committee reports directly to the Vestry and is chaired by a member of the Vestry.

St. John's is blessed with a substantial endowment. These endowment funds are professionally managed by a respected external wealth management firm.

The Church's current annual budget is $488,125, funded through pledges and contributions, distributions from the unrestricted and restricted portions of the endowment and revenue sources coming from the Church's apartment building and outside organizations.

Through the completion of an independent financial audit covering calendar years 2024 and 2025, the auditors issued a clean audit opinion, indicating that the financial statements fairly presented the Church's financial position. The audit also provided assurance regarding the effectiveness of the Church's internal controls and the soundness of its financial governance practices.

Through the diligent work of the Finance Committee and the prudent oversight of the Vestry, St. John's is well positioned to continue managing its financial resources responsibly and sustainably. We are confident that this stewardship will enable the Church to sustain the spiritual services, programs, and ministries that are so important to our congregation and community.

The Rector We Seek

St. John's Episcopal Church • Troy, New York

St. John's is looking for a Rector who will come to know us, love us, worship and pray with us, and help us faithfully take our next steps together.

We are a parish with deep roots and a strong sense of who we are. We value Episcopal worship and tradition, thoughtful preaching, beautiful music, meaningful outreach, fellowship, inclusiveness, our historic sacred space, and the relationships that make St. John's feel like family.

We are also looking forward. We know that the next chapter of St. John's will require growth, new ideas, renewed energy, good stewardship, care for our buildings, and a willingness to reach beyond our doors. We want to welcome younger generations and families, strengthen parish life and Christian formation, broaden participation in leadership and ministry, and continue serving our neighbors in Troy and beyond.

We are not looking for someone to turn St. John's into something it is not. We are looking for someone who can help us build on what is already good, face our challenges honestly, and discover together where God is calling us next.

A Spiritual Leader

We are seeking a priest who will be our spiritual leader.

We are a congregation made up of people at many different places in their faith journeys. Some have deep roots in the Episcopal Church. Others came to St. John's from different Christian traditions or religious backgrounds. People bring different experiences and questions with them. We want a Rector who can meet people where they are while inviting all of us to grow more deeply in faith.

A Preacher and Teacher Who Connects

Preaching matters to us.

We hope for a Rector who can preach thoughtfully and faithfully, but also naturally and accessibly. We want sermons that make Scripture meaningful, help us better understand our faith, and connect the Gospel with the lives we are actually living.

Teaching is important as well. We hope our next Rector will enjoy helping people explore Scripture, Episcopal tradition, theology, and the questions that arise when we try to live our faith in the world around us.

We are not all in the same place spiritually, nor do we all learn in the same way. A Rector who is comfortable with questions, conversation, and different perspectives will serve St. John's well. We value preaching and teaching that is understandable and engaging, helps us explore the biblical and historical context of Scripture, and connects our faith with the world and our everyday lives.

A Warm and Approachable Pastor

We want our Rector to know us.

Pastoral care is deeply important to St. John's. We hope for someone who enjoys people, listens well, is approachable and down-to-earth, and is present in the ordinary as well as extraordinary moments of parish life.

Our next Rector will walk with people through illness, grief, family changes, uncertainty, celebrations, milestones, and the everyday ups and downs of life. We hope for a priest who will get to know the congregation, including people who cannot always be physically present at church, and who recognizes that pastoral relationships are an important part of building a healthy parish community.

A Collaborative Leader

The Rector leads St. John's, but does not lead it alone.

St. John's has a long and strong tradition of lay leadership and shared ministry. Our Vestry, committees, ministry teams, staff, and volunteers carry significant responsibility for parish life. Lay leaders bring experience and expertise to Finance, Human Resources, Properties, Stewardship, Christian formation, outreach, communications, worship, fellowship, and many other areas.

We want a Rector who sees this as a strength.

Our next Rector should be comfortable working alongside engaged lay leaders, sharing information, listening to different perspectives, respecting the knowledge and gifts people bring, and building consensus whenever possible. We hope for

someone who communicates openly and directly and helps create a culture of trust, respect, and shared responsibility.

We also want to make room for new people. The experience and commitment of longtime leaders are tremendous gifts to St. John's, and we want to pair that experience with opportunities for others to step forward, share their own gifts, and bring new ideas into parish life.

The Rector will provide spiritual leadership, pastoral care, vision, and guidance, but will have committed partners throughout the parish with whom to do this work.

Someone Who Will Help Us Grow

We know that St. John's needs to grow.

We want to welcome newcomers, younger adults, children and families, and others who may be looking for a church home but have not yet found one. We want St. John's to be a place where people can walk through the door, feel welcome, build relationships, grow in faith, and find meaningful ways to become part of parish life.

As we look ahead, we hope to grow our parish while also strengthening Christian formation, children's and youth ministries, music, fellowship, pastoral care, and opportunities for people of all ages to become involved.

But growth, to us, is about more than numbers. It is about building relationships and creating a genuine sense of belonging. It is about helping people discover their own gifts and finding ways for them to participate in the life and ministry of St. John's. It also means looking beyond our own walls, being present and engaged in Troy, and helping our neighbors know who we are and that there is a place for them here.

We hope for a Rector who is excited about that kind of growth and will help us become better at reaching out, inviting people in, and making room for new people and new ideas, while continuing to know, value, and care for the parish family already here.

Someone Who Values a Diverse Church Family

St. John's values being a place where people with different backgrounds and experiences can worship and serve together.

Our parish includes people of different ages, life experiences, economic circumstances, religious backgrounds, and places along the journey of faith. Parishioners have described diversity, inclusiveness, welcome, and acceptance as things they especially value about St. John's.

We hope our next Rector will embrace that character and help us deepen it.

We want a priest who is comfortable with people who may not think alike, vote alike, live alike, worship in exactly the same way, or understand their faith in exactly the same way, but who nevertheless come together around the altar as one parish family.

A Partner in Outreach and Our Life in Troy

Serving our neighbors is not an extracurricular activity at St. John's. It has been woven into parish life for generations.

Today that includes The Basement on First Street, Shepherd's Storehouse, Angel Tree, community breakfasts, the Haiti partnership, our longstanding connection with the Troy Police Department and Troy Area United Ministries, and other forms of service and hospitality.

We hope for a Rector who values that commitment and will help us continue building relationships in the wider Troy community.

St. John's has been part of Troy for nearly two centuries, and we want to continue being a church that is very much a part of the community around us. Our downtown location puts neighborhoods, businesses, community organizations, cultural institutions, and several colleges, including Russell Sage College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Hudson Valley Community College, practically at our doorstep.

There are so many opportunities to build relationships, make new connections, serve our neighbors, and introduce people to St. John's. We hope for a Rector who will enjoy getting to know Troy, becoming part of the community, and helping us find new ways to reach beyond our doors and welcome people in.

A Good Steward and Organizational Partner

A parish is a spiritual community, but it is also an organization that has to function well.

We hope our next Rector will be organized, communicate clearly, work effectively with staff and Vestry, understand parish finances and stewardship, and be comfortable helping establish priorities.

St. John's is fortunate to have active lay committees with significant knowledge and responsibility in areas such as Finance, Properties, Stewardship, and Human Resources. Our Rector will not be expected to be the parish accountant, property manager, fundraiser, and HR department. We already have lay leadership structures that support these areas.

What we need is a Rector who will be a good partner: someone who understands the issues, asks good questions, works collaboratively with those responsible for these ministries, and helps keep practical decisions connected to the mission of the church.

A Steward of a Historic Church

Our buildings are both a gift and a responsibility.

St. John's worships in an English Gothic church completed in 1853, with significant historic and artistic features including stained glass, mosaics and murals, a historic pipe organ, and Troy's remaining manual chime. The parish campus also includes the parish house and adjacent apartment house.

We do not expect our Rector to be an architect or preservation expert.

We do hope for someone who appreciates what has been entrusted to us and understands that maintaining a historic campus requires planning, financial stewardship, fundraising, patience, and partnership with knowledgeable lay leaders and outside professionals.

We want to care faithfully for these buildings not simply because they are beautiful, but because they support the worship, fellowship, service, and ministry that happen within them.

Housing and Home

St. John's offers flexibility in housing arrangements.

The parish owns an apartment adjacent to the church that may be available to the next Rector should they wish to live on church property. Alternatively, the parish can provide a housing allowance for a Rector who prefers to establish a residence elsewhere.

We are committed to working with the successful candidate to develop an arrangement that supports both their personal needs and their ministry at St. John's.

The Relationship We Hope to Build

In the end, we know we are not searching for a checklist.

We are searching for a priest with whom we can build a relationship.

We hope our next Rector will come to know St. John's well enough to understand what makes us laugh, what we worry about, what we treasure, where we struggle, and what we dream about.

We hope for someone confident enough to lead and humble enough to listen. Someone who respects tradition but is not afraid of possibility. Someone who understands that people sometimes disagree and knows how to help them continue talking to one another. Someone who cares about the person who has worshipped here for decades and the person nervously walking through the door for the first time.

We want a Rector who will encourage us, challenge us, pray with us, care for us, occasionally push us beyond our comfort zone, and let us do the same for them.

Most of all, we hope to find someone who wants to walk with us into the next chapter of St. John's life.

We hope to find a Rector who will embrace what makes St. John's special while helping us discover what the next chapter can be. We are looking for someone who will help us become the healthiest, strongest, most faithful version of who God is calling St. John's to be.

St. John's Episcopal Church — Troy, New York

Rector Position: Compensation & Application Information

Compensation & Benefits

St. John's offers a competitive compensation and benefits package for our Rector, with compensation commensurate with experience and diocesan guidelines. Benefits include health insurance, pension contributions, and continuing education support. A housing allowance will be provided to support appropriate housing in the Troy area. The parish also owns an apartment that may be available to the Rector should that option be of interest. Reasonable moving expenses will also be provided to assist with the Rector's transition to our community.

How to Apply

Please send your letter of interest, resume, and Vocation Hub Profile to:

The Rev. Canon William Hinrichs
Transition Officer
Episcopal Diocese of Albany
whinrichs@albanydiocese.org