

## **ASSOCIATE PRIEST FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND EDUCATION**

Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York, in the Diocese of New York, seeks to call an Associate priest for Christian Formation and Education, beginning in Summer 2019. Applications are invited by April 23, 2019. The position will remain open until filled.

Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue is a growing and energetic parish of 800 active parishioners and a larger group associated through its webcast ministry, Choir School, and music programs. Our mission is to worship, love and serve Our Lord Jesus Christ through the Anglican tradition and our unique choral heritage. We seek an experienced priest to assist the Rector in leading worship, in preaching, in teaching, in pastoral care and the overall ministry of the parish. The Parish seeks a loving pastor, an effective preacher and a strong teacher who is spiritually centered, self-motivated, creative and who will support others in the exercise of their Christian ministry. As a member of a collegial staff, the Associate will have specific responsibilities for Christian Education and Formation as we seek to live out our mission by supporting a community that is inclusive and welcoming, and reaches out to those around us.

The Parish is engaged in a strategic planning exercise with Wellspring Consulting which is due to come a conclusion in the summer of 2019. During this period of self-study and data collection, we are exploring themes as they emerge.

The Parish has an Adult Education Committee which will support the Associate in the planning of adult education. The Associate will also form and develop a new committee for children, families, and young people and will be involved in the life of that committee.

Candidates should submit a résumé with three references and a cover letter that includes a vision for education and formation at a parish set in a large city. Please also submit two sermons and a sample of academic writing, such as a journal article. Links to audio or video recordings are invited but not required. Candidates should indicate their canonical status and diocese of record, and forward the Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) profile.

Prior work experience will be strongly considered. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.

### **Job Description**

Report to the Associate Rector and work collaboratively with staff, including other associate clergy, the Headmaster of our Choir School, the Director of Music, and the lay leaders of the parish.

### **Overview**

- With the Rector, to provide pastoral leadership for the Parish as part of a team of clergy and lay leaders.
- Develop and support Christian formation and adult education. Such ministry will include Sunday and weekday classes, Bible study, meditation, contemplative prayer, retreats and

pilgrimages, all to engage our congregation exploring ancient and emerging practices within the Christian tradition.

- Develop and support the nurture and education of children and young people, in supervising the Nursery Staff, Sunday School Coordinator and youth leaders in their work.
- Develop and strengthen links with students and staff from the several Universities and the two Episcopal Seminaries in New York City.
- Develop and support programs that explore the arts and incorporate artists into the life of the Parish.
- Help parishioners explore social justice and ethics as part of their own journey of faith, and the responsibility of the Christian community to respond as need arises.
- To be the point-person for newcomers, including new members and transfers.

## **Job Responsibilities**

### *Clergy responsibilities*

- Participate in the spiritual and pastoral care of the community, including visiting the sick and the housebound.
- Participate in Sunday and weekday liturgical and preaching responsibilities.
- Participate in the ministry of spiritual direction, the ministry of reconciliation, healing, and other spiritual disciplines, such as Eucharistic Exposition and Shrine Prayers.
- Participate in social gatherings of the Parish, including Sunday coffee hour, regular fellowship events, and various social and interest groups in the parish.

### *Specific responsibilities*

- Support adult Christian formation opportunities on Sunday mornings and during the week by teaching classes and arranging classes to be taught by staff, parishioners and guests, including:
  - Sunday morning at 10am and, occasionally, during coffee hour.
  - Friday Bible Study at 1pm
  - Regular ‘short courses’ of 3-5 weeks duration on Tuesday or Thursday evenings at 6:30pm
  - Spring and Fall Theology lectures with a guest speaker.
  - January to May: Offer support to ‘The Pilgrims Class’ for enquirers, those seeking baptism and/or confirmation, and those wishing to be received from other Church traditions. [note – the content of this class and its timing is under review]
  - September to December: Offer, with the help of others, a ‘Pilgrims Class II’ for those newly baptized, confirmed, and received.
- Organize opportunities for spiritual formation, and help parishioners to strengthen their faith, including support for spiritual practice in daily life.

- Support the Sunday School Coordinator and the team of Sunday School Volunteers by oversight and development of programs and liturgies.
- Provide formation for young people seeking confirmation.
- Coordinate with the Associate Rector and the Website Manager in the timely release of information, including on social media.

### **Skills and Abilities**

- Skills in preaching and teaching, especially in the area of systematic theology; an interest in theology, in contemporary theological and biblical scholarship, and particularly in the ethical relevance of those disciplines, and an ability to communicate that interest to lay people; making connections between the Gospel and the world.
- Familiarity with theological and religious studies communities in the greater New York area, and a willingness to establish new communities;
- Experience with and commitment to liturgy within the Catholic expression of Anglicanism.
- Being open to a variety of forms of worship and spirituality and willing to engage with them.
- A call to parish ministry and the caring for the large and small events in parishioners' lives.
- Readiness to meet the challenge of a congregation accustomed to a high level of intellectual engagement in the adult education activities of the Parish (bearing in mind also that some of those attending our classes and lectures are not regulars at Saint Thomas Church).
- Ability to work well with a diverse group of people.
- Pro-active and highly organized.
- Team-player who will assist others and take on responsibility for areas of parish life as necessary, and who will support the team.
- A willingness to work in new as well as traditional formats for adult education in the parish, taking into account formats that have been successful in the past.

### **Requirements (essential)**

- Ordained or pursuing ordination within the Episcopal Church, with post graduate degree.
- Experience in providing education programs and programs of nurture.
- Experience in nurturing spiritual practices within a diverse community.
- Committed to his or her professional development.

**Desirable abilities (not essential)**

- Currently engaged in doctoral research or having earned a doctorate.
- Recognized success in publishing articles and/or books.
- A confident liturgical singer.
- A member of the Association of Scholar-Priests.
- Experience in integrating arts and spirituality.

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