



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Feb 2, 2024)

St. Mark's, Johnstown, Pittsburgh

335 Locust Street, Johnstown, PA 15901, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
17	1		1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options Negotiable	Dental Yes	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks 2 (standard)	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget up to/including \$500/year	Sabbatical Provision Yes	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account Yes

Seeking shared (50/50) full-time priest with St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset.

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

St. Mark's is dedicated to being a parish that "shares Christ's love unconditionally through transformational worship and service." We have opened our doors to lesbians, gay men, and transgender women over the last seven years. We have been especially happy to confirm and/or receive these individuals. They all have become active participants in our parish and diocese, serving in numerous ways including as volunteers at Saturday's Kitchen (our local soup kitchen) and our various fundraisers; as Vestry members, Lay Deputies to Diocesan Convention, Diocesan Council members; and leading a Strategic Planning initiative at St. Mark's.

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

Our current Priest-in-Charge has been serving us part time for the past several years. During this time, she has raised up the laity, encouraged and taught us how to take on more responsibility for the ongoing mission of St. Mark's. Under the guidance of Canon Kim Karashin and Bishop Ketlen Solak, we have adjusted to the idea of sharing a priest with St. Francis-in-the-Fields (Somerset) and have come to see it as a wonderful opportunity. We have conducted a thorough self-study of St. Mark's and our surrounding community and developed a vision of our new priest and the parish we wish to become. We now look forward to conducting a search for a new priest whom Bishop Ketlen, St. Mark's and St. Francis-in-the-Fields discern to be the priest we are to call to lead us into a bright and vibrant future.

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

spiritual leader, pastoral care, compassionate, motivator

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

We offer Holy Eucharist with a pipe organist and choir at 10AM on Sunday. We also have a three-octave handbell set that is played on special occasions. We use Rite II most Sundays and Rite I on the fourth Sunday. We have also used liturgies from *Enriching Our Worship* and frequently use a psalm from *The Saint Helena Psalter 2004*. Lay-led Morning Prayer and Compline are also offered on a semi-regular basis. All services provide both in-person and virtual (Zoom) options. We have many special services and traditions associated with Holy Days throughout the Liturgical Year. These include Lessons and Carols; a Blue Christmas Service; a Litany of Penance, a Service of Healing, Taizé, foot-washing, the solemn stripping of the altar, and Stations of the Cross during Holy Week; Christmas in July and Blessing of the Animals near the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Our dedicated Acolyte, Lay Readers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers serve at all services. Some are also licensed to lead Morning Prayer. One of our members is a novice sister in The Anglican Order of Preachers. Our Altar Guild, Choir, Ushers, and Counters complement the worship service. Prior to Covid, our Lay Eucharistic Visitors carried the Sacrament to our home-bound parishioners. We hope to bring back this important ministry that connects the home-bound to Christ and the Parish. Our parish and community service volunteers package and distribute pet food for our monthly Pet Food Pantry; cook, serve and cashier at our fundraising take-out meals; serve lunch at Saturday's Kitchen (our local soup kitchen); stuff and deliver Christmas Stockings for patients at Torrance State Hospital; package and deliver Holiday Meals to those in need, create our worship service bulletins and monthly newsletter, serve as administrators for our website and Facebook page, and publicize church events. Our parishioners also lead Bible and Book Studies.

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

Advent & Lenten Quiet Days - This respite away from the busyness of life, is a time to reflect, and rest in God's presence. During alternating quiet time and guided meditations, participants find spiritual refreshment through prayer, reading, journaling, drawing, or walking meditation. Coffee Hour - We are a city church that welcomes homeless individuals and residents of half-way houses to worship with us; some return on a consistent basis. Coffee Hour is a time for fellowship and an opportunity to break bread (snacks) together, providing for the emotional and physical well-being of all. Small Group Study - We gather to pray and study the Bible and other texts to understand the relevance of God's word today and to receive guidance and strength to live as Jesus taught us. During Epiphany and Lent we offer a lay-led Bible study using The Good Book Club syllabus and resources. In autumn a book study group meets to discuss the current selection. Books we have read recently include Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*, Henri Nouwen's *Here and Now*, Julian of Norwich's *Showings*, and Verna Dozier's *The Dream of God: A Call to Return*.

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

As a downtown church, St. Mark's is committed to outreach and service in the greater community and beyond. Our Pastoral Care Ministry focuses on feeding the hungry and assisting with their extenuating needs. Gift cards to local grocers are available in nominal amounts for those in need. Pastoral Care also provides referrals to social service agencies in our area. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, food baskets are distributed to a dozen or more needy individuals and families. Through their various fundraising activities, our ECW provides financial support for our Pastoral Care Ministry, Women's Help Center, Mom's House, St. Vincent DePaul's Food for Families Kitchen and other local organizations. Additional support is given through the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund and a Rwandan orphan is sponsored through World Vision.

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

Members of our parish serve as lay deputies and Diocesan Council members and have participated in diocesan education initiatives, such as Love+Teach+Heal Leadership Academy and Seeing the Face of God in One Another. Our Christmas Stocking Stuffer Project is conducted in coordination with over twenty churches and one synagogue and provides holiday stockings to over 200 patients at Torrance State Hospital. Three times a year the ECW provides funds for the groceries needed to cook a hot lunch and volunteers to serve the lunch at Saturday's Kitchen (our local soup kitchen). Our Pet Food Pantry provides food for the beloved pets of 150+ low-income families residing throughout the geographic area.

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

Our service of Community Common Prayer is an offering of varied worship to the Greater Johnstown Community. These monthly services are held in the early evening and are publicized widely. Among the most popular have been a Labyrinth Walk, a Taizé service, a Service of Thanksgiving and a special service for the celebration of the 130th anniversary of the Johnstown flood in May of 2019. The contact person is Lisa Bell-Loncella at etbell57@gmail.com or 814-241-1693 (cell).

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

All our members are encouraged to give of their time, talent, and treasure. Parishioners give of their many gifts to support the church and its ministries. The Finance Committee conducts an annual Stewardship Campaign. During the past several years, about 20 pledging units have made commitments totaling roughly \$65,000 annually. Our budget has been approximately \$105,000 in recent years. The majority of our budget is spent on operating costs (salaries & associated personnel expenses, utilities) and upkeep (building maintenance). We are blessed to have investment funds that have a total value of approximately \$310,000. Interest monies generated by these funds are utilized to supplement the pledges. We are frugal with expenditures, but in recent years we have had to take funds from the principal in order to balance the budget. This has made it necessary to move from a full time to a part time priest-in charge.

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

In January 2009, the rector, deacon and one third of the congregation of St. Mark's left the Episcopal Church and chose to affiliate with Robert Duncan and the Anglican Province of the Southern Cone. Entire parishes throughout the Diocese of Pittsburgh left the Episcopal Church. There was a rebuilding period for several years following the schism. St Mark's was served by our lay leadership, part time and supply priests. This was a painful chapter for us. When our current priest was called, she brought with her hope for a period of healing and a new beginning. Since she came on board in November 2014, conflicts have occurred but have been resolved more easily. Our current priest frequently reminds us and insists that we resolve conflict as Jesus taught us. First talk to the person with whom you are in conflict. If that does not resolve the conflict, then have two additional people go with you to talk to the person. Finally pray and ask God to help you identify your commonalities and discern a mutually beneficial path forward.

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 COVID pandemic compelled us to find new ways of worshiping and communicating with one another in order to survive. We upgraded our telephone systems and Wi-Fi. We learned how to record our worship services and allow people who were unable to come worship in-person to participate live via Zoom. Our staff and parishioners have learned to function in a new digital world. Several years ago, our attempt at soliciting contact information via Google Forms resulted in only three online responses. Our priest expressed great alarm when we told the Vestry that we intended to use an online survey for our Parish Self-study Survey. So, we offered both online and hard copy versions of our recent Parish Survey and 74% of our respondents used the online version. On the downside, we have learned that technology can fail to work properly resulting in disconnection literally and figuratively. Technology can bring together people who are physically separated but in-person contact is the glue that binds.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Reverend Nancy L. Threadgill	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2014-11	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Reverend Martin Wright	Supply	2011-07	2014-10

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Reverend Vicente Santiago	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge (Part-time)	2009-01	2011-07

See joint St. Mark's, Johnstown/St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset portfolio for more comp and benefits details.

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	2	5

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

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://saintmarksjohnstown.com/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064806063544>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

412-721-0853 ext. 256 ksolak@episcopalpgh.org**The Rt. Rev. Ketlen A.
Solak**

Diocesan Transition Minister

412-721-0853 ext. 254 kkarashin@episcopalpgh.org**The Rev. Canon Kimberly
Karashin**

Current Warden/Board Chair

814-241-1693 etbell57@gmail.com**Lisa Bell-Loncella**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

406-224-2497 potsie1008@gmail.com**Colleen Curry**

Search Chair

814-241-2360 rburkert89@outlook.com**Richard Burkert**

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader