

St. John's Clergy Transition Information - Summer 2024

As many of you are aware, Father Christian is leaving our parish soon to follow his family to the State of Ohio. He has recently announced that he has accepted a position as interim rector at a church in Dayton and his last Sunday will be with us on May 12, 2024. We are well set to begin the process of discernment and transition. Your senior warden, Jim Gary, and junior warden Peggy Lohorn have met with Father Christian on numerous occasions these past few weeks. Jim will lead the parish to continue the work of our vision and mission. John Culley has agreed to oversee our worship and liturgy. Several supply priests have been recruited to serve in the coming weeks. On some Sundays, we will celebrate with Morning Prayer.

Peggy has agreed to oversee the church administration. She will ensure that the staff is supported, payroll is accomplished, and the scheduling and reporting requirements are met. Peggy has also agreed to continue to train Kelly Lynch, our church administrator.

Sam Hildebrand and Deb Swanson will continue to oversee the property of St. John's. They are well versed and already doing the work.

The vestry has begun the process of transition with the help of Jen Phelps, our transition officer from the diocese. Jen will meet with the congregation on May 19, 2024. We will have just one church service at 9:00 a.m. followed by a Holy Conversation led by Jen. This is our opportunity to discuss our strengths, weaknesses, hurts, and joys as we begin the process of discernment for a new priest. A pitch-in of finger foods for this event will work best.

A new search committee, now called a discernment committee will be formed shortly. An email was sent earlier this week with an application form. A great deal of work was done just two years ago and we can simply fine tune the previous website and digital product. Jen Phelps and Bishop Jennifer have assured the vestry that this process should not be protracted.

St. John's is a resilient and gifted parish. We are in a solid position to move forward with the leadership of the vestry and wardens. Reach out to any of them with your concerns as we enter this time of change. May God's peace surround us.

Jim Gary - Sr. Warden

Peggy Lohorn- Jr. warden

Fr. Christian Baron- Priest in Charge

*Email sent to parish 5/1/2024