

The Episcopal Church of Saint Mary
Falmouth, Maine
Seeks a Temporary Priest in Charge (11/21-8/22)

Saint Mary's Church in Falmouth, Maine, seeks a temporary Priest in Charge, to lead and care for the parish from November 2021 through August 2022, while the Rector is away on active duty as a Navy Chaplain. During this time the Rector will be entirely on leave from the parish, and the temporary Priest in Charge will have the canonical status of a priest in charge.

We expect this to be a full-time position, but would be open to discussing less than full time if that were necessary to make the position workable for the right priest.

About Saint Mary's

We are the Anglican/Episcopal Christian community in the north Portland, Maine suburbs. At Saint Mary's, we are building authentic, vibrant, Christ-centered community as we:

CELEBRATE the goodness of God and the gift of life,
HONOR the presence of Christ in one another, and
SERVE the world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our campus is located in Falmouth, but our parish members come from communities throughout all of Cumberland County. We gather in person and online on the Lord's Day with two Eucharistic services, 8 am and 10:15 am, both in person. The early service features one hymn at the end of the service. The second service, in person and streamed, is more contemporary and features choir pieces as well as hymns. We use the time between the two services to offer formation programs. Our Guiding Ray children's program and nursery care begins at 9:30 for informal formation and at 10:15 for instructional formation.

We also offer streamed daily noon prayer, Monday-Friday. Our rich music tradition features periodic Evensong services and other special musical offerings. Prior to the pandemic we held a Thursday Eucharist at noon. We offer Christian formation, music (choir and organ), many guilds and committees as well as robust outreach in Falmouth and the greater Portland area. Saint Mary's was founded in 1889. Our history provides a solid foundation to allow us to grow and evolve. <https://www.smary.org/>

The Covid pandemic has presented many challenges to all of us including our parish and its related ministries. The capacity to fully worship together, renewing personal connections and the enjoyment of our St. Mary's community are all paramount to reestablishing the rhythm of our spiritual life together. We are regaining our footing and we need a Temporary Priest in Charge who can continue helping us reclaim the joy, the togetherness and the spiritual experience of being part of our parish family once again.

Saint Mary's is a healthy parish with approximately 200 active households. Over the last year, we have worked hard to serve our internal and external communities. At the pandemic's onset, our parishioners stepped up to support broader community needs and continued their support for Saint Mary's. We developed a calling tree to reach out to every household periodically to assess needs and address concerns. Our outreach program adapted using online platforms or safe protocols for in person programs. Our twice monthly meal program switched to curbside and included surplus food distributions when available. We hosted twice monthly blood drives managed by our local Red Cross chapter.

As of Palm Sunday, we have returned to in person services, offering three services supplementing the online options. Monday-Friday noonday prayer is streamed, led by our rector, deacon or other appropriately trained parishioners. Our plan for September is to open fully and robustly.

Our ministry is supported by an excellent staff, comprising:

- Full time rector
- Full time office administrator
- Part time organ and music director
- Part time coordinator for children's formation
- Contracted sexton
- Deacon

For more information visit our web site: www.smary.org

About Falmouth:

Falmouth is a coastal suburban town on the northern border of Portland, with rocky coastline, residential neighborhoods and rural farmlands. There are three areas of commerce: the west side boasts shopping and turnpike access; the center section includes the town hall and large public school campus; and finally the Route 1 business district also has the recently built town library. The town has three golf courses, many hiking trails, playing fields, tennis courts, ice rinks and the largest anchorage north of Boston. Falmouth is growing in population and is known for extraordinary public schools. For more information here is the link to the town's website. <https://www.falmouthme.org/>

Just to our south is the city of Portland. Portland is a vibrant and exciting small city, with many of the cultural attributes usually found in much larger centers: the Portland Museum of Art is one example; the Portland Symphony Orchestra is another. Transportation links are excellent: Portland is served by Amtrak from Boston, as well as frequent bus service from downtown Boston and from Boston Logan Airport (it's a two hour trip). The Portland airport, which is just ten minutes from Falmouth, has flights to cities up and down the East Coast, as well as midwestern hubs.

With Maine leading the nation in vaccine administration, and Cumberland County leading Maine, the greater Portland area is rapidly reopening its vibrant restaurant and cultural venues. For more information about the areas, visit <https://www.portlandmaine.com/explore-downtown/livework-portland/>

What we are seeking:

- We seek a Priest who can step smoothly into the life of our busy and healthy parish, thus enabling us to continue the process of emerging from the pandemic. While we will always welcome new energy and program ideas, post pandemic rebuilding is the primary goal for our next program year. Assisted by staff including our deacon and strong lay leadership, we will have an organized schedule already in place.
- We seek a Priest who is an outstanding and inspiring preacher and can make faith relevant for parishioners of all ages without partisanship.
- We seek a Priest who is biblically based, knowledgeable about academic theology, and passionate about teaching.
- We seek a Priest who can manage people and systems with both a collaborative and inspiring leadership style and clear communication skills.
- We seek an interim spiritual leader with a pastor's heart, who can also fulfill the Rector's managerial duties.
- We hope for a Priest who will work in concert with a seasoned vestry.
- We seek a Priest who will maintain our formation programs, adjusting when needed.
- We hope for a rector who will lead our volunteer pastoral teams to serve various needs throughout the parish.
- We seek a Priest who will support our many outreach programs.
- We seek a Priest who, with our coordinator and volunteers, can continue to build our children's formation program which suffered during the pandemic.

While we search for the right fit, we will carefully consider all who are interested, maintain confidentiality and will keep communication open in regards to our progress. We invite you to learn more about our parish and community. We are prayerful, hopeful and confident as we look forward to how this next interim chapter in our parish life will unfold.

What we are offering:

We are offering a competitive salary and benefits package commensurate with experience. We understand that making a short-term move is expensive, and we want to make this position possible and attractive to the right person. Thus, we expect cash compensation (stipend, housing allowance, and social security offset) will be in the range of \$85,000 to \$100,000 annualized. The Rectory will not be available for the Priest in Charge and will not form part of the compensation package.

If you sense an interest and a calling to pursue this opportunity, we look forward to hearing from you. For more information we can get the conversation started by sending

- your OTM portfolio;
- your resume;
- and a cover letter introducing yourself and describing what it is about St. Mary's that makes you interested in being in conversation with us

to the Rev. Canon Michael Ambler, Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Maine, at mambler@episcopalmaine.org. Canon Ambler would also be very glad to speak with you about St. Mary's or about ministry in the Diocese of Maine; just email him at the address above and he'll be happy to arrange a phone call.

Thank you for considering our need and how we may be a fit for each other in God's providence.

Our Prayer for Discernment

Loving God, be with us and guide us by your spirit as we work on this sacred task that we've undertaken. Open our minds, hearts, and souls to your leading and to each other, as we work together in the assurance that you will be ever present and help us in finding our way.

Enable us to be open to listen to you God, to listen to each other and to listen to ourselves as we seek what is best for our congregation, and for continuing our outreach and our mission. Please help us to be sensitive and understanding of the true needs and purpose you have in mind for us in this endeavor. Help us to be willing to share and to be open about feelings and perceptions that will shape our decisions and choices in the task ahead.

We also pray for the candidates who will consider this opportunity and especially for the person you will call and we will invite to be our temporary Priest in Charge. Like us, may they be guided by your promptings and grounded in your love and assurance as they, too, seek your will.

*Above all, we pray that our work will be pleasing to you and support the continued growth and mission of St. Mary's in our community and in our world. May your will be done and may our desire to show and share your love always be the center of what we do. **Amen***