



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Jul 31, 2023)

St James Cathedral, San Joaquin

4147 E Dakota Ave, Fresno, CA 93726, United States

Contact:

Cathedral Dean

canonanna@diosanjoaquin.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) 210	Number of Weekend Worship Services 3	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services 1
Current Annual Compensation \$80000	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 Clergy+1	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 \$1001-\$2000/year	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account Yes	Other Professional Account Yes

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

In the spring 2023 the Sunday School and the Fiber Arts Guild sponsored an open house to showcase their new home in the remodeled and renamed Arts and Education Center. Currently we have four Sunday School teachers that team teach twice a month. Four members came forward saying they were interested in helping educate our children. Two of them have children in the program. Once the necessary paperwork is completed, these four new teachers will join the more "experienced" teachers in teaching basic Christian beliefs from an Episcopal viewpoint. We will double our pool of teachers!

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

The St. James of the future will continue to preserve parts of the St. James of the past: the rich Anglican traditions that make our worship so meaningful. That said, we are acutely aware that the church of the future must also address concerns such as environmental sustainability, economic viability, and responding to the changing needs of our community. We have addressed these concerns in a number of ways: installing solar panels on the roofs of our buildings, working to eliminate one-use paper and plastic products, moving towards xeriscaping our campus, and realizing that pledge and plate can no longer be considered the only way (or even the main way) that we remain financially viable. We are examining innovative ways to use our large campus for revenue-generating opportunities such as renting facilities for summer camps, workshops, and Quinceañeras. We also have responded to the changing demographics of the Central Valley: our services include weekly Eucharists in Spanish and bilingual diocesan events.

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

collaborative, culturally competent, enterprising, visionary

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

The Cathedral community's worship blends the best of Anglican liturgical tradition with our commitment to a contemporary social-action context. We value thoughtful, relevant preaching based on the Gospels, inspiring music performed by our talented choir, and the meaningful spiritual connections we find in the Sacraments. We offer three Eucharistic liturgies on Sundays. There are two Eucharists in English, at 8:00 and at 10:30. The Eucharist at 8:00 is smaller and quieter without music. The 10:30 Eucharist is larger and held in the Cathedral; the choir leads the music. There is also a growing Spanish-language Eucharist at 10:30 in the chapel. The two communities combine for special occasions to celebrate bilingual liturgies at different times during the year. There is a Taizé service once a month. We offer a full program of liturgies during Holy Week. The laity and our vocational deacon play an active role in worship—as lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and on the Altar Guild and Fiber Arts Guild. These groups work to beautify our worship space for all the seasons of the liturgical year.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We are working on incorporating our growing congregation in ministries based on their special gifts and interests by providing a wide variety of ways others can get involved. We currently have several retired clergy and lay ministers regularly serving in worship on Sundays. We also have a Sunday school ministry that started with a few dedicated teachers and two Sunday school classes a month. Recently, with the arrival of more families with school-aged children, we have seen an increase in interest in teaching Sunday school, and we are looking into offering it each Sunday. We have a pilot "city group" program that has leaders creating small groups of congregants for liturgical study, fellowship, and service, which has so far sprouted a thriving young family's group that meets twice a month. Our church also has a large social justice ministry group working on promoting the end of gun violence, and our church regularly shares Jesus' love at LGBTQ+ events, such as Fresno Pride. We also have a thriving musical ministry with our dedicated music director leading spiritual musical events such as regular Taizé worship services.

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

A Gospel Reflections study group meets between the 8am and 10:30am service to discuss the lectionary passages for the week. At the beginning of each worship service, we offer "A word on worship," a short presentation to further our understanding of liturgy; all of which strengthen our spiritual life. "Come Grow with Us" serves as both an invitation and vision prompter for the congregation. The usher team does a fantastic job of welcoming people. Permanent name badges are created and made available quickly. All names are displayed together as a visual collection of community and the first thing you see as you arrive on Sunday. Our talented music director and choir offer beautiful music during the service. We offer a monthly Taizé service, and concerts for parishioners and community members. Additionally, the Director has developed a children's choir and, this year, is hosting a summer camp for all children in our church and the community. The music program nurtures multiple modalities: spiritual, cultural, and emotional well-being, and serves as a valuable outreach means to the broader community.

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

The St. James Vocational Deacon is active and present in the Fresno community. The deacon, our clergy and parishioners provide public witness, whether at Enough Gun Violence or LGBTQ+ gatherings, which allows us to build relationships and pastoral care. Our Anglo and Latino members of the clergy, along with others from the diocese journeyed the El Camino de la Pascua, visiting sites of injustice and listening to the stories of people. St. James served as one of the host sites for the participants, and we listened and learned from their experiences. Annually, we go into the community to offer an imposition of Ashes. Ashes to Go happens in the fields for farm laborers and in downtown Fresno in Court House Park. Recognizing the importance of sustainability, we are focusing on how to grow our families. This summer, we are offering a Summer Youth Choral Camp to the community, giving children an opportunity to experience what it feels like to be loved in a worshipping community.

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

In 2017, after having reopened the Cathedral, St James served as one of three locations during the Presiding Bishop's Revival, which also served as an opportunity to recognize the seating of Bp David at the cathedral, as well as giving thanks for the debt forgiveness from The Episcopal Church, which assisted us with legal costs during the decade-long litigation. Since that time, our presence as a LGBTQ+ open and affirming congregation has been a blessing to the Fresno/Clovis community. In addition to being a welcoming place for our members, we also host meeting space for a LGBTQ+ identified student group which was not granted space on their Christian university's campus. This year, we sent two of our youth members to the Episcopal Youth Event in College Park, Maryland. We have also had members of our clergy participate as deputies to General Convention, as well as attend gatherings such as Borderlands Ministry Conference and the Genesis New Communities Conference.

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

The Fiber Arts Guild is a new ministry that provides opportunity for fellowship and service. Each session begins with prayer that binds together members doing God's work. The guild has been meeting on the first Wednesday and the 4th Saturday of the month allowing individuals employed outside of the home to participate. Interest in the work and fellowship has led to increasing the Wednesday meetings from once per month to every Wednesday. Individuals of all skill levels are welcome. God-given talents are shared allowing people to learn and develop new skills. One of the Fiber Arts Guild projects is to make quilts that are given to congregants who are suffering from a major illness or who are dying. The quilts are blessed at a service. They include yarn dispersed throughout the quilt. At the service congregants can tie prayer knots and offer a prayer for the individual receiving the quilt. The quilts become a means for the entire congregation to offer support to a family. The contact person for the Fiber Arts Guild is Sue McKeefrey at (361) 230-0769 or spmckeefrey@hotmail.com

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

St. James has established a year-round approach to stewardship. This includes not only fall campaign activities, but also educational forums on various aspects of stewardship, testimonials, weekly reflection discussions, sharing of financial reports, and fundraisers. We are also instituting a one-on-one contact for each parishioner to discuss stewardship and provide regular “check-ins” to listen and connect congregants to the appropriate clergy and/or services needed. Chapter members and other lay leaders are taking the lead in making these contacts.

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

St. James established a Latino ministry several years ago. There are services offered in Spanish each Sunday and bi-lingual services throughout the year. There have been incidents where the two communities have had differences in their worship and church experiences as well as some lack of trust among the English and Spanish speaking groups. These incidents were causing some resentment and hurt among the two congregations. The bishop sought to understand these issues by holding listening sessions with both groups to ascertain their perspectives. As a result, it was decided that developing relationships between the two groups would be the first step. To that end, a liaison group composed of members from both congregations was formed and is currently in the process of organizing opportunities to get to know each other, hear concerns, and share our cultural experiences. This has been well received so far.

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?

When we originally opened the doors to the cathedral, we aspired to continue the food bank we inherited. Over the years we discovered not only the significant need for a food bank, but that we lacked the time, finances, oversight, and people power to support this ministry. During the transition of closing the food bank, some congregation members felt disenfranchised, while others felt this was an appropriate change. We still are discerning what our calling is to feed those in our neighborhood, and how to best partner with others.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Samuel Colley-Toothaker	Cathedral Dean	2021-12	2023-07

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Ryan Newman	Cathedral Dean	2018-12	2021-08

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Michele Racusin	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2008-01	2017-11

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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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
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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: stjamesfresno.org

Media Links:

> <https://www.youtube.com/@StJamesEpiscopalCathedral>

Online References:

> <https://www.facebook.com/fresnocathedral>

> <https://instagram.com/fresnocathedral>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English, Spanish

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English, Spanish

We seek a culturally competent dean; the Spanish speaking community is led by the Latino Missioner

References

Bishop:

David C. Rice

bishopdavid@diosanjoaquin.org 209-576-0104

Diocesan Transition Minister

Anna Carmichael

canonanna@diosanjoaquin.org 209-576-0104

Current Warden/Board Chair

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