

# Assistant Priest

**FULL TIME** | Christ Episcopal Church, Warwick, NY

Christ Church seeks a full-time Assistant/Curate to share in the leadership of this robust, growing parish, specifically in the area of overseeing our youth, children, and family ministries.

## PARISH DESCRIPTION

---

Christ Church, Warwick, is a healthy and spirited parish in the Diocese of New York with an ASA of 162 in 2024. Our demographics skew younger than the average of the Episcopal Church, though our parishioners span the spectrum of age, race, and socio-economic status.

We are set in a historic church and neighborhood in the center of the bucolic village of Warwick. Though of rural character in many ways (Warwick is a popular destination for NYC folks on weekend getaways) the village is just one hour by car from the George Washington Bridge and some parishioners work in NYC. Though small in size, Warwick has a sophisticated town life with tons of cultural, historic, and entertainment opportunities, excellent public schools, a nationally award-winning local library, and abundant hiking trails.

Currently, Christ Church has five staff members: a Rector, a Parish Administrator (the only other full-time employee), a Music Director and Organist, a sexton, and a choirmaster (all quarter-time or under.) Christ Church has had assistant priests/curates in the not-too-distant past and has a certain amount of pride in being a part of the formation of leaders in the church.

Financially, the faithful response to giving has meant that our needs are met without worry. We are excited to be completing a capital campaign and renovation project on our historic nave this summer. Our last annual stewardship campaign and a diocesan grant allowed for the funding of this position.

## OUR SERVICES

---

We currently have two Sunday morning services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. in a nave that holds about 100 people. The pews are full, and adding another priest will provide opportunity to expand our service offerings. Additionally, we have a 5:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist on Wednesdays during the school year and a once-a-month service of Jazz Vespers (no sermon) on Sunday evenings.

## OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

---

Christ Church currently holds Sunday School between the services from 10:10 - 10:50 a.m. There are three classrooms: 4yrs-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, and 6th-12th grade. The younger two rooms use the Spark Lectionary curriculum, and the youth use various resources from Augsburg Fortress.

A volunteer re-formed our youth group two years ago, and we now have 10 or so participants at most EYC events. Our acolyte ministry has 13 participants and is active at both Sunday morning services and for extraordinary liturgies.

There is great potential for ministry for preschoolers and their parents, as we have a large number of them in our pews and no consistent offerings.

## OUR COMMON LIFE

---

Christ Church has a clear commitment to mission and service, visible in our weekly free breakfast on Saturdays, the ministry of our Thrift Shop, our partnership with the Warwick Area Farmworkers Organization, and our numerous acts of outreach to our community.

This is also a parish that cares deeply about the practice of prayer and the spiritual life. Along with our regular services and the various groups of volunteers serving in aid of our liturgy, we have three spiritual direction groups who meet regularly. Recently, we have added a contemplative prayer service on Mondays.

Formation is a growing aspect of Christ Church's identity. We now have regular Wednesday adult formation classes following our Healing Eucharist, a monthly book club, baptismal preparation classes, and confirmation classes for ages 16 and up.

Finally, members of Christ Church love and care for one another in good times and bad. Our parish hall bustles at our weekly coffee hour, our men's and women's groups plan regular activities for both fun and service — and we throw a great party. But we also have nearly 30 participants in our pastoral care teams, which rotationally share the responsibility for caring for the sick, bereaved, and injured. These teams work in conjunction with our team of Eucharistic Visitors, who weekly visit the homebound with communion.

Christ Church is brimming with life, and we're able to do all of these things with only one priest and no support staff solely because of the empowered layfolks who step up and serve with every identified opportunity and need.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION

---

### **Qualifications**

- The fruits of the Spirit
- A heart to engage with our children, youth, and families in creative ways
- Proven ability to use technology and social media for promotion/engagement
- A collaborative, flexible, and professional demeanor
- A capacity and record of building and maintaining programs and relationships
- A priest (or soon-to-be ordained seminarian) of the Episcopal Church in good standing

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

#### *Liturgical*

- Share in the responsibilities of preaching and administering the Sacrament, along with preparing and officiating extraordinary liturgies as required.
- Collaborate with the Rector to plan and implement a new service time to allow more growth in attendance.

#### *Children, youth, and families*

- Lead and coordinate existing children and youth ministry activities, including Sunday school, EYC, and seasonal events.
- Create intentional opportunities for our children and youth to deepen their understanding and practice of the faith.
- Oversee acolyte and liturgical ministry for children and youth.
- Lead youth confirmation courses in partnership with the Rector.
- Recruit volunteers for leadership, and support existing volunteers in their ministries.
- Coordinate and collaborate with other parishes in Orange County and the Diocese of New York to plan and implement seasonal youth events.

#### *Parish life*

- Maintain regular office hours.
- With the Rector, share support to and presence among the ongoing ministries of Christ Church.
- With the Rector, assist with pastoral care needs of the parish.
- Participate in regional and diocesan events.

### **Compensation and benefits**

Compensation and benefits will comply to the minimum standards set by Diocese of New York.