



*St. Mary's Episcopal Church*  
24 Broadway • P.O. Box 299 • Rockport, Massachusetts 01966  
978-546-3421

## **PRIEST IN CHARGE SEARCH**

### **Parish Profile**

Position Title: Priest in charge  
Receiving Names until August 15, 2025

Full/Part-time: part-time (50%)

**Send resume and OTM profile to The Rev. Canon Gregory Perez,  
gperez@diomass.org**

Church Address: 24 Broadway, Rockport, MA 01966

Phone Number: (978) 546-3421

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### **PARISH STORY– History**

*(two to three short paragraphs are adequate)*

1. Tell us about when your church was founded and how have your parish and community changed over the years?

The building that is now St. Mary's Episcopal Church was originally a boat-building shop. The land and structure were formally dedicated on August 6, 1882. By 1885, St. Mary's had been organized as a mission church. It achieved parish status on February 5, 1960.

St. Mary's has had two priests in the past four decades. Following the retirement of the most recent in 2023, the parish has been energized by a strong and dedicated vestry, enthusiastically supported by parishioners. Lay leaders have conducted morning prayer, offered reflective sermons, and encouraged transparency and community engagement. Many church attendees have provided personal pastoral care during this transitional period. There is a renewed sense of community, with people volunteering to help maintain the church building and grounds, participating in an outreach initiative, holding fundraising events, and a gathering for a Mardi Gras supper.

2. Tell about one significant event that stands out in your history.

Rather than one significant event in St. Mary's history, a significant connection to the arts has occurred over time. Among our parishioners are acclaimed artists and musicians whose work and presence have enhanced church culture. We are fortunate to own sculptures by the renowned Walker Hancock and Richard Recchia. A more recent addition is a commissioned reredos by

Morgan Faulds Pike, which was dedicated in 2016. Our long-time connection to C.B. Fisk organ builders has brought musical and choir direction that enhance our worship services.

### **PARISH STORY – Present life)**

1. Tell about a time in your church's life which you recognize as success and a time of failure.

Parishioners express optimism and gratitude for our shared efforts to survive both the COVID pandemic and retirement of a long-time priest. We have found energy and resilience within our community that allow us to thrive spiritually and socially. As we evolve, we are becoming closer, more determined, and more appreciative of the goodness within our church.

We are becoming increasingly aware of past short-comings as we move forward. Given hindsight, parishioners and lay leadership might have been more forthright and open in expressing opinions about church matters. This realization has spurred us on to create avenues for safe, transparent discussion about community concerns. We note this growth with gratitude for our dedicated lay leadership.

2. Share your worship style and special worship moments you like.

Since its inception, St. Mary's has accommodated a range of conservative and liberal theological views and liturgical practices. In general, our congregation reflects "broad church" practices and embraces inclusivity, social justice, and the use of reason in religious understanding.

Parishioners are thoughtful and intellectually curious. Our congregation appreciates the consistency and tradition offered by the Rite II liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer. During the transition following the retirement of a longtime priest, we rediscovered the beauty of the Morning Prayer service on Sundays when a priest was not available, and parishioners have expressed satisfaction and delight in the periodic lay reflections that replace sermons. Music is integrated into reflections through collaboration between officiants and the music director. We are especially pleased with our St. Francis blessing of the animals for our town, our Meditation Garden open to the public, and our varied worship opportunities during Holy Week.

Most recent is a very successful collaboration with choirs, choir directors and congregation members of our neighboring churches: St. John's Episcopal, Gloucester, St. Paul Lutheran, Gloucester for the Easter Vigil service on April 19, 2025. Plans are already being formulated for our next collaboration.

3. What brings people back week after week?

People who regularly attend services agree that it is our warm welcome, inclusion, empathy, and demonstrated care for one another, above all, that bind them to St. Mary's. Beyond that, for some the Eucharist is central, for some music is integral to worship, for some outreach commitment matters most, and for many the familiarity of the liturgy is a comfort. Many seasonal residents

and summer visitors to our picturesque seaside village find a warm welcome and regularly join our worship when in town.

4. How do you care for each other?

The people of St. Mary's care for one another through prayer and active, tangible support. Our small Wednesday Morning Prayer group steadfastly maintains a list and offers intercessory prayer for those with many kinds of needs. We share our challenges and joys at weekly coffee hour, and we provide cards, food, rides, and companionship to one another. We acknowledge birthdays and other happy occasions. Recently, we have integrated a wedding and a vow-renewal into Sunday services. We are a close-knit community, hoping to become even more inclusive as we move forward together.

5. Tell us about outreach in your community?

Outreach is important to our parish. We provide bagged lunches twice a week for the local emergency shelter. We offer occasional special meals to a day shelter. Each week, we collect and deliver food for the nearby food pantry. We lead monthly services at our local nursing home. The church gives annual scholarships to high school graduates.

Our strong tradition of excellent choral music continues to be a de facto form of outreach. Every Advent, we carol at our local nursing home, the senior center, and for shut-ins. Many people have become involved with the church through our music.

We open our church to weekly AA meetings and local drama and music rehearsals and performances, and we are hoping to expand our reach.

6. What gifts and skills would you like your new leader to bring and what gifts and skill can you offer?

Informal conversation and several surveys reveal that our community is looking for a new leader who connects with us in meaningful, substantive ways. We hope for a leader to provide pastoral care, community engagement, and who is mindful of those less fortunate. We will do well with an outgoing, compassionate person who welcomes our opinions, is collaborative, transparent, and decisive when necessary. We express hunger for a leader who inspires us spiritually and appreciates how music enhances worship. Communication skills are important to us—we respond well to preaching that connects scripture to our lived experience and our current global environment.

The people of St. Mary's are eager to offer the priest in charge emotional and practical support, open communication, and a place in our close-knit inclusive community. We volunteer to maintain the church building and our fellowship activities. We wrestle together with the challenges of our faith and we feel deep gratitude for our parish family.

## COMPENSATION & HOUSING

Total Compensation following Massachusetts Diocesan guidelines: \$69,000 to \$70,000, which includes pension contribution. Housing allowance, health insurance and other benefits negotiable within these parameters. Two weeks vacation.

Compensation available for new position: \$69,754.50 (Including pension, etc.) See below.

Negotiable? (y/n): N

Housing Allowance or Rectory: Housing allowance \$0.00

SECA reimbursement options (n/a, Full, Half, Other): Half of 15%

SECA reimbursement details: Pension plan (in compliance?): Pension paid directly by St Mary's

Healthcare options (negotiable?): See below

Dental: See below

Housing Equity Allowance in Budget: Not currently

Annual Equity amount: See below

Vacation weeks: 1 week

Continuing education weeks: 0

Continuing education funding in budget: \$ and/or comments. See below

Additional compensation comments

The compensation for this position is provided on a semi-monthly basis and includes the following:

- **Base Salary:** \$55,690.55
- **Church Pension Contribution:** \$10,564.25
- **Health Plan Contribution:** \$3,000.00
- **Travel Reimbursement:** \$500.00

The total annual compensation amounts to **\$69,745.50**, covering responsibilities including three monthly Sunday services, office hours, and additional pastoral duties as agreed upon. The estimated workload for this role is approximately **22 hours per week**.

In addition to the above compensation, the position maintains control over the Rector's Discretionary Fund.