



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 9, 2017)

St. Monica's Episcopal Church, Southwest Florida

7070 Immokalee Rd., Naples, FL 34119-8845, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 09/30/17.

mdurning@episcopalswfl.org

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
192	4	1	1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$90000			
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
			We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family			
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		2 (standard)	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
		Yes	Yes

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

St. Monica's recently had a joyful 25th Anniversary celebration, the culmination of a year of focused community involvement. The closing hymn of the celebration service was "All are Welcome," by Marty Haugen, which is the theme song for our parish. "Let us build a house where love can dwell...All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place." Our former rector had a heart for hospitality and the quality of welcome has inspired and permeated our parish for 17 years. At St. Monica's, that welcome encompasses all who come to our doors. Another inspirational factor in the Anniversary celebration's success was our new and improved music ministry. St. Monica's has progressed from a weak music program at first, to a better one, and now to an inspiring and masterful music ministry. Wonderful singers have joined our church just to sing under our new Music Director. It was partly the strength of organ and choir uplifting the congregational singing that brought tears to many eyes as we sang "All are Welcome" together and then went out in joy to love and serve the Lord.

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

Young families are all around us in North Naples. We need to identify and develop programs that attract younger families, with small children, who would bring future leadership to St. Monica's. Every two years, St. Monica's sends a group of 6-12 teenagers on a religious pilgrimage as a culmination of their J2A confirmation preparation. They return with a renewed sense of purpose, spirituality and connection with their church. They are our future in so many ways. About three years ago, St. Monica's established an Endowment Fund, now containing over \$40,000, which is earmarked for special ministry activities. Our Rector has also offered regular Prudent Provision Planning (P3) programs to assist individuals in advance planning for legal, medical, and funeral planning. As the fund grows, we will invite groups or individuals to apply for endowment support. Additions to our music ministry, Latino ministry, youth ministry, or some other activity are examples of future endowment gifts.

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

pastoral skills, financial administration, Heart for Hospitality, Spiritual Leadership/Preaching

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

St. Monica's is Broad Church in style, centered on two weekend Rite II services, Saturday 5:00pm and Sunday Morning 9:30am, with music, either hand bells or chancel choir, a Sunday Rite I, non-musical 7:45am, and a Latino Rite II service with a contemporary musical flair at 11:30. A Wednesday 12 Noon Holy Eucharist with Healing prayers is held in the Chapel, with soft recorded music following Contemplative Prayer at 11am. Service is participatory, intimate and powerful. (Link here to Healing Litany and Closing Prayer _____.) Annual traditions: Church at the Beach and St. Francis' Blessing of the Animals. Grounded in traditional Episcopal liturgy, we prefer a 10-20 minute, biblical, lectionary-based sermon which is thought provoking, focused on local social issues. Our current music ministry, which includes a chancel choir and hand bell choir, is directed by a masterful, experienced Music Director. Liturgically and musically, we worship with joy, humor and a sense of deep gratitude.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Aqui se habla Espanol. We have confirmed members from Argentina, Cuba, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and Venezuela, as well as Latinos born here in the United States. Most are young, professional, and bilingual. We are currently the only Episcopal church offering a Spanish language worship service and fellowship in the Naples Deanery. We tend to be a more theologically and socially liberal community than the other six Episcopal churches in our Deanery. Through our newsletters and social media, we invite members and guests to participate in activities and programs that inspire us to become involved in ministries within St. Monica's and in the larger community. For example, we provide opportunities to train as Stephen Ministers, altar guild, flower guild and servers, offer ongoing EFM classes, and invite speakers to the Women's Group.

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

Spiritually, we were immersed in a program several years ago called 'Unbinding', which brought most of our community into a prayerful, evangelistic relationship with each other. It turned St. Monica's into a 'praying community' and gave us the words to use, in comfortable and joyful ways, to invite new people to join us. Ongoing groups meet weekly for Bible study, EFM and contemplative prayer. Stephen Ministers, extensions of the Rector's reach, provide ongoing, confidential emotional, and spiritual support to those experiencing grief, illness, loneliness or other problems including a Christmas Hope service. Weekly meetings of our pastoral care team consider the needs of particular parishioners and how best to meet them. Our Health Ministry members, volunteer parish nurses, and lay healing team offer anointing and prayer once a month at all services. We hope to become certified as a Blue Zones church community in 2017. A myriad of social events joins us in fellowship with others. Monthly activities include 75+ Lunch Bunch with the Rector, Women of St. Monica's and Men's group dinners. We celebrate with our Latino members at the Fiesta in August.

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

At this time, Stephen Ministry is our primary means of offering pastoral care to those beyond St. Monica's. We participate with Presbyterian and UCC churches to provide a common training program for new Stephen Ministers, building connections between the churches. We sometimes provide a Stephen Minister to serve a Presbyterian/UCC care-receiver when there is no good match in their program, and vice versa. We have served as temporary supervision "home" to a Stephen Minister from another Episcopal Church that does not have a formal program. We have also matched a Stephen Minister with an outside person who contacted us. The Christmas Hope service each December also draws people who are not members of the parish. In the past, St. Monica's provided a simplified church service in several nursing homes, but the prime movers of that program have moved away.

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

St. Monica's is known as a Caring Church. A recent parish survey revealed that in addition to involvement in St. Monica's ministries, parishioners support more than 80 local and national organizations and at least 5 international programs, covering a wide range of services. Supported organizations provide food and other basic necessities for families, diapers for working families not qualifying for other programs, school supplies, underwear and socks for the students of one of the poorest schools in Collier County, and dental supplies for low income seniors. Two parishioners served on the most recent Diocesan Bishop Nominating Committee and we provided lay deanery representation on Diocesan Council the past nine years. The Albergue de Bueno Samaritano in the DR is supported in the form of school scholarships and working deanery mission trips. Tumaini USA provides help to AIDS orphans in Tanzania, providing dresses for girls enabling them to attend school while financial contributions provide bicycles for transportation. Miracles in Action provides jobs to families and knitted hats to children to keep them warm in the cold mountains of Guatemala.

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

Our Latino ministry began as a series of small events that happened over a period of time: a nice couple came to the church office asking what time was our Spanish language service. We had no Spanish language service at the time. A lay leader attended a workshop at the Diocesan convention and was inspired to propose a Latino ministry. A demographic report revealed that there were over 20,000 Spanish-speaking people within a 20-minute drive of our church. We 'connected the dots' and realized that these small events were meaningful. To accommodate those Spanish-speaking people, most of whom also spoke English, we needed to offer a worship service in Spanish. We now have a core group of 30-35 members who worship at that service and who are integrated into our church family. We offer the only Spanish language worship service in the Naples Deanery. Additional information about our Latino ministry is available by contacting Padre Hipolito Fernandez Reina through the church office.

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

Our Annual stewardship program occurs each fall. Proportional giving, in the form of an annual pledge, is recommended. The Vestry and the Rector encourage members to honor their financial responsibility so that the Vestry can develop a sound, mission-based annual budget. For several years now, parishioners have been invited to help write a month-long prayer journal, following the stewardship theme. Each parishioner receives that prayer journal in the month leading up to stewardship Sunday when we turn in our pledge cards. Our prayer journals provide a daily, prayerful and thoughtful path toward making those annual pledge decisions. We also offer opportunities to make end-of-life, planned giving decisions that will support St. Monica's in the future. We have an ongoing building fund, money set aside for future construction of a new worship space, additional classrooms and office space. This building campaign was put on hold when the recession happened, forcing us to postpone half of our plans. Members are aware that the building fund is still open for contributions. Our goal is to grow the congregation and complete the construction project in the next few years.

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

A few years ago, the Rector sent a letter to the parish announcing the resignation of our part-time associate rector. The Rector could not provide any information to the parish—it was a human resource issue and confidential. This was done in consultation with the Vestry, the Bishop, and his staff. There was a group of individuals, supporting the associate, who wrote letters to the Bishop and to all parishioners, criticizing the Rector and her leadership among other complaints. Most of the parishioners supported the Rector and her decision to not release confidential information. Those who were unhappy did leave, but the parish has continued to grow. This situation was difficult for everyone. Several who left have since returned. Moving forward, with love in our hearts and trust in our leadership, we learned that we can get through adversity as a church family.

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?

Seventeen years ago, the members of St. Monica's called a female vicar, who became our first Rector. Although she was not, by any means, the first female priest in the Diocese, she was the first in our Deanery. We flourished under her pastoral care and guidance, to the point that we recognize that clergy gender is no longer an issue for us. We understand that liturgy knows no gender, and that love and compassion can come from any heart, male or female. That said, we feel that it's good to have gender balance among those serving at the altar. We have learned that we want to be a welcoming church family, embracing all. We are now blessed with a bishop in Southwest Florida who has led us through change involving same gender marriage and gay priests and bishops. We have experienced no significant conflict on these issues at St. Monica's.



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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Kathryn M. Schillreff	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2000-01	2016-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Rev, Dr. John S. Adler	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1991-01	1998-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
	3	2

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
5	20	1	13

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: www.stmonicasnaples.org

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English, Spanish

Provide Worship or Classes in:

References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Dabney T.
Smith**

Phone: 941-556-0315

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Michael P.
Durning**

E-mail: mdurning@episcopalswfl.org Phone: 941-556-0315

Current Warden/Board Chair

Mr. Matt Devlin

mdevlin@stmonicasnaples.org

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Suzanne Bodley

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader