

Vicar or Lay Pastor of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Position Description

St. Matthew's has blessed National City and its surrounding communities for more than 130 years. We are a church led by lay people of color, which sets us apart (sadly!) from nearly all other Episcopal churches. We would describe ourselves as both multicultural and intercultural, with a mix of 1st, 2nd and 3rd generation Americans who have continued the practice and preservation of the cultures of our ancestors while also learning from each other and watching the natural evolution via their intermingling firsthand. More specifically, we are a mix of first, second, and third generation Filipino-American (of largely Igorot ethnicity) and Latino parishioners.

We believe that if the wider Church is to live up to its aspiration to more fully embody Beloved Community we need to invest much, much more in creating well-resourced spaces for lay people of color to do ministry together. We consider ourselves one innovative example in this regard, as our diocese has committed significant staff time and financial resources to support our growth and learning. We are seeking a leader who can recognize, honor, harmonize, draw out and develop our gifts for mission so that we may more richly bless the world around us. This leader may be ordained and would thus serve as our priest in charge of our mission congregation. Or this leader may be a lay pastor. In this case, the lay pastor would not conduct those duties exclusively assigned to a priest such as absolution, blessings, and consecration of Holy Eucharist. The diocese would then make provision for a priest to serve a more limited sacramental role alongside the lay pastor, who would serve as the primary leader and pastor of the congregation.

Summary:

Provide leadership that results in spiritual depth in congregants' lives, an expanding missional impact on the South Bay, numerical increase of those participating in Sunday worship and collaboration with the surrounding neighborhood for the thriving of the community and congregation.

Primary Tasks:

- Lead weekly worship according to the Book of Common Prayer. If the leader is a lay pastor, worship will occur with the supervision and participation of an Episcopal priest.
- Deliver weekly sermons based ordinarily on the lectionary readings

- Supervise the work of other participants in worship, including readers, lay eucharistic ministers, choirs, musicians, etc.
- Coordinate baptism, marriage, burial, confirmation as appropriate
- Build relationships with persons and institutions in the neighborhood and more broadly in National City
- Develop new expressions of worship and ministry that accommodate the needs of the surrounding community
- Perform the administrative tasks required of the ministry, including goal setting and evaluative reports of ministry initiatives
- Maintain ministry partnerships within the diocese and participate in diocesan life

Required Knowledge Skills & Abilities:

- Compelling spiritual life and a passion for the Gospel
- Ability to communicate the Gospel in ways that others find engaging and relevant
- Spiritual maturity, self-awareness, and authenticity
- Ability to lead, organize, and equip others in ministry
- Entrepreneurial leadership
- The ability to lead through change
- Ability to develop a good rapport with diverse groups
- Ability to work in collaboration with others
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to use social media tools to promote the ministry
- Professional accountability and transparency
- Cross-cultural competence

Required Education & Experience:

- Ordination in the Episcopal Church or a Church in Communion with the Episcopal Church preferred
- MDiv or equivalent Masters Degree
- Spanish language fluency preferred
- Demonstrated ability to gather community and start a ministry
- Two or more years of leadership experience
- Familiarity with Filipino congregations and communities

Additional church profile information from our OTM Posting is available by emailing The Rev. Canon Gwynn Lynch: glynch@edsd.org