



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Oct 12, 2020)

St. Brigid's, Nazareth, Bethlehem

310 Madison Avenue, Nazareth, PA 18064, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
45	1	0	1
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
\$38347	\$24399	\$11223	
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
\$2725	\$40000		We're in compliance with CPF requirements.
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Negotiable		Yes	
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		Other	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
up to/including \$500/year	No		

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

The recent shutdown of our churches due to the pandemic has had an affect on all of us at St. Brigid's. We may not be coming together physically as a congregation, but we have become closer, more caring, and supportive with each other during this terrible time. We have had drive by birthday celebrations, numerous phone calls and Facetiming, cards and letters are being sent to our shut-ins, and cakes, breads, and food are made and shared by many of our parishioners. It is humbling to see the love and caring that has brought us all together at this difficult time.

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

Asking for guidance from the Lord to help lead us in everything we do to prepare for the future of St. Brigid's. To make our mission clear and precise for reaching outside of our church and becoming more active in helping others in our community. Working harder to be more evangelistic with our neighbors and friends. More work needs to be done on getting young families with children to want to join our congregation and worship at St. Brigid's.

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

humor, honest, enthusiastic, resourceful, creative, innovative, spiritually sensitive, knowledgable

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

Our worship service is rooted in the Book of Common Prayer. We use different colors, rites, and prayers for the changing seasons and occasions throughout the year. Our Christmas season is observed with Advent programs, lighted candles, and Christmas hymns sung by our choir. Easter week is observed with services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Lenten programs are also offered and well attended during Lent.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

We rely on our Time and Talents campaign every November. People then have the opportunity to join the different ministries provided by our church. From time to time we do tap people on the shoulder to join certain ministries if we see that they show an aptitude or a talent for that ministry.

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

At St. Brigid's we truly care for one another. We aren't just parishioners, we are good friends. At coffee hour after service, this is where we can sit and discuss with each other our problems, family issues, celebrate anniversaries and birthdays. The women get together every few months to see a movie or have a women's retreat at someone's house. The men's group would get together once a month on a Saturday morning and have breakfast at a diner. This would open the door for many conversations on everything from our families to our faith.

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

For parishioners who cannot attend Sunday service due to illness or other health issues, communion is brought to them on a bi-weekly basis. Birthday cards and Thinking of You cards are mailed out to them by many of our parishioners. Phone calls are made to them a few times each month by our Sr. Warden and other members of our congregation. Because of the shutdown of churches, we have had virtual Sunday serves and they are able to watch and connect with us. Our shut-ins are never forgotten and always thought about at St. Brigid's.

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

Our church is very involved with the area food bank. We continually support them throughout the year with food and monetary donations. We have supplied coats, hats, and gloves to the New Bethany Ministries in Bethlehem. At Christmas we have purchased gift cards and presents for needy families. Our youth group has donated their time to animal shelters, filling backpacks with supplies for kids entering the foster care system, and packing bags of food at the Nazareth food bank.

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

Six years ago our church helped out a small Hispanic congregation. We charge a modest rental fee so they can have their worship service in Spanish on Sunday nights in our church. On Wednesday nights they have bible study for adults and religion classes for their children. It's very rewarding knowing that two different congregations can come together to worship in our church. The Rev. Robert Portalatin 484-226-6337 The Rev. Nereida Portalatin 610-392-2509

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

Practicing stewardship at St. Brigid's directly affects the impact on the financial health of our church. We implement a stewardship plan every fall. For three or four Sundays different people will discuss and engage in topics of time, talent, and tithing. It shapes us in a way to be the most giving, generous, and charitable church.

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

In the past ten years we have had little to no conflict in our church. When there have been disagreements within our congregation, it is addressed by our rector, our wardens, or our vestry. If there is a concern or issue by a parishioner or parishioners, it is immediately handled or looked into. At St. Brigid's, we feel that everyone's opinion, suggestion, or concern is important and respected.

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 the Episcopal Church instituted ordaining gay and lesbian priests, some of our parishioners did not feel comfortable with this decision. Some people even left St. Brigid's. But the large majority of our congregation accepted and welcomed this change. What we learned was that when the church institutes change for the betterment of people, it affects the congregation differently and that must be addressed.

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Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. William Martin	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2011-01	2020-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Bob Schenkel Jr.	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2004-03	2009-12

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Judith Snyder	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1999-10	2003-10

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: <http://www.stbrigidspa.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

> <https://diobeth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/St-Brigids-Profile.pdf>

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

610-691-5655 kevin@diobeth.org**The Rt. Rev. Kevin D.
Nichols**

Diocesan Transition Minister

610-691-5655 ext 225 megan@diobeth.org**The Rev. Megan Dembi**

Current Warden/Board Chair

Tony Bernado

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Scott Fuller

Search Chair

Bill Harker

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader