

ASSOCIATE RECTOR

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Decatur, Alabama**



St. John's Episcopal Church in Decatur, Alabama, seeks a faithful, energetic, and collaborative priest to serve as our next Associate Rector. This is an opportunity to join a healthy, growing parish where worship is vibrant, lay leadership is strong, and the people of God are deeply committed to serving Christ in the world. Our parish is known for its warm hospitality, strong outreach ministries, commitment to spiritual formation, and joyful life together. We are blessed with active lay leadership, a dedicated staff, and a congregation eager to grow in faith and deepen its impact in the community.

The Associate Rector will serve as a key partner in ministry with the Rector, clergy, staff, and lay leaders, helping to strengthen and expand the parish's ministries of pastoral care, outreach, evangelism, discipleship, and congregational life.

Who We Are Seeking

We are looking for a priest who is excited about building relationships, equipping lay leaders, and helping people connect more deeply with Christ and one another. The ideal candidate will bring a joyful spirit, strong emotional intelligence, and a collaborative approach to ministry.

Candidates should demonstrate:

- Ordination (or imminent ordination) as a priest in The Episcopal Church
- A deep and vibrant spiritual life grounded in prayer and sacramental tradition
- Strong preaching, teaching, and liturgical leadership skills
- A pastoral heart and a genuine love for people
- The ability to build relationships across generations and life experiences
- Experience in fostering and supporting lay leadership
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Creativity, flexibility, and enthusiasm for parish ministry
- A collaborative leadership style that values teamwork and shared ministry

Primary Areas of Ministry

Outreach and Community Engagement

Provide clergy leadership for the parish's outreach ministries and help strengthen St. John's presence in the wider community.

Responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with the Outreach Committee to support service projects and mission initiatives
- Building relationships with community partners
- Identifying opportunities for the parish to respond to local needs and serve our neighbors
- Encouraging parish-wide participation in outreach and mission

Pastoral Care

Share in the pastoral care of the parish alongside the Rector and dedicated lay leaders.

Responsibilities include:

- Supporting and overseeing lay pastoral ministries, including Eucharistic Visitors, hospital visitation, meal ministries, and bereavement care
- Visiting parishioners in homes, hospitals, and care facilities
- Providing compassionate pastoral support during times of illness, transition, grief, and celebration
- Helping develop new pastoral initiatives as needs arise

New Member Integration and Evangelism

Help newcomers find a place of belonging and encourage a culture of invitation and hospitality.

Responsibilities include:

- Developing pathways for welcoming, connecting, and integrating newcomers into parish life
- Supporting evangelism initiatives, including Cursillo, Kairos, and emerging outreach opportunities

Parish Life and Congregational Engagement

Work alongside lay leaders to cultivate meaningful opportunities for fellowship, connection, and community building.

Responsibilities include:

- Supporting the Parish Life Committee
- Encouraging participation in parish events and gatherings
- Strengthening relationships across generations within the congregation

Lay Leadership Development

Identify, equip, and encourage lay leaders for ministry.

Responsibilities include:

- Mentoring emerging leaders
- Supporting ministry leaders and committees
- Encouraging parishioners to discover and use their spiritual gifts in service to God's mission

Worship and Liturgical Leadership

Participate fully in the sacramental and liturgical life of the parish.

Responsibilities include:

- Preaching regularly
- Presiding at Sunday and weekday liturgies
- Assisting in the planning and leadership of worship

Parish and Diocesan Leadership

Serve as a member of the leadership team and participate actively in the life of the Diocese of Alabama.

Responsibilities include:

- Collaborating with clergy and staff in planning, communication, and administration
- Participating in weekly staff meetings and regular meetings with the Rector
- Representing St. John's at diocesan gatherings, Clericus meetings, and other events

Additional Responsibilities

The Associate Rector will share in the broad and joyful work of parish ministry and may assume additional responsibilities based on personal gifts, experience, and emerging parish needs.

Application Process

If you sense God may be calling you to serve alongside us in this exciting season of ministry, we would love to hear from you.

Please submit the following materials to the Rev. Chase Ackerman, Rector (chase@stjohnsdecatur.org)

- Resume or Curriculum Vitae
- Current Episcopal Church Vocation Hub Profile
- A letter of interest describing your sense of call and how your gifts and experience align with the mission and ministry of St. John's Episcopal Church
- Three Professional References

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.