



August 14, 2026

Dear Calvary Parish,

After twelve and a half years as your rector and thirty years as an ordained priest, I have decided to retire from full-time ministry. My last Sunday at Calvary will be September 27.

This decision comes from a place of gratitude. I love this parish deeply. Serving as your rector and priest has been one of the great privileges of my life. I leave with profound thanks for what God has done among us together.

After extended reflection, I have become convinced that the work God called me to do at Calvary is now complete. Today Calvary is a healthier, stronger, more confident, and more diverse congregation. Nearly half of our congregation has joined us during the past five years. We are welcoming more children and young adults than we have seen in decades. We have renewed our campus through a successful capital campaign, strengthened our outreach to Pittsburgh, and placed the parish on much firmer financial footing.

This moment feels to me like a graduation. We have been together for more than twelve years and have grown together and are now both ready for what comes next.

Most importantly, Calvary knows who it is because it knows whose it is. Jesus remains at the center. I leave with confidence and the deep contentment of seeing Calvary restored, healthy, and ready for the future. Faithful leadership also means knowing when it is time to let go.

My immediate plans are simple. I look forward to spending time with my family, reading, writing, and learning some new things for a season. After that, I will remain open to whatever opportunities God may place before me. If that includes helping another congregation through a focused period of restoration, I would welcome the chance to serve again.

There will be time in the weeks ahead to express my gratitude more fully. Today, I simply offer my thanks. Thank you to every member of this parish and to the great cloud of witnesses before us. Thank you to the Vestries and Wardens with whom I have served. Thank you to our gifted staff. It has been an extraordinary privilege to walk this journey with you.

Although I will no longer be your rector or your priest, I hope to remain your friend.

With deep affection and gratitude,

The Rev. Jonathon Jensen
Rector XVI
Calvary Episcopal Church

August 14, 2026

Dear Calvary Parish,

As we look around our beloved church today, we see a parish transformed by faith, fellowship, and love. For over twelve years, the Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen has walked alongside us as our shepherd, guide, and friend. It is with hearts full of both deep gratitude and gentle sadness that we write to share with you that Jonathon has announced his retirement, effective September 27, 2026.

We are thankful for the time we have shared. Jonathon has led Calvary through a remarkable period in our history. His faithful preaching, pastoral care, vision, and leadership have strengthened this parish in countless ways. Under his ministry, Calvary has grown in confidence, welcomed many new members, and emerged as a healthy and vibrant congregation. We give thanks to God for all that he and Natalia have given to this parish.

We invite the whole parish to join us on Sunday, September 27, as we celebrate Jonathon's ministry and wish him God's blessing in retirement. Following the 11:00 a.m. service, which is also our Patronal Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, there will be a festive reception for the whole parish.

In the coming weeks, a large card will be available in the Parish Hall for everyone to sign and leave a personal note of thanks. If you would like to contribute to a retirement purse as an expression of your gratitude, you may make a check payable to Calvary Church with "Rector Purse" in the memo line or make an online gift designated for the Rector Purse. The presentation will be made at the celebration on September 27.

We also want to assure the parish that Calvary is well prepared for this transition. We are blessed with outstanding clergy and staff, and the day-to-day ministry of the parish will continue without interruption.

In the weeks ahead, the Vestry will begin planning for the interim period and the search for our next rector. We will keep the congregation informed throughout the process and ask for your prayers.

This is a significant moment in the life of our parish, one filled with gratitude, hope, and confidence in God's faithfulness. We ask your prayers for Jonathon and Natalia as they prepare for this next chapter, and for the Vestry and the whole parish as together we discern God's future for Calvary.

Faithfully,

Jim Cassaro, Senior Warden and David Riehl, Junior Warden, on behalf of the Vestry of
Calvary Episcopal Church