

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Dear St. Brendan's

I want to bring you, my fellow parishioners, current on where St. Brendan's Episcopal Church stands with regards to our search for a new priest.

First, I want to provide a brief timeline of significant milestones regarding our attempts to obtain a priest for St Brendan's.

June 2023	Mother Caroline retires
June 2023	Establishment, with Diocesan blessing and Bishop Training a Worship Leader approach with reserve sacraments
July 2023	Establish a Search Committee and distribute a questionnaire to all parishioners seeking input as to what we, the congregation, want St Brendan's to look like going forward. The Search committee also develops a profile of St. Brendan's so that with help from the Diocese a solicitation for a priest can be created and distributed
Jan 2024	Received calculation worksheet from Diocese of Alaska. Calculation showed that for a full-time priest for a church St Brendan's size the annual compensation would be approximately \$124,000
Jun 2024	Advertisement for Part-time Priest published in Episcopal News Service
Jan 2025	FR: Gordon advises Holy Trinity he will be retiring at their next annual meeting
Apr 2025	St. Brendan Vestry approached by Holy Trinity Senior Warden with discussion regarding consideration of a shared Priest
Oct 2025	Received first response to advertisement inquiring of position
Nov 2025	Inquiry withdrawn due to spousal health
Jan 2026	At the annual meeting the question "The future of St. Brendan's, what are we seeking – where are we headed?" was discussed
Feb 2026	Received second response to our priest ad
May 2026	Advised by Diocese to not pursue second inquiry due to immigration and citizenship issues
June 2026	Vestry invited to dinner at Holy Trinity to discuss a shared priest/ministry

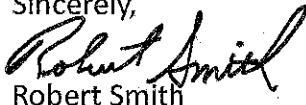
That brings us up to date. Before the vestry proceeds any further, in any direction, we would like to get a reaffirmation of what you, the parishioners, would like to see at St. Brendan's. There are several options we could pursue, bearing in mind they all have varying implications, including financial considerations. Based on our current revenue stream (Pledges/Facility Rents) we (St. Brendan's) would be hard pressed to support a half-time priest. Some possible options I have considered include:

- 1) Continue as we are with Worship Leaders with reserve sacraments and advertise for a part time priest
- 2) Use Worship Leaders with reserve sacraments and drop advertising
- 3) Work with Holy Trinity on some sort of shared priest arrangement/agreement
  - a) such as one or two Sunday(s) a month plus pastoral care as needed with Worship leaders filling in on Sundays missed
  - b) Finding/seek a Priest who would essentially be a full-time priest and do services every Sunday at both churches
- 4) Seek an independent approved Supply priest that we would pay to fly in Seattle/Anchorage at a given interval and fill in with our Worship Leaders

The Vestry has a list of questions/concerns and responses that came up at the joint vestry dinner with Holy Trinity on June 10<sup>th</sup> dealing with a shared ministry available if anyone is interested.

There will be a potluck on Sunday, June 28 to discuss the direction you would like to see St. Brendan's Episcopal Church pursue. Once again thank you for your thoughts and prayers as the vestry continues to look for a solution to our pastoral needs.

Sincerely,



Robert Smith

Senior Warden