

March 17, 2019: Wardens' letter debriefing parish forums, profile status & other matters

Dear Members and Friends of the Church of the Advent:

We would like to thank all members of the Parish who participated in the Search Committee's forums last month. Along with the questionnaire, these forums provided a critical opportunity to continue our conversation as we search for our next Rector. As this process moves forward over the coming months, we would like to remind everyone of our responsibility to each other as a Parish family to continue in the same mode that marked the discussions in the forums: respectful of the views and the good faith of our fellow Parishioners, and mindful that our task is first and foremost one of discernment of that particular priest who will be the Rector of our particular Parish.

The questionnaire and the forums also provided valuable insight to the Search Committee in its work, including preparation of the Parish profile and design of the application contents and procedures. The Vestry has now reviewed and approved a draft of the Parish profile. The next step is for our regional canon, the Rt. Rev'd Carol Gallagher, and for Bishop Gates himself to review and comment on the profile. Once their comments are received and addressed, we will then have a final version of the profile to post as part of the materials used to solicit applications. The process with the diocese could take another month or so. That is the point at which the Profile will be final and public. We know that everyone is eager to see the final Profile, and appreciate **your continued patience. Don't worry: it's coming soon! In the interim**, the Search Committee is working on the design of the application packet and its process for reviewing submissions.

In the coming weeks the Vestry will also consider a proposal for renovation of the Rectory. This work is long overdue. The building has not received serious attention for several generations now. This will be a significant cost for the Parish, but one that is necessary and important. We will provide further details once the Vestry has had an opportunity to deliberate on the proper path. Many thanks to Tom and Carolyn McDermott and the property committee for the many hours of work they have put into developing the plans and proposals the Vestry will consider. We remain enormously grateful to Father Welch for his presence among us and his pastoral leadership in our transition. His service as our Interim is a great blessing to the Advent. Thanks also to the Parish clergy and staff for their continued hard work. Please take the opportunity to thank and support each and every one of them whenever you can: they deserve it.

In addition to our corporate and private devotions for Lent, please do make time for the Lenten Quiet Day on Saturday April 6, to be led by the Rev'd Canon Bill Parnell, Canon to the Ordinary. And also remember that our fourteenth rector, the Rev'd Andrew C. Mead, will preach from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. May our Lenten fasting and preparation bring us to a joyous Easter feast.

Faithfully your brothers in Christ,

C. Thomas Brown & Paul J. Roberts,
Wardens.