

The Third Sunday after Pentecost, 18 June 2023

Dear Georgians and friends,

With God in our hearts, I am excited to tell you that St George's has called a new Rector to be the 20th Rector of our historic church. We've been without a Rector for almost two years and although we have done marvelously well during the interregnum, a church needs a Rector.

The next Rector of St George's is The Reverend Thomas John Pettigrew, currently Rector of Church of the Holy Cross, Warrensburg, NY.

Fr Pettigrew is a native of this area, growing up in Stillwater, Saratoga County. He did his undergraduate work at SUNY Albany, graduating with a B.A. degree in European History. In his younger days, he attended Bethesda Episcopal Church in Saratoga, learning under their Rector, The Reverend Thomas T. Parke, who was a former Curate at St George's. Fr Pettigrew quickly found his niche in the life of the parish and was encouraged to consider ordination to the sacred priesthood.

Fr Pettigrew accepted that Call and attended Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Nashotah, WI, certainly the pre-eminent Anglo-Catholic seminary in the Episcopal Church today. Fr Pettigrew graduated *cum laude* in 2011 with a Master of Divinity degree. He served a time as Deacon at Christ Church, Cooperstown and later at Bethesda Church until he was ordained to the priesthood in December, 2011.

Fr Pettigrew accepted a Call as Rector to the Church of the Holy Cross in Warrensburg, where he has served for 10 years. It is notable that a son of St George's, The Reverend Canon Charles B. King, Jr. preceded Fr Pettigrew as Rector of Holy Cross, as did an interim assignment by The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang, the 16th Rector of St George's and Dean Emeritus of the Cathedral of All Saints. You can almost see God's hand at work in forging the connections that were unknowingly developing between Fr Pettigrew and St George's.

Fr Pettigrew is 39 years old. He is theologically strong, celebrates the Mass beautifully, chants well and preaches compelling and thoughtful sermons without notes.

He serves on the Diocesan Council and also serves as a member of the Diocesan Profile & Search Committee, discerning God's will as they seek the 10th Bishop of Albany.

In his spare time, Fr Pettigrew is an avid ham radio buff, a lover of the outdoors and a lover of history, enjoying roles in historical re-enactments. He also is a certified EMT, doing nighttime ambulance duty each week as a way of staying grounded in the community.

In Fr Pettigrew, you will find a warm and welcoming priest - a person of discerning thought and strong faith, a critical thinker, combining personal compassion and vitality.



The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, 20th Rector-elect of St. George's Church, as he visited St George's on 6 January 2022 to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany.

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His starting date at St. George's is set for September 3rd. If you are an active congregant, you will soon meet Fr Pettigrew at church. If you have fallen away a bit, why not give it another try? You have friends here who would love to see you!

Please warmly welcome Fr Pettigrew to St George's. Working together, we foresee great things as we grow God's church and spread the Faith!

For the Wardens and Vestry of St. George's Church
David Kennison
Senior Warden



Here is a letter to the people of St. George's from Fr Pettigrew:

June 18th, 2023

Dear People and Friends of Saint George's,

It's truly a delight to send my greetings to you today. I am humbled and honored to be called to serve as the 20th Rector of Saint George's Church. I want to thank the Wardens and Vestry for the great and tireless work of discernment that it takes to seek and find a new rector. While I am full of all sorts of emotion in leaving Holy Cross, my first cure and home for ten years now, I am truly excited to be joining you at St George's.

I am grateful that in our time together the vestry shared their hopes and dreams for the future, as well as their insights on the challenges which may be lying ahead. I am mindful that St Paul tells us that "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..." So, I am confident that God has many good works prepared for us to walk in and an abundance of joyful blessings in store for us as we seek to walk the path he has set before us.

While I won't officially start until September 3rd, I will be in close touch with the Wardens to work out all those things which make for a smooth transition. Please keep me in your prayers as I will be keeping you all in mine. I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

*Faithfully yours in Christ,
Thomas+*
