

## Meet St. Mary's New Rector!

The Reverend Ann Lovejoy Johnson comes to St. Mary's after serving as the Priest in Charge of Trinity Church in Torrington, Connecticut. For the past three-plus years, Ann has led Trinity through a transformative time: building leadership capacity, significantly expanding pastoral ministries, and taking on a capital campaign to replace the 116-year old sanctuary roof. Ann is a "breath of fresh air" and a vital pastoral presence. Participating in God's mission while being imaginative and bold describes Ann's sense of calling.

Prior to coming to the Episcopal Church in CT, Ann served two parishes in West Virginia. As Interim Priest in Charge at St. Mark's Church in St. Albans, WV she led them through changes in their stewardship and financial practices, strengthened their leadership, and restructured the ministries of their Jubilee Center. St. John's Church in Charleston, WV, called Ann as their Associate Rector in 2009. She then stayed on, becoming their Priest in Charge, after the rector accepted a new call. The redevelopment of the children and youth formation was the initial focus of Ann's position with St. John's.

Before moving to WV, Ann served as the rector of St. Philip's Church in Wiscasset, Maine where she was ordained priest in 2003. During these six years, Ann led St. Philip's through a time of music exploration, developing their lay leadership and administrative practices. Ann has a deep love of pastoral ministries and of the Episcopal Church's desire to celebrate tradition while transforming in fresh new ways.

Ann is a graduate of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. After seminary, Ann was on staff of St. Andrew's Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan where she participated in an extensive pastoral training residency and was the coordinating minister of *Oasis Michigan* a ministry initiative bridging the Episcopal Church and the gay community. Ann's professional life before seminary was in the fields of substance abuse treatment and volunteer administration. Her undergraduate degree is from the University of Rhode Island where she majored in Human Science and Services.

Ann is the blessed mother of two children, her daughter Azalech, turning 11, (pronounced "ah-ZAH-lech") and son Muse, turning 9, (pronounced "moo-SAY"). Ann traveled to Ethiopia, where they were born, to bring each of them home, her daughter in 2008 and her son in 2011. She enjoys sharing her adoption journeys and parenting adventures. Ann's roots in CT go back to her baptism at Trinity Church, Southport. Her move to CT was a welcome "home-coming" to New England and she looks forward to settling in as a resident of Manchester. A life-long Episcopalian, Ann grew up in Massachusetts.

Ann's first week at St. Mary's will begin on May 15, 2017.