



Episcopal
DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

2024 Visitation & Customary

Updated: 11/07/2023



Episcopal
DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

9/13/2023

2024 Visitation Schedule

Sunday, January 7, 2024	St. Clare's, Ann Arbor
Sunday, January 14, 2024	St. Michael's, Grosse Pointe
Sunday, February 11, 2024	St. Patrick's, Madison Heights
Sunday, February 25, 2024	St. Stephen's, Wyandotte
Sunday, March 10, 2024	St. Thomas, Trenton
Sunday, March 17, 2024	St. Stephen's, Troy
Sunday, March 17, 2024	Canterbury-on-the-Lake (2:00 p.m.)
Sunday, March 24, 2024	PALM SUNDAY
Sunday, March 31, 2024	EASTER SUNDAY
Sunday, April 7, 2024	St. Michael's, Lansing
Sunday, April 21, 2024	St. Paul's, Lansing
Sunday, May 5, 2024	Christ Episcopal, Pleasant Lake
Sunday, May 12, 2024	St. David's, Southfield
Sunday, May 12, 2024	Canterbury-on-the-Lake (2:00 p.m.)
Sunday, May 19, 2024	Christ Church, Grosse Pointe
Sunday, September 8, 2024	St. Paul's, Brighton
Sunday, September 15, 2024	St. Andrew's, Waterford
Sunday, September 22, 2024	St. Barnabas, Chelsea
Sunday, September 29, 2024	St. James, Dexter
Sunday, October 6, 2024	St. Andrew's, Ann Arbor
Sunday, October 13, 2024	Trinity, St. Clair Shores
Sunday, October 27, 2024	All Saint's, Pontiac
Sunday, October 27, 2024	Canterbury-on-the-Lake (2:00 p.m.)
Sunday, November 10, 2024	St. Aidan's, Ann Arbor
Sunday, November 24, 2024	Redeemer, Southfield
Sunday, December 8, 2024	St. Luke's, Ypsilanti
Sunday, December 15, 2024	St. John's, Detroit
Sunday, December 22, 2024	St. Peter's, Detroit
Sunday, December 22, 2024	Canterbury-on-the-Lake (2:00 p.m.)

**CUSTOMARY FOR EPISCOPAL VISITATIONS
THE RT. REV. DR. BONNIE A. PERRY**

Dear Friends,

Enclosed is my **new customary** and schedule of Sunday morning visits, beginning January 2024.

If your congregation is not slated for a Sunday visit in this next year, please feel free to contact my administrator, Ms. Susan Mason, (smason@edomi.org or 313-833-4435) to schedule a time when I might join your community for a weeknight evening or Saturday visit.

BEFORE MY VISIT

Please email or mail the following items to Susan Mason, smason@edomi.org:

- 1) The Proposed Sunday Morning worship Bulletin (more information regarding worship is further down in the body of this document.
- 2) Your most recent Annual Report (if you do not have an annual report please send the minutes of your most recent annual meeting.)
- 3) Your end of year financials from the previous year.
- 4) Your budget for the current year
- 5) Your most recent treasurer's report
- 6) Your most recent audit
- 7) The last six months of vestry meeting minutes
- 8) Any other items that you believe are relevant to your ministry.

Please know that I thoroughly enjoy reading all this information.

My assistant, Susan Mason, will set up a pre-visit phone conversation with me and the clergy in charge or wardens in charge the week prior to my visit.

DURING MY VISIT

Worship

Please keep your typical Sunday morning worship schedule. I'm happy to do multiple Sunday morning services and given enough notice (two months at least) I can also be available for Saturday evening services.

Please make sure my office has the correct time for your first service of the morning. I will arrive approximately 30 minutes before the start of the first service.

Unless there is a special reason to deviate from the assigned color of the day, I will bring vestments for the corresponding seasonal color.

I'll celebrate and preach.

Loose offerings and donations not intended to be pledge contributions can be offered to my discretionary fund.

Sometimes our Archdeacon, the Venerable Tim Spannaus, will accompany me on my visit. If Tim is with me, then he will read the Gospel and set the table and do the dismissal. If your community of faith has a deacon, then Tim and your deacon will discern who will do what.

I'll look for the Clergy person or Wardens to do the announcements during the service and for the lay readers and chalice bearers to offer their ministries as they do on a typical Sunday.

After Worship

I'm happy to be a part of your regular coffee hour, or a congregational wide gathering celebrating those who may have been baptized, confirmed, or received that morning, or a congregational meal, or a meal with the leadership of your community. Please know there is no need to make extra-ordinary arrangements because I am with you. If, however, my presence would be a good excuse to have a party, then I am happy to be the impetus for any form of celebration.

I'm also happy to present on any topics that may be of interest to the congregation. I have several modules on stewardship or congregational development that I'm happy to offer to the group gathered for 30 to 45 mins. And I'm always happy to answer any questions parishioners may have for me.

Meeting with Vestry or Bishop's Committee

I expect to meet with the clergy, wardens, vestry, or bishop's committee for an hour or so sometime during my Sunday visit. It's possible to meet with the vestry after the congregational coffee hour, it's possible to meet an hour before the worship services if that would be convenient, and it is also possible for me to gather with the vestry/bishop's committee on a weeknight, the week before or the week after my Sunday visit.

This meeting is a special meeting of the vestry/bishop's committee and should not include business items. It should be about an hour in length. Regardless of when we gather, this will be a time for your leaders to pose questions for me and for me to ask questions that may have arisen for me as I studied your vestry minutes and financial materials. More than anything I long for our conversations to be a time when I can hear of your ministries to and with the surrounding communities. I'll ask such questions as:

- How is it that people encounter your community faith?

- What are you learning from people who do not regularly attend your congregation?
- How is your congregation embodying Jesus's love and hope for our world in the world beyond your congregational walls?

After our time together I am happy to take the clergy person and their spouse to lunch. Or if I have a later commitment, I'd like to share a meal with the clergy person or if there is not a clergy person, the wardens in the same month as my Sunday visit.

AFTER MY VISIT

If any money has been collected for my discretionary fund. Please write a check, payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, with "Bishop's Fund" noted in the memo and send the check to the diocese. Please do not give me loose coins, cash or checks.

I'm happy to chat and share impressions of my visit and receive your feedback regarding my visit the following week.

LASTLY

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me on my cell phone 773-315-9028 or to send me or my assistant, Susan Mason, an e-mail. I'm very much looking forward to getting to know you and your faith community.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie A. Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry
11th Bishop of Michigan

P.S. I've attached some technical information that may assist you as you create your service bulletins.

THE FINE PRINT:

The Proper of the Day will be used, including all three readings and Psalm. I will preach using the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) as approved by General Convention 2006. As provided by General Convention, full transition to the RCL should have taken place.

Whenever there are choices among the readings, and this is especially the case in Easter season, we need to agree ahead of time what will be read.

The various orders of ministry should take their respective parts in the service. The first two readings should be read by a layperson. So should the psalm if it is not sung. A deacon or layperson should lead the prayers. A deacon, whenever present, should read the gospel, invite the confession of sin, prepare the table, and give the dismissal. *If there is no deacon, then an assisting priest should read the gospel, prepare the table and dismiss the people; I will (as celebrant) invite the confession of sin.*

When available, a deacon will assist me in the liturgy, especially to hold the book, miter, and pastoral staff, as needed. In the absence of a deacon, an acolyte or assisting priest can take these duties. I am not overly fussy about such matters, and the basic rule is that a deacon or other assistant stands ready to hold whatever I hand over!

If there are no baptisms, the Renewal of Baptismal Vows (BCP, page 292) **may** be used in place of the Nicene Creed; however, this is **not** a requirement.

One of the clergy, or else a warden, should make necessary announcements.

Deacons and priests should join me at the table for the Eucharistic prayer, and other ministers of communion should be close by also. Please let me know beforehand: 1) which Eucharistic prayer to use; 2) which version of the Lord's Prayer (traditional or contemporary) is customary; and 3) if Rite I, whether to include the Prayer of Humble Access. Of course, I will be grateful to know other liturgical choices your community makes, and I will do my best to honor them.

Any liturgical expectations you have for me besides baptism, confirmation and Eucharist – blessings of one sort or another, or a healing service, for example – I am happy to entertain, but I need to know about these ahead of time.

Vestment colors should be seasonal.

I always prefer the use of loaf bread (or else the very large hosts) for the Eucharist, along with a single chalice on the table (and one flagon as necessary), the rubrical intent of the Prayer Book rites. ***However, if "real bread" is not your custom, please do not go to great lengths to suddenly provide such an option.***

On high Holy days, such as Baptisms, Confirmations, weddings, funerals, All Saints' Day, Easter, Pentecost and Christmas, I am happy to use **chilled champagne in the place of**

wine. Also, the communion of the people should be from the elements consecrated at the Eucharist and not from the reserved sacrament. If the elements are depleted, additional bread or wine may be consecrated as needed.

BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION

Our Prayer Book names the bishop's visitation among the five occasions especially fitting for baptism and confirmation. Following the Prayer Book's shape of the rite and ancient practice, I want to preside over the rite, sharing its administration with all the orders present. So, I will ask for the presentations of those to be baptized and make the various queries of the candidates, sponsors, and congregation. I will also bless the chrism (if needed) and the water. And I will anoint the newly baptized and offer the postbaptismal prayers. A deacon or layperson should lead the Prayers for the Candidate(s). A priest or deacon should administer the water rite. In this fashion, all the orders take a share. For its rich symbolic value, I encourage the use of chrism at baptism, and I am happy to consecrate it during our time together. Please let me know ahead of time. If there are baptisms, the consecration comes before the blessing of the water. If there are no baptisms, the consecration of baptismal oil comes after the post communion prayer. The practice of making chrism available at a diocesan liturgy will continue.

When there are baptisms and confirmations, after the sermon is finished, we will continue with the examination of the candidates. Sometimes it is helpful to insert a hymn in this part of the service as the candidates are making their way to the chancel steps or wherever we determine the examination will take place so that it may be best seen by all in the sanctuary. **There is no need to move a chair or stool to the steps, as I will stand throughout the examination and confirmation.** When there are no baptisms or confirmations, I'll return to the presider's chair and continue the service with the Renewal of Baptismal Vows or the Creed, after which the person appointed reads the Prayers of the People.

When there is a baptism, I'll read the Thanksgiving over the water; **the priest administers the water of baptism.** As each candidate is baptized, I'll seal each candidate with Chrism. **IN THE CASE OF AN ADULT, THIS SUFFICES FOR CONFIRMATION AS WELL.** (That person should not be presented again but can be given a confirmation certificate as well as a baptismal certificate.) After welcoming those baptized, they may return to their seats and the other candidates for confirmation, reception and reaffirmation then come before me one at a time for the laying on of hands (some type of card or name tag with first and middle names would be helpful. Exact directions for this portion of the liturgy should be discussed in advance). When all have been presented, the peace is then exchanged. ***Prayers of the People are omitted.***

When there is no baptism, BUT THERE IS CONFIRMATION, RECEPTION OR REAFFIRMATIONS, use the liturgy that begins on page 413 in the Book of Common Prayer. Certificates for Confirmation and Reception, signed by me, may be requested from my office, and will be sent to you in advance (or, if you have certificates you customarily use, these may be sent to me **in advance** to be signed).

THE LOOSE OFFERING

The loose offering for the day is designated for The Bishop's Fund. It is helpful if a note to this effect is included in the bulletin inviting the people to be generous. If people wish to write checks, they may be made out to The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and note in the Memo Line, "Bishop's Fund". If cash is donated, the congregation should write a check for said amount to The Bishop's Fund and mail to: Diocese of MI, 4800 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48201, Attention: Mark Miliotto. (Please note: Checks made payable to the congregation should be retained by the congregation.)

AFTER

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Susan Harlow sometimes comes with me for Sunday visitations. If she's coming with me, I'll let you know ahead of time. Susan is an ordained United Church of Christ minister. Since many people may not yet know her, it would be lovely if someone could be available to meet and greet Susan and introduce her to some of the community.

Questions regarding the customary can be directed to
Susan Mason: 313-833-4435 or smason@edomi.org