

THE REV. JOEL ALLEN PRATHER

The Rev. Joel Allen Prather will join St. Bart's on July 1, 2018. Our church is eager to welcome the Prather family to our church community.

Fr. Joel is the husband of Tammy and father to a teenage son. He started to follow Jesus when he was 19 years old and being "utterly amazed at who Jesus was, what He did and the words He spoke" and that amazement continues to this day.

A native Chicagoan, he spent nine years with State Farm Insurance until he heard God say "go" on the shores of the Amazon River in Brazil in 2003. So he, Tammy, and their son "went".... to the great state of Wisconsin to study for ministry at Nashotah House Theological Seminary. During seminary they worshipped for a semester at St. Bart's! God called them from seminary to Allen, Texas where he and Tammy planted Church of the Savior together. Longing to return to Wisconsin, the Lord called them to Delavan in June of 2014 to serve as the Rector of Christ Church. His ministry there has focused on two things: the revitalization of a historic congregation and "pastoral evangelism" outside the Church and in the community. One of the greatest challenges he has embraced is helping Episcopal congregations discern how to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to two un-Churched and de-Churched generations in America: Gen X and Millennials. He currently serves on the Diocese of Milwaukee's Executive Council and Commission on Mission and Development to help the Church engage these challenges.

Fr. Joel loves to travel with his family to places like New England or "Up North". He enjoys running and cycling. He also loves to play Heavy Metal guitar, study Russian culture, watch BBC dramas with the Missus, read fantasy books like Lord of the Rings with his son, and eat ethnic cuisine. He is seldom seen without a cup of coffee nearby.