

September 18th, 2025

From the Desk of the Pastor:

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has a longstanding tradition of offering priests a time of sabbatical consisting of three months after every ten years of active ministry. I was granted a sabbatical in 2015, but chose not to take it as I couldn't imagine being away from family, friends, parishioners, and my Dalmatian Skylar for that long. About six years ago, the Archdiocese changed the policy so priests who are granted a sabbatical can take one month at a time over a period of three years. Before I became pastor at St. Joseph Pillar of Families, Family of Parishes, I applied for and was granted a sabbatical commencing in 2025, as I completed 20 years of ministry on May 21st.

Therefore, I will be on sabbatical this year from September 29th through October 27th, with the exception of the weekend of October 17th-19th as I return home for a wedding. On October 20th, I will depart for St. Louis for a Catholic Leadership Institute program for priests.

For the first three weeks, I will be visiting my classmate, Fr. Chris Luoni, in the Diocese of Youngstown. He has a fenced backyard so I am able to take Maggie and Millie with me.

While I am away, Fr. Mark Bredestege will be the temporary administrator.

The Priests' Personnel Policies state: Sabbaticals offer priests the opportunity to be renewed through a rest, a change of pace, and freedom from the stress of ministry and other concerns. When a priest acquires additional theological understanding, pastoral skills, and personal growth during a sabbatical, there are obvious benefits to the people he serves.

Please pray for me during my time of sabbatical. My hope is to return refreshed, renewed, and relaxed as we continue to journey together in building the Kingdom of God.

Peace and Prayers!

Fr. John

Jesus said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." Mark 6:31