

Deacon Patrick McCay

- Parishioner at St. B's almost 30 years
- Married to Danielle with 2 kids, Aidan (23) and Brigid (21)
- Facility Planner for the US Navy
- Ordained into the Permanent Diaconate on June 12, 2021



When were you first called to be a deacon?

My wife Danielle jokes that my first calling to the diaconate was not necessarily a mystical experience but when Fr. Steve called me into his office one day and asked if I would consider becoming a deacon. Before that, I had never considered it.

How did your faith lead you to the diaconate?

My parents met at a Catholic high school and did a great job of passing on the faith to me and my siblings. And although my extended family would have voted me least likely to become a deacon during my formative years, I always had a love for God and respect for the Catholic faith.

Years later through the Cursillo movement, I was given a deeper love for God and a call to mission as a layperson. I also watched one of the members of my Cursillo small group go through diaconate formation and training.

What else played an important role in your path to the diaconate?

Danielle has been with me every step of the way. She has been my rock, not only through our shared formation experience, but as we have been formed throughout our 26 years of marriage.



Danielle and Patrick

What does it mean to serve the Church, the parish, and the larger community as a deacon?

I feel I'm being entrusted to a special ministry, that this is my calling. Deacons have done so much for me and my faith walk and now I can "pay-it-forward." At St. B's I will serve at Mass, preach an occasional homily, assist with the sacraments, and lead various groups. I also want to reach past the parish boundaries to bring Christ's message of love to the average person walking down the street in Pacific Beach, and yes, the whole world.

How was your diaconate formation impacted by COVID-19?

COVID caused a bit of a pause in our "deacon school" and Zoom became a part of our vocabulary and lives. I like to be around people and out of the house so it was difficult for me. Our deacon class couldn't bond as before and most of us were barred from our pastoral ministries. We had to find new ways to reach out to people. One way I did this was by visiting local hospices where we played music, talked, and prayed for the patients through the windows. COVID also provided me an opportunity to focus on personal prayer—I was able to do the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. This was life changing for me for I feel I have a deeper understanding of the Gospels and a closer connection to Christ.



Patrick and friends playing music



St. Brigid, pray for us!