



Dear parishioners,

April 14, 2024

As the Catholic Church in Western Dodge County (including St. Katharine Drexel in Beaver Dam, St. Columbkille in Elba, St. Joseph in Waupun, Annunciation in Fox Lake, Holy Family in Reeseville, and St. John the Baptist in Clyman) moves forward in collaboration, part of the process includes the sharing of priests. I'm pleased to announce that, for the foreseeable future, we have the benefit of three priests –one pastor and two associate pastors.

I, Fr. William Arnold, will be the pastor. Fr. Thomas Naidu and Fr. Nicholas Dhein will serve as the associate pastors.

At the present moment, Fr. Naidu is serving at *La Sagrada Familia* in the Dominican Republic and brings a wealth of experience. Previously, Fr. Naidu was assigned to Holy Family Parish in Fond du Lac, and therefore, is familiar with the geographic area.

Nicholas Dhein is currently a deacon in his final year of priesthood formation at St. Francis de Sales Seminary and will be ordained a priest by Archbishop ListECKI on Saturday, May 18, 2024 at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Milwaukee. Coming from Slinger, Nicholas is also familiar with this part of the state.

Please pray for Fr. Naidu in his transition back to the United States and pray for Deacon Nick as he prepares for ordination to the priesthood and his first years of priesthood. Fr. Thomas and Fr. Nicholas will begin at all parishes this summer with the appointments effective on June 18th.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Fr. John Owusu and Fr. Carlos Zapata for their pastoral presence and support of the parishes in this time of transition. We wish them well as God calls them to serve the Church in other places. Please take a moment to thank them as they prepare for changes in their lives of priestly service.

A team of parishioners from the aforementioned parishes continues the early stages of information gathering for the sake of restructuring the parishes to operate as efficiently as possible and provide adequate pastoral and sacramental care to the Roman Catholics in this area. Sunday Mass times remain a topic that must be broached and, indeed, it has been on the docket. No definitive schedules have been made, but sufficient communication will be provided in the near future.

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Finally, this is a season of sacraments. As I mentioned, Deacon Nick Dhein, along with men throughout the Church, will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders as he is ordained a priest in five weeks. With summer approaching, pray for all couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Keep all those who were recently received into the Church at Easter in your regular prayers as well as all those preparing for the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Confirmation. Many young children will receive their First Communion in the upcoming weeks. Bishop Schuerman will be in the area in mid-May at St. Andrew's in Leroy for the Confirmation of candidates from St. Joseph and Annunciation. May God's grace grow in the hearts of all these faithful!

God bless you all in this Easter Season!

Sincerely,

Reverend William Arnold