

THE *Belleville Deacon*

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS | DIACONATE FORMATION | DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



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Come encounter Jesus, the Bread of Life, as the Diocese of Belleville celebrates the Eucharistic Revival.

Emmaus Days July 7th & July 8th

Sunday, July 7
National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows

Bible Stories and Crafts for Kids

Retreat for Teens and Talks for Adults

Adoration

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Eucharistic Procession

Monday, July 8
Cathedral of St. Peter

Mass at St. Peter Cathedral Adoration Procession to Collinsville

Watch the Messenger for times and additional information



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reverend Steven M. Pautler

On February 3, 2024, the Cathedral of St. Peter Undercroft, under the auspices of The Office of Vocations and Deacon Formation, hosted its inaugural "Come and See" event. This initiative aimed at discerning the level of interest in pursuing the path to becoming permanent deacons. This gathering marked a pivotal moment for the diocese, as it seeks to nurture and expand its deacon formation program set to begin in 2025.

The event attracted six individuals, a promising sign of the growing interest in diaconal ministry within the community. These prospective candidates were given a comprehensive overview of the deacon formation program, highlighting the commitment required and the profound impact deacons have within the Church and broader community.

The presentation, carefully prepared by The Office of Vocations and Deacon Formation, was designed not only to inform but also to inspire. It shed light on the vital roles deacons play in liturgical services, pastoral care, and outreach initiatives. The attendees engaged actively, posing thoughtful questions that ranged from the logistical aspects of the formation process to the deeper spiritual and

theological implications of diaconal service. This level of engagement underscores a genuine interest and a sincere quest for understanding among the participants.

In response to the positive feedback and the clear interest shown at this initial gathering, the Office of Vocations and Deacon Formation has announced plans to host additional "Come and See" events in the future. These sessions are crucial for individuals feeling the call to diaconal ministry, providing them with the opportunity to explore their vocation further and to connect with others on a similar journey.

Updates and announcements will be made available through the deacon newsletter, parish bulletins, and The Messenger.



Are you being called to be a Permanent Deacon?

The Office of Permanent Deacon is considering starting a new class of aspirants in fall 2025. Eligibility is extended to men aged thirty-three to fifty-six by September 2025. *Men older than fifty-six may still apply but require special approval from the Deacon Formation Office and the Bishop.*

The formation process is a five-year commitment, including academic studies conducted by St. Meinrad School of Theology, spiritual direction, and learning about the deacon's role. Participants are required to attend a three-day meeting once per month over the course of the five year program. Interested individuals should first discuss their interest with their pastor. For those unable to attend the initial meeting, another session will be scheduled later. This meeting is an opportunity to learn about the process and requirements for becoming a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese.

Direct all correspondences to:

Administrative Assistant Office of Vocations & Deacon Formation
Mary Fournie at (618) 722-5052 mfournie@diobelle.org

We are seeking a part-time (24 hours per week) Administrative Assistant for the Office of Vocations and Deacon Formation. TO APPLY: Send resumé, cover letter, and references to Human Resources, Diocese of Belleville, 222 South Third Street, Belleville, IL 62220 or email: humanresources@diobelle.org.

The Office of Permanent Deacon Formation is seeking priests who are willing to serve as mentors/spiritual moderators for Aspirants and Deacons. Those interested are asked to email Reverend Steven Pautler spautler@diobelle.org. Thank you for your interest.

Important Dates

Deacon Formation for the Class of 2028

Aspirancy Session
Research & Writing in Formation
 Deacon John McGregor
 Saturday, March 9, 2024
 Cathedral of St. Peter (Undercroft)
 Time 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Aspirancy Formation Weekend
Philosophy I
 Deacon Dan Lowery
 Friday April 12 - Sunday April 14
 Cathedral of St. Peter (Undercroft)
 Friday 6:30 p.m. - Sunday 12:00 p.m.

Aspirancy Formation Weekend
Philosophy II
 Deacon Dan Lowery
 Friday May 10th - Sunday May 12th
 Cathedral of St. Peter (Undercroft)
 Friday 6:30 p.m. - Sunday 12:00 p.m.

End of term vote and evaluations
 and recommendation for advancement
 scheduling begins in March 2024.

Deacon Formation Class of 2028
 Canonical Retreat - King's House at the Shrine
 Presenter: Rev. Michaelsami Arockiam
 Saturday, August 10, 2024

**Aspirants please remember you
 can find course syllabus, agenda,
 required books, and other information
 at St. Meinrad's Student Portal...
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Important Dates

Belleville Deacon Community
Annual Deacon Retreat
 September 6 - 8, 2024
 Kings House at the Shrine

Meeting with Bishop McGovern (Deacons only)
*Attire is deacon clerics (grey shirt, vest, rabat, etc.
 with white tab and dark slacks).*

March 10, 2024 - 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 October 27, 2024 - 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Cathedral of St. Peter, Undercroft

Chrism Mass
 Tuesday, March 26, 2024
 Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville
 11:30 a.m.

National Diaconate Institute
for Continuing Education (NDICE)
Annual Conference
 July 22 - July 25, 2024
 Holy Trinity Parish, Fairview Heights, IL
Being the Eucharist for All
<https://ndice.net/>

Deacon Formation 2024 - 2025		
Sep-24	13-15	Church History
Oct-24	11-13	Church History
Nov-24	8-10	Intro to Scripture
Dec-24	13-15	Intro to Scripture
Jan-25	10-12	Spirituality
Feb-25	14-16	Fundamental Theology
Mar-25	14-16	Fundamental Theology
Apr-25	11-13	Old Testament
May-25	9-11	Old Testament

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR OF DEACONS

Deacon Thomas and Dawn Helfrich



Hopefully, the past several months of formation have been a wonderful growth experience for you – learning, discerning, developing relationships, etc. In April you begin the next phase of your journey with more intense and in-depth academic formation with the gatherings moving to a full weekend schedule. That is a lot of time away from family, friends, work, etc., so Dawn and I would like to circle back to sharing our personal diaconate journey at this phase of formation.

Like the past several months, there will be an adjustment. The upcoming months and years will require even more time spent in class with your new brothers and sisters on this journey of discernment and formation. We found the prep work ahead of these weekends to be significantly more time consuming and challenging, but not impossible. And, of course, the time away for a weekend with 2 evenings was a bit more challenging logistically with three grade school and high school age children.

With the help of family, friends, and parishioners we managed to avoid the chaos of disrupting the normal lives of our 3 young busy sons too much. In spite of all the inherent challenges, we found that the additional time together helped us grow and nourish the relationships with those other men and women in formation and allowed us to develop permanent, long lasting, deep relationships with those on the journey with us.

So our advice to each of you is simple – seize and cherish those weekends! Don't let them go to waste fretting too much over reading, studying, researching, working out family logistics, etc., and just savor the moments together and let the Holy Spirit continue to guide you and nurture you on this journey

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Reverend Michaelsami Arockiam



The second Sunday of the holy season of Lent always presents the gospel of the Transfiguration. The authors of the synoptic gospels provide their accounts. St. Mark provides his account of Transfiguration this year. Transfiguration is truly

purposeful: at the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appear and speak to Jesus; among the Old Testament figures, these two alone were blessed with an encounter with Him on Mt. Sinai. These two gave witness to the eternal divinity that belongs to the Son.

The Father declares Jesus as “His Son.” Peter and the apostles have the confirmation that Jesus, whom Peter proclaimed as “the Christ” (Mk.8:27-30), is the Beloved Son of the Lord God of Israel and the confirmation is given to them now when he is in His divine form. Thus they are given personal perception, experience and knowledge of His divinity so that they will also come to grasp, understand and then give witness to the depth and extent of self emptying of the Son. They would never be able to foresee, imagine or understand “the self emptiness” of the Son without having this glimpse of his divinity at the Transfiguration. The gospel of Transfiguration invites all in the Lenten season, especially us who are called to serve the People of God, to align ourselves with the Son who became man not to be served but to serve. Our service to community is fruitful to the extent we have followed “the self emptying of the Son” in our lives. God bless.



ST. ANDREW DINNER

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Gibault High School

501 Columbia Ave., Waterloo, IL

5:00 p.m. - Evening Prayer

Following - Dinner and Conversation

with Bishop McGovern

This event is for young men and their parents who are interested in learning more about the priesthood.

Office of Vocations
 618-277-8181
 Fr. Joel Seipp, Director of Vocations



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEACON ASPIRANTS DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE - SPRINGFIELD/CAPE

Tom Braun & Betsy Amoroso
 James & Chelsea Burris
 Jeffrey & Jennifer Craig
 Nathan & Carrie Higerson
 Douglas & Cynthia Kuhl
 Matthew & Angela Lees
 Andy & Cheryl Orlet
 William & Judith Rebholz
 Timothy & Joan Taylor
 Gary & Dorothy Zwilling
 Brian & Barbara Bauknecht
 Bob & Lori Janota
 Jim & Holly McCleary
 Brad & Emily Stroder
 Ron & Linda Yates

Immaculate Conception Parish, Columbia
 St. Mary Parish, Centralia
 St. Andrew Parish, Murphysboro
 SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Waterloo
 St. Dominic Parish, Breese
 St. Joseph Parish, Marion
 Holy Childhood, Parish, Mascoutah
 SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Waterloo
 SIU-C Newman Center, Carbondale
 St. Joseph Parish, Stringtown
 Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson, MO
 St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, MO
 Sacred Heart Parish, Mountain Grove, MO
 St. William Parish, Buffalo, MO
 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Springfield, MO