

THE *Belleville Deacon*

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS | DIACONATE FORMATION | DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



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PLEASE NOTE!
THERE WILL BE NO DEACON NEWSLETTER JUNE - JULY - AUGUST SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!



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.

For additional information contact: Administrative Assistant, Office of Vocations & Deacon Formation

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mskorch@diobelle.org



PANEL DISCUSSION

Deacons and their spouses are cordially invited to participate in a panel discussion alongside men and their wives currently in the Aspirant formation. This event will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Cathedral Undercroft. If you are able to attend, please reach out to Martina Skorch at (618) 722-5043 or via email at mskorch@diobelle.org.



Holy Saturday occupies a profound space in the Christian liturgical year, marking a solemn pause between the sorrow of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday. It is a day of quiet contemplation and anticipation as the faithful prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The role of the deacon on this pivotal day, especially during the Easter Vigil, is both significant and deeply symbolic, embodying the church's mission of service and the proclamation of the Gospel.

(Pictured) Deacon Dan Laquet and Aspirant James Burris process into the church during the Easter Vigil, embodying this sacred tradition. Their solemn and reverent procession sets the tone for the evening, reminding all present of the gravity and the glory of the resurrection narrative. This moment highlights the deacon's role not just as a servant and minister, but as a leader in the liturgical life of the church, guiding the faithful from darkness into the resurrected light of Christ.

ORDINATION TO THE TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE JUNE 1, 2024

We are pleased to announce that on June 1, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Levi James will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate at the Cathedral of St. Peter for the Diocese of Belleville. This joyous event marks a significant milestone in Levi's journey toward priesthood. The Diaconate, a sacred order in the Catholic Church, serves as a critical step for those preparing to be ordained as priests. Transitional Deacons, like Levi, are typically seminary students in the final phase of their training for the priesthood.



Mr. Levi James

The ordination ceremony is a profound commitment to service, signifying the candidate's readiness to fulfill the Church's mission through preaching, ministering sacraments, and embodying Christ's servitude. We invite all deacons and priests to participate in this solemn Mass of Ordination. Please arrive by 9:30 a.m. for vesting in the Diocesan Chasable/Dalmatic, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and/or the Cry Room. The Master of Ceremonies will provide further instructions. Aspirants and those considering becoming a deacon, and lay community are encouraged to attend. Following the ceremony, we encourage all attending clergy to gather on the cathedral steps to warmly welcome newly ordained (Deacon) Levi James into the brotherhood of priests and deacons. This gathering is not only a celebration of Levi's achievements but also a symbol of the communal support he will have as he continues his pastoral journey. We look forward to your presence on this blessed day as we support Levi's sacred commitment to his calling and witness his transition into a life of dedicated service to the Church and its faithful. A reception will follow in the McCormick Center.

Important Dates

Deacon Formation for the Class of 2028

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.

Deacon Formation Class of 2028

Canonical Retreat - King's House at the Shrine
Presenter: Rev. Michaelsami Arockiam
Saturday, August 10, 2024
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

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).

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

National Diaconate Institute for Continuing Education (NDICE) Annual Conference

July 22nd - July 25, 2024
Holy Trinity Parish, Fairview Heights, IL
Being the Eucharist for All
<https://ndice.net/>



Thank you to everyone who generously donated used Roman Missals for next year's Deacon Formation Class. We are still in need of six more missals.

If you have a Roman Missal to spare, editions prior to the 2010 revision are acceptable. Please contact Martina Skorch at (618) 722-5043 or via email at skorch@diobelle.org to arrange for drop-off. Thank you for your support.

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR OF DEACONS

Deacon Thomas and Dawn Helfrich



As you approach your summer break, we want to revisit the topic of discernment this month. You are about to complete the first of five years dedicated to discernment, formation, and your first 'academic' course. Saying that you are wrapping up your first year of discernment might be misleading because discerning your vocation to be a permanent deacon began several years ago and is a journey that will continue for years to come (see our previous articles on this).

As you conclude Philosophy this month and now have some time away from your studies during your summer break, use that time wisely to reflect on your experiences over the past year and consider what might lie ahead. I was reminded of all this when I recently came across this quote: "You are called by God. He does not always call the qualified—but he always qualifies the called. Have faith in Him." (Henry Libersat, 'Catholic and Confident'). Or, as I have often heard it said, "God does not call the equipped, he equips the called." So, are you being called?

Enjoy the summer, relax, and spend quality time with your spouse, family, and friends. If we can help in any way, contact me, and if the wives have questions, need help, or just want to chat, they can contact Dawn at 618.334.0261.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Reverend Michaelsami Arockiam



Greetings in the Risen Lord! We are still in Easter Season wondering at the glory with which Jesus was raised from the dead. Psalm 2 speaks of this glory in this way: "You are my son, today I have begotten you" (2:7). What did the Psalmist see in order to write this? This Psalmist begins the psalm with his report on the plotting of the nations against God's Son (2:1-6) and ends it with his invitation to these nations and the rulers to learn wisdom and serve God's Son because of his preeminence and superiority over them (2:8-12).

Between the beginning and end, he writes prophetically these words: "You are my son, today I have begotten you:" that is, the Father tells His Son whom He is begetting since eternity but now laid in the tomb, that He has begotten him once again on the day of his resurrection ("today"). It means that the Father willed that the Divinity which is in the Personhood of the Son, dwells fully also in the human nature of Jesus Christ (Col.1:19; also read Ps.109). We do not know at what moment exactly the fullness of divinity was pleased to dwell in his humanity or when the Son's bodily resurrection took place? As it is sung in the Easter vigil, only that night knows in which watch and at what time the Father's begetting of the Son in his human nature (the bodily resurrection) took place.

When time permits, please read the Psalm 2 (also Ps.109) to enjoy the conversation between the Father and the Son which details the resurrection. On a personal note, keep me in your prayers as I am going to India for a short visit and will be back by June 7. God bless you.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Reverend Steven M. Pautler



Summer offers us a precious chance to relax, reflect, and recharge our spirits. For those in our Aspirant community, it also marks a pivotal time of preparation as we gear up to advance further on our spiritual journeys. I want to take a moment to express my profound gratitude to each member who plays a vital role in our community's growth and resilience.

Thank you to all the mentors who guide with wisdom, the spiritual directors who offer deep insights, the deacons and their wives who serve with unwavering commitment, and the priests who lead us with dedication. Your support, prayers, and encouragement are the backbone of our collective endeavor. May this summer bring you all peace and joy.

2024 NDICE CONFERENCE

Being Eucharist for All

July 22 - 25, 2024

CELEBRANTS


Bishop Michael McGovern


Msgr. Eugene Morris


Fr. Joel Seipp


Bishop John Ifert

Plan now to attend!

See Ya Here!


Holy Trinity Parish
Fairview Heights, IL

To REGISTER VISIT THE CONFERENCE TAB AT NDICE.NET


Bishop Michael McGovern


Msgr. Eugene Morris


Deacon Bill Ditewig


Janet Sullivan Whitaker


Joni Seith


Bishop John Ifert

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PERMANENT DEACON ASPIRANTS

Tom Braun & Betsy Amoroso	Immaculate Conception Parish, Columbia
James & Chelsea Burris	St. Mary Parish, Centralia
Jeffrey & Jennifer Craig	St. Andrew Parish, Murphysboro
Nathan & Carrie Higginson	SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Waterloo
Douglas & Cynthia Kuhl	St. Dominic Parish, Breese
Matthew & Angela Lees	St. Joseph Parish, Marion
Andy & Cheryl Orlet	Holy Childhood, Parish, Mascoutah
William & Judith Rebolz	SS. Peter & Paul Parish, Waterloo
Timothy & Joan Taylor	SIU-C Newman Center, Carbondale
Gary & Dorothy Zwilling	St. Joseph Parish, Stringtown
Brian & Barbara Bauknecht	Immaculate Conception Parish, Jackson, MO
Bob & Lori Janota	St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cape Girardeau, MO
Jim & Holly McCleary	Sacred Heart Parish, Mountain Grove, MO
Brad & Emily Stroder	St. William Parish, Buffalo, MO
Ron & Linda Yates	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Springfield, MO

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