

THE *Belleville Deacon*

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS | DIACONATE FORMATION | DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE



Deacon Aspirants to receive the Rite of Admission to Candidacy November 9, 2024.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." - Matthew 9:37-38

We are delighted to announce that the **Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Deacons** will take place during the **4:00 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Peter on Saturday, November 9, 2024.** Please mark your calendars for this significant event in the life of our Church. Deacons and their wives are warmly invited to attend, and witness this important moment. Since this is the Cathedral Vigil Mass, there are no assigned seats—you are welcome to sit wherever you please. This Rite holds profound public and ecclesial significance. Enrollment among the candidates for Holy Orders is the Church's first official recognition of the positive signs of a vocation to the diaconate. It affirms the candidates' call to serve, which will continue to be nurtured and confirmed throughout the subsequent years of formation.

This moment marks a pivotal step in the journey toward ordained ministry. It represents the Church's formal acceptance of the candidates' intention to pursue Holy Orders and their commitment to serve God's people. Through this Rite, the community is invited to witness and support these men as they take on greater responsibilities in their formation. The candidates publicly affirm their desire to dedicate themselves to the diaconate—a ministry of service that reflects Christ's mission of love and compassion. They commit to deepening their relationship with God, enhancing their understanding of the faith, and preparing to serve the needs of the Church and the world. We encourage all parishioners, family members, and friends to join us in this special celebration. Your presence and prayers are invaluable as these men embark on this sacred path. This is an opportunity for the entire faith community to come together in support and affirmation of those who have answered God's call.

Let us come together to pray for these candidates, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit throughout their formation. Their willingness to serve enriches our Church and provides a living example of faith in action. By attending the Rite of Admission to Candidacy, you play a vital role in encouraging and lifting them on their journey.

Bishop Michael McGovern

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

"The Belleville Deacon" is published electronically (monthly) by the Office of Permanent Deacon Formation, Diocese of Belleville, 222 South Third Street, Belleville, IL 62220



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

Reverend Steven M. Pautler

Visiting with deacons and their spouses, I am continually amazed by the diverse ministries our deacons engage in within our diocese. Their roles are vast, each adding a vital dimension to the deacon's mission of service. While all the faithful participate in the Church's mission, deacons offer a unique bridge between the sanctuary and the world. They assist in liturgical service, proclaiming the Gospel, preaching, and facilitating sacramental celebrations like baptisms and weddings.

Deacons are also dedicated teachers and preachers, providing catechesis, leading Bible studies, and supporting OCIA programs. Their pastoral care extends to visiting the sick, homebound, and incarcerated, bereavement support, and outreach to the poor and marginalized. Deacons are strong advocates for social justice, often working with organizations to support the vulnerable, while also helping with parish administration and fostering community collaboration. This ministry of service truly embodies Christ's call to serve, enriching both the Church's sacramental life and the daily lives of God's people.

To our tireless deacons: thank you for your unwavering dedication, compassion, and willingness to serve wherever needed. Your commitment and sacrifice truly reflect the heart of Christ's love and the Church's mission. You are a blessing to our diocese, and we are profoundly grateful for all that you do.

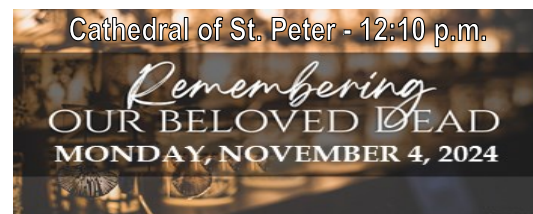


Father Godfrey to lead the Deacon Formation Seminar: *Introduction to the Lectionary and Ordo.*

We are pleased to welcome Father Godfrey as he begins the first part of his presentation on the Liturgy. His seminar, *Introduction to the Lectionary and Ordo*, is designed as an introductory course aimed at helping deacon aspirants and deacons better understand the structure and layout of both the Lectionary and Ordo. Father Godfrey will delve into their structure and history, providing valuable insights.

Permanent deacons and their wives who would like a refresher are invited to join us on Saturday, November 9th, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Additionally, you are welcome to join the Aspirants for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Please contact Martina in advance to assist with planning.

Father Godfrey will continue his series with *Introduction to the Roman Missal* in January and the crucial *Introduction to the Deacon* at Mass in April.





MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR OF DEACONS.

Deacon Tom and Dawn Helfrich

In the September issue, Deacon Dan Laquet and I reflected on the National Eucharistic Congress (NEC) last July. Let me follow up to that to highlight what we are all called to do during this 3rd year of the National Eucharistic Revival, the Year of Going Out on Mission. At the closing Mass of the NEC, Bishop Cozzens asked the crowd of 60,000 gathered in Lucas Oil Stadium if they would take their love of the Eucharist and the church, strengthened over the five days of the NEC, and identify one person in their life to intentionally evangelize. He said to us, "Brothers and sisters, we believe that God desires to renew his church, and that this renewal will happen through you. And then, in renewing his church, he will renew the world," ... "This year we've invited you to 'walk' with one person. What would happen if each of you thought of one person you know who's currently away from the faith; and you decided to pray for them and befriend them and then invite them to take one step closer to Jesus and his church?" Close your eyes for a moment and imagine that. This is what lies at the heart of this this Year of Going Out on Mission which extends from July 21, 2024 to Pentecost 2025. You can read the full article about this using the QR code on the right.



Here's what Bishop McGovern had to say about it - "As Archbishop Fulton Sheen once said - Don't just go to Mass. Live the Mass! We have to live as a people impelled by the Eucharist to go out and share our faith in Jesus Christ and have a Eucharistic culture." You can hear Bishop McGovern's full interview about the NEC using the QR code on the left. Are you ready? Will you 'Walk With One'?



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

Rev. Michaelsami Arockiam
Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

It has been a wonderful experience to pray at least once with the Deacon candidates in the formation when they come together for the classes in the second weekend of every month. I try to be there unless something else deserves my attention; and I would like to pray with them as many times as possible during their stay. I feel that I have been blessed to assist the candidates in their formation as I once assisted the seminarians in their formation, especially in their scriptural and theological formation. I insist now, as I did then, the candidates themselves



are the primary agent of the formation: they must open themselves to the Lord who opens (Mk.7:34) their hearts to the formation.

Having said that, I must draw the attention of the Deacon community at large to examine how far they have benefitted from the Eucharistic Congress and the year of revival that went before. What initiatives have we taken for ourselves and for the parish communities to love, honor and grow closer to the Lord in the Eucharist who fulfils his promise to be with us to the end of time (Mt.28:20)? Have we allowed him to enter through us into the culture through which sin enters and reigns?

I hear that "the holy hour" is taking place in all parishes in one form or another. It proves that the USCCB's revival program has yielded its fruit. Living with the Lord in the Eucharist in the tabernacles of our parish churches and chapels close by, is like a tree planted by water streams yielding its fruit in season and its leaves never fading (Ps.1:3). The Eucharist increases the mission of the indwelling Paraclete that colors all our acts (fruits) to please the Father. God bless.



WORKSHOPS FOR DEACON WIVES ANNOUNCED.

By Michelle Miskell, Religion Instructor/Faith Formation Coordinator, Gibault CHS, and wife of Deacon David Miskell

We are excited to offer a series of workshops are specifically designed to support the wives of men preparing for the diaconate. Wives of those men who are ordained deacons are invited to join us. These sessions aim to provide spiritual, emotional, and practical guidance to help you accompany your spouse on this transformative journey.

Upcoming Sessions: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Gather in the Cathedral Undercroft

November 9 – Session 1, Part 1

Women's Workshop Topic: Understanding the Role and the Journey to the Diaconate

January 11 – Session 1, Part 2

Women's Workshop Topic: Understanding the Role, Spiritual, and Emotional Support

February 15 – Session 2

Women's Workshop Topic: Practical Considerations in Diaconate Ministry

May 10 – Session 3

Topic: Subject to be determined.

We're also working to form a team of deacon wives to strengthen this supportive community. If you are aware of wives who might be interested, or if you would like to assist please contact Michelle Miskell:

mmiskell@gibalthawks.com
618-939-3883
Cell: 618-407-2415

We're truly excited about the upcoming programs and the blessings they will bring to everyone involved. We encourage the participation of the deacon class of 2023, as these seminars promise to be both insightful and supportive. Each session will provide valuable insights and opportunities for discussion, so mark your calendars!

MEMORIAL MASS REMEMBERING OUR DEPARTED BROTHER PRIESTS AND DEACONS.

Priests, deacons, and the faithful are solemnly invited to join Bishop McGovern for a *Mass of Remembrance* on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 12:10 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter, as we come together to honor and remember our departed priests and deacons. Their dedicated service to Christ and His Church, and the countless lives they touched through their ministry remain an enduring legacy of faith.

Necrology of the Permanent Deacons

- 05/30/2024 — Deacon Patrick "Pat" Patterson
- 07/26/2023 — Deacon Ronald Karcher
- 05/20/2022 — Deacon Charles Litteken
- 05/20/2022 — Deacon Charles Speaks
- 08/31/2021 — Deacon Donald Sparling
- 08/18/2020 — Deacon Michael A. Rowland
- 12/18/2018 — Deacon Richard E. Bagby
- 08/30/2016 — Deacon Robert G.H. Lippert
- 12/06/2016 — Deacon Dennis Rickert
- 08/20/2015 — Deacon Robert H. Becker
- 12/09/2013 — Deacon Donald R. Deitz
- 07/04/2011 — Deacon John P. "Jack" Dilley
- 04/02/2010 — Deacon John E. Coates
- 07/24/2010 — Deacon Joseph E. Stock
- 07/09/2009 — Deacon David J. Bigham
- 06/08/2008 — Deacon Jerry Stockmann
- 05/10/2007 — Deacon Robert Kirchgraber
- 06/01/2007 — Deacon James Duff, Sr.
- 01/12/2003 — Deacon Kenneth E. Kronenberger
- 07/06/2003 — Deacon James R. Downen
- 08/22/2002 — Deacon Thomas J. Underwood
- 02/09/2000 — Deacon Linus H. Horcher
- 03/05/2000 — Deacon Paul H. Bruening
- 02/06/1999 — Deacon Dr. Carl J. Hauptmann
- 04/12/1998 — Deacon Leo A. Weibacher
- 08/05/1998 — Deacon Joseph H. Igel
- 10/23/1998 — Deacon Julius S. Gasawski
- 04/20/1995 — Deacon Robert F. Saunders
- 08/24/1995 — Deacon Walter J. Daut
- 05/23/1993 — Deacon Thomas M. Wagnitz
- 11/21/1992 — Deacon Robert L. Westerfield
- 12/20/1987 — Deacon Otto Faulbaum



Get inspired at our Preaching Conference!



Contact: skramer@shsst.edu, 414-858-4767
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YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE CANDIDATES FOR LUNCH AND SOCIAL BEFORE THE AFTERNOON SEMINAR.

Deacons and their spouses are warmly invited to join our candidates for lunch, helping them feel more connected and better acquainted with the deacon family. This gathering is all about building relationships and strengthening our shared commitment to service, support, and spiritual growth. You have the option to join us for lunch at 12:00 p.m. or dinner at 5:00 p.m. on formation Saturdays, offering flexibility to accommodate different schedules.

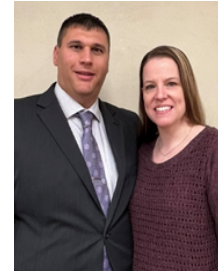
Formation sessions are held on the 2nd full weekend of each month, providing a relaxed atmosphere that encourages candid conversations, shared experiences, and a sense of camaraderie essential for our faith journey together. If you'd like to participate in November's Formation, please contact Martina in the Vocation Office at 618-722-5043. A \$10.00 donation is suggested to help cover costs, but your presence is what truly matters—please feel free to attend whether or not you can contribute.

We're especially pleased to announce that this month's formation session will feature Father Godfrey, who will present the first part of his seminar, Introduction to the Lectionary and Ordo. This introductory course is designed to help both candidates and experienced deacons gain a clearer understanding of the structure and layout of these essential liturgical texts, fundamental to planning and celebrating the liturgy.



WHAT IS THE CLASS OF 2028 DOING?

By: Candidate James and Chelsea Burris



Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Recently, we have been deeply engaged in the study of Church history, tracing its roots from its earliest beginnings to modern times. The lessons covered various heresies and the councils that addressed them. This journey has been both rewarding and enlightening.

We are truly blessed to have had a succession of distinguished professors throughout our classes whose wisdom and knowledge have greatly enriched our understanding. I have found these lessons especially compelling, as they reaffirm the truth that the Church, founded by Jesus Christ, is the one true faith. The rich history we are studying continues to deepen my appreciation for the Church's enduring legacy.

Our class has begun attending Mass together at various parishes, extending beyond our home at the cathedral. Recently, we had the privilege of attending Mass at St. Henry's in Belleville, where we were warmly welcomed by the parish community. Their hospitality made the experience even more meaningful, and we greatly enjoyed worshipping with them. Moreover, our commitment to praying the Liturgy of the Hours in community has fostered significant spiritual growth, and it is a time of prayer that I eagerly anticipate with every gathering.

I would also like to extend a warm invitation to all Deacons within our diocese to join us in any of our sessions. We have cherished the opportunities for fellowship and open dialogue in the past, and we look forward to continuing these exchanges in the future.

The Rite of Admission to Candidacy Mass will take place on November 9th. I humbly ask that you remember us in your prayers as we prepare to take this major step in our formation journey. We are filled with joy and humility as we move forward in our life of service.



Priests, Deacons, and wives are invited to a joyful Advent Celebration hosted by the Deacon Class of 2028 as we prepare our hearts for Christmas and welcome our new candidates into the community. Join us on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Peter. We'll begin with Midday Prayer and the Angelus, followed by a delicious dinner and festive social gathering. It's the perfect opportunity to share in the Advent spirit, connect with one another, and warmly welcome our new deacon candidates!

This is the December formation session for the candidates and will allow them to take a break from scripture study for a little celebration. A freewill offering is asked but not required.

Please contact Martina, at the vocation office. Her email is [mskorch@diobelle.org](mailto:m Skorch@diobelle.org)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SEMINARIANS AND DEACON ASPIRANTS

SEMINARIANS	DEACON ASPIRANTS - BELLEVILLE/SPRINGFIELD CAPE	
Deacon Levi James	Tom Braun & Betsy Amoroso	Timothy & Joan Taylor
Mr. Casimir Cozzi	James & Chelsea Burris	Gary & Dorothy Zwilling
Mr. Terry Marmion	Jeffrey & Jennifer Craig	Brian & Barbara Bauknecht
Mr. Greg Kassen	Nathan & Carrie Higgerson	Bob & Lori Janota
Mr. Kyle Kellerman	Douglas & Cynthia Kuhl	Jim & Holly McCleary
	Matthew & Angela Lees	Brad & Emily Stroder
	Andy & Cheryl Orlet	Ron & Linda Yates
	William & Judith Reholz	



Date	Days	Course Title	Lecturer
Belleville 2028 (Meets 2nd weekend of each month)			
Sep-24	13-15	Church History	Dcn. Patrick Donahue
Oct-24	11-13	Church History	Dcn. Patrick Donahue
Nov-24	8-10	Intro to Scripture	Kevin Perrotta
Dec-24	13-15	Intro to Scripture	Kevin Perrotta
Jan-25	10-12	Ministry of Deacon	Dcn. John McGregor
Feb-25	14-16	Fundamental Theology	Brad Peper
Mar-25	14-16	Fundamental Theology	Brad Peper
Apr-25	11-13	Old Testament	Dcn. Anthony Cassaneto
May-25	9-11	Old Testament	Dcn. Anthony Cassaneto
Jun-25	13-15	Spirituality	NOT ASSIGNED

Date	Seminar Topic	Presenter
Ordained Deacons & Wives contact Martina 722-5043		
Sep-24	14th	Belleville Church History
Oct-24	12th	Springfield - Cape Church History
Nov-24	9th	Intro to the Lectionary and Ordo
Dec-24	14th	Candidates & Deacon's Gathering
Jan-25	11th	Intro to the Roman Missal
Feb-25	15th	Prison Ministry
Mar-25	15th	Ministry to the Sick & Aged
Apr-25	12th	Intro to the Deacon at the Mass
May-25	10th	Deacon & Proclamation of the Word
Jun-25	14th	Deacon & Leading Marian Devotion