

A Note from Fr. Keith, Our Pastor

I want to begin by thanking Fr. David for his many years of priestly ministry. Please remember to pray for him in his retirement. Every priest will tell you during a transfer it is bittersweet to say goodbye to one parish while being welcomed by another. It takes time to learn the spiritual, sacramental, and practical needs of a parish. Thank you in advance for your patience, support, and understanding as we begin to become acquainted.

Our pastor emeritus, Father John Sebahar, called me this past spring after the announcement about my appointment was made public. He told me, "It does not matter if parishioners think you are any better or worse than Fr. David. You will be different, as each of us are different, that's all. Just be yourself and do what makes you comfortable to care for your people." These words have been encouraging to me during this time of transition.

As a brief reintroduction, I was born and raised in the Chicago area where most of my family still lives. I am beginning my seventh year of priesthood, with previous assignments at Immaculate Conception in Elmhurst, Saint John the Baptist in Winfield, and Saint Mary of Gostyn in Downers Grove. Some of my favorite saints are John Paul II and Thomas More. In my limited free time, I enjoy podcasts, cars, and hiking. In closing, as previously shared, I also serve as a Chaplain in the United States Navy Reserves.

It will be good to begin to meet you. In the meantime, please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the National Eucharistic Revival. This will be our primary effort in the next three years to encourage Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, revive belief in the True Presence, and restore a more reverent celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. More information about this effort can be found at this website: <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>