

A Note from Fr. Keith, Our Pastor

The primary responsibility of a priest is the care of souls, especially sacramental ministry, in addition to the practical and prudent administration of the temporal goods of the parish. In these last three months, I have introduced to our parish a common mission and vision for these next three years with the Eucharistic Revival. I did not conceive of this effort on my own. Rather, as previously shared, it is an initiative of the Bishops in the United States. We are committed to renewing belief in the True Presence, restoring adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and reviving a more reverent celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Thank you for your welcome and support! *Our parish has quickly become home for me.* I am grateful for the many parishioners who have recognized and affirmed my intentionality, presence, and time investment so far. I have tried to be as present as possible in working to introduce both myself and the Eucharistic Revival to our parish.

I have been reflecting on the itinerant ministry of Jesus as I prepare to report to Naval Station Great Lakes on Friday. My heart is divided between Saint James and the need to serve our troops for a temporary time. In many ways, I feel like the missionaries of old who went to the New World to evangelize. I trust the Lord is already waiting for me in Qatar.

Next Sunday, I will be sent for a week to Navy Expeditionary Combat Readiness Command in Virginia in order to be issued uniforms and equipment like a helmet and body armor. The following Sunday, I will be sent to Army ECRC in Fort Bliss, TX for about a month of combat training before being sent to Qatar around Thanksgiving. As the Catholic Chaplain to Special Operations Command Central Forward, I will be providing spiritual care to our warfighters engaged in the ongoing combat operations against ISIS as a part of Operation Inherent Resolve. I am the first Catholic priest filling this assignment in four years!

Please pray for me during my deployment. Whenever I am not forward operating from Qatar, I will have access to my parish email account (kwolfe@stjamesge.org), or, if you prefer, you may send messages of prayerful support by mail to:

Keith Wolfe
515 FWD/CG ADMIN
Unit 61241
APO AE 09309-1241

Any mail sent to me must ***NOT*** contain electronics or perishable goods due to the two-week processing time and status of Spartan Base at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. I will remain engaged, as available, in our parish life virtually. For example, I will record a homily one weekend per month, continue to write these bulletin articles twice a month, participate in parish administration by remaining in contact with Fr. Tom, offering private Mass intentions, etc. I remain your pastor even while gratefully relying on the daily presence, care, and experience of Fr. Tom as our Parochial Administrator. I am deeply thankful for Fr. Tom's generosity.

Above all, we must remain in spiritual communion, so please pray for me and all our Special Operators whom I will serve, especially relying on the intercession of Servant of God Vincent Capodanno.