

A Message from Fr. Matthew...



Greetings to you! As you know, the time for priests' moves is upon us. Since I have the privilege of being assigned to the parishes of Sacred Heart and St. Michael, I thought I would write a little about myself.

My full name is Dennis Matthew Bedard, which is why I sign my official signature as Rev. D. Matthew Bedard. I prefer to be referred to as "Father Matthew" or "Father Bedard." I was born February 24, 1971 to parents Dennis and Dianne Bedard and was raised in the vicinity of Belle River, Ontario. I am the eldest of 5 children; Kevin, Michael, Robert and Rebecca are my brothers and sister.

My home parish is St. Simon and St. Jude in Belle River. I attended St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary School in Belle River, ON and St. Anne Catholic Secondary School in Tecumseh, ON. I studied 2 years of business administration at the University of Windsor and obtained a diploma in chemical engineering from St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology in Windsor.

Some of my work experiences include de-tasselling corn, working in fields, and manual labour for a farm and trucking company. I also pumped gas and worked at a local garage. During my university and college years, I worked in Windsor on the assembly lines for Chrysler Corporation. I was available to my parish where I volunteered in various ministries and assisted with building and ground maintenance. I also worked for a year in the parish performing the same duties along with publishing the parish bulletin. I entered the seminary in 1996 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 2003, the Feast of St. Philip and St. James.

My previous parish assignments have been: St. Peter in Goderich, Our Lady of the Atonement in Forest Glade (Windsor), St. Anne in Tecumseh, St. Michael in London, the clustered parishes of St. Benedict, Our Lady of Mercy and St. Joseph in Sarnia (2007 - 2010). My most recent assignment has been the clustered parishes of St. Charles Garnier in Glencoe and Sacred Heart in Delaware (2010 - 2018) where I served as Pastor.

I have served on various committees in the diocese including: Vocations, Ministry to Priests, Council of Priests, Board of Shareholders for St. Peter's Seminary (currently) and Board of Directors for the St. John the Evangelist Pension Fund Society for priests (currently).

I am very excited to be appointed pastor to your community. I look forward to working and praying with you in the coming years. I know there will be a period of adjustment as we get to know each other, but, I trust that we can be there for each other.

Let us pray for each other, that God may bless us as we grow as a community of faith.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Matthew