

November 18, 2018

It is a great joy to be the new parish chaplain for the five Butler Parishes. I am Fr. William Wuenschel (Fr. Will). In my assignment as parish chaplain I will be ministering at Butler Memorial Hospital and various nursing homes in the Butler area. I will also minister at the VNA Hospice Care and Butler County Prison. In addition, I will be celebrating Mass at the five parishes on the weekend and on holy days, as well as the nursing homes and prison on weekdays. I am also available for baptisms, weddings, and funerals at the request of the family, and as needed. In relation to my role as a parish chaplain, if you or a loved one is anticipating surgery or some other matter that you will be hospitalized, please contact me, if possible, prior to being admitted to the hospital, for receiving the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, or Confession. I am always available after Mass for the sacrament. Please inform the hospital that you are a Catholic and your parish affiliation so that we can provide Holy Communion to you during your stay. If you or a loved one receives word of a terminal illness, please contact me as soon as possible. One can receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and the Apostolic Blessing (Last Rites). One does not need to wait for the last days or even hours to receive those sacred rituals. I am ALWAYS ready to administer the sacraments in case of an emergency, so please do not hesitate to call me.

Now a little bit about myself. I was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Pittsburgh on June 27, 2015. I grew up in a strong Catholic family. I am the 8th of 9 children. But in my years of college and some time after that, I drifted away from my faith. In the midst of “finding myself”, by the grace of God, I had several encounters that I knew were the working of God in my life. After a period of ten years I returned to the sacrament of Confession. It was at this time I recognized the mercy and grace of God working in me. With a clear conscience and deep sense of God’s mercy, I was able to hear him speaking to my heart, calling me to the priesthood. I discerned this call for over a year. It began to manifest itself through the “pillars of the church”, the women in my parish, who began asking me if I might consider the call to priesthood. Soon I became open to the grace to accept God’s call and entered the seminary in the fall of 2009 at the age of 29 to formally discern the priesthood. Those next 6 years prepared me to serve you as a priest. I completed my studies at Theological College and The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. Upon ordination, I served as a parochial vicar for two years at Saint Benedict the Abbott in Peter’s Township before becoming administrator of St. Fidelis Parish in Butler, and now joyfully serve you as Parish Chaplain. I invite you to view my very first homily as a priest which details my vocation story: <https://youtu.be/OtKj1ivLU30>. You can also do a Google search, Father William Wuenschel, on YouTube.

It is a great joy to be with you in Butler and to serve you as your chaplain. I ask that you pray for me as I continue to seek God’s will. I strive to be a good and holy priest. Also, pray for Fr. Kevin Fazio, Fr. John Bayer and Fr. Dan Waruszewski who are serving the People of God in Butler. May God bless you, your families and friends, and all of your loved ones.

Grace & Peace,

Fr. Will

