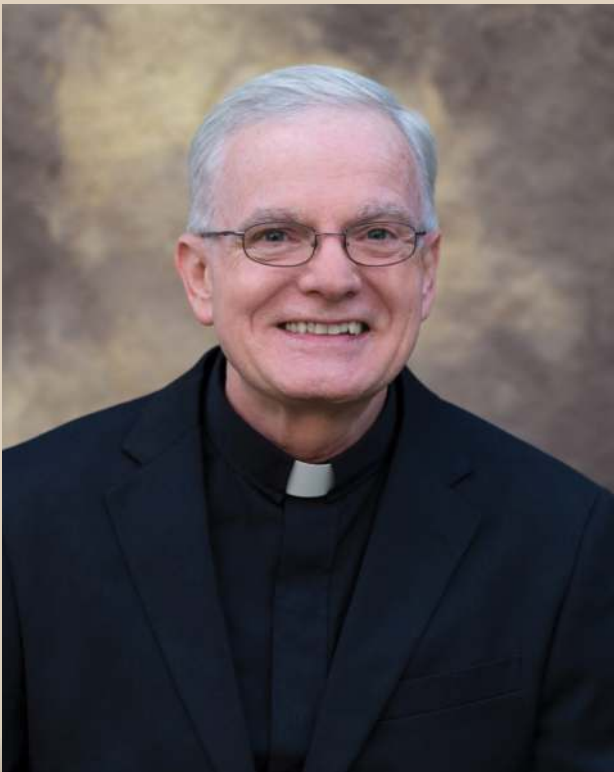


Saint Francis Solanus



AUGUST 2020

Welcoming Fr. David Beagles, Our New Parochial Vicar



Fr. David Beagles was ordained to the priesthood on June 19.

On Friday, June 19, David Beagles surrendered his life to Almighty God in an extraordinary way — one that left an indelible mark on his soul and a fire of love in his heart. He was ordained to the Eternal Priesthood of Jesus Christ at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield with Most Rev. Bishop Thomas John Paprocki conferring.

Now as a priest, Fr. Beagles savors beautiful hopes and aspirations.

"I want to be a humble parish priest who is loyal to the teachings of Holy Mother Church, and I hope to assist my pastor to the best of my ability," Fr. Beagles says. "There should be great joy in priesthood! Christ has won the victory and the Spirit is alive and well! Priesthood should reflect this peace and jubilation, especially as a source of hope in challenging times."

As he looks toward the future, he has remarkable goals in mind.

"Naturally, I am looking forward to celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass!" he says. "I enjoy devotions to our Blessed Mother, also, especially her Holy Rosary. I enjoy preaching, and getting to know people and

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Welcoming Fr. David Beagles *continued from front cover*

their families in the Lord. I believe, also, talking of God's abundant love and mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be a great joy. Helping guide souls to heaven is certainly central to the priesthood. The Eucharist, the Source and Summit of our faith, is vitally important to that effort, as are the other sacraments, like Reconciliation. A priest today, also, must remind the people that we are 'all in this together,' as members of Christ's Body the Church."

In order to reach the point of priestly ordination, hearty seeds of faith were planted and nurtured in his soul over the years.

"I grew up in a close-knit Catholic family with loving parents who were deeply religious," he says. "I am one of six children. My mother died 10 years ago this November and was always a beautiful example of faith for my siblings and me. She was a gracious, kind and generous person. My father, almost 92, cherishes the faith and his daily devotional prayers. He is profoundly loved in our family, with his Catholic faith a shining example of love."

Above all, Fr. Beagles believes that his family's example of dedication to Our Lord made a lasting impression on him to this day.

"My father had an aunt who was a Dominican Sister, and on my mom's side there was a Catholic bishop and a priest," he says. "As a family we loved Sunday Mass and praying the Rosary together. Family prayer is very important to fostering religious vocations, as well as having parents lead the way in celebrating their cherished faith with real joy and enthusiasm. Ultimately this is all about Christ, and being joined to Him one day in heaven for all

of eternity! Families can play a big role in helping along the earthly way to achieve this amazing goal with mutual love and encouragement and support."

Fr. Beagles received his Master's of Divinity degree at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wis. During his time in seminary, he was deeply enriched by both his studies, as well as the opportunities for fellowship he enjoyed.

"I loved learning more about theology and its related philosophy foundations, learning more about homiletics and pastoral care, and meeting friends from across the globe," he says. "Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology is an international seminary where many students attend to learn English as a second language. I was born and raised in Springfield, Ill., and spent most of my life there, and I was privileged to learn about far-flung cultures at the seminary. On any given day in our seminary cafeteria, at my table might be someone from Vietnam, Poland, Mexico, Columbia, Italy, India, Nigeria, and many, many, other fascinating places across the globe."

To men who are considering the priesthood or discerning their vocation in life, Fr. Beagles has some helpful advice to share.

"I would suggest they frequently pray about their vocation and to feel free to seek outside advice, including from a priest they enjoy and with whom they can talk easily," he says. "Prayer is key."

The diocesan vocation office is also a great resource of helpful information, including about discernment weekends and other opportunities to

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"I want to be a humble parish priest who is loyal to the teachings of Holy Mother Church, and I hope to assist my pastor to the best of my ability. There should be great joy in priesthood! Christ has won the victory and the Spirit is alive and well! Priesthood should reflect this peace and jubilation, especially as a source of hope in challenging times." — FR. DAVID BEAGLES

A Letter From Our Pastor

Stewardship:

A POSITIVE WAY TO LIVE

Dear Parishioners,

There is something about the month of August that is glorious. Summer is still in full force — the lazy, hazy days are upon us, and some still have vacations on the horizon. And, yet, we can also perceive how this wonderful season is drawing to a close — our vacations may already be over, and we may be anticipating the end of this relaxing time, with back-to-school and a return to the busyness of life just around the corner.

We are at that point in the year when things are coming to an end and things are beginning all at once. However, isn't that the way it always is? The Russian playwright and short-story writer Anton Chekhov once said, "People don't notice whether it is winter or summer when they are happy." There is certainly truth to that statement. You might say it is a stewardship statement.

I am sure you are wondering how to make the connection between Chekhov's quote and stewardship, but the connection is found quite simply in the word "happy." I once heard someone say in a presentation about stewardship that people who live stewardship as a way of life are almost always happy. There is a reason for that.

Stewardship is a positive way to live. It means feeling grateful and centering your thoughts on gratitude. In other words, your focus is on the good things in life, not the bad. That does not mean you have perfect health or that all is ideal in your family, that you always sleep well at night, or that you enjoy everything that happens to you or around you.

However, it does mean that when the good happens, you thank God. You recognize that good and are filled with feelings of joy and gratitude. You and I know people like that, don't we? We know people who always seem filled with joy, regardless



of what may be happening to them or around them personally. To me, these kinds of people are stewardship people — the kind of people we all need to strive to be.

No doubt, you have heard that living a life of stewardship means living with an "attitude of gratitude." That is not easy, for you or for me. Let us vow to try to be like that nonetheless. As we prepare for the busier time of year to begin once again, let us concentrate on how God has blessed us. If we do that, I truly believe that we can be those people Chekhov described. If we are happy, it will not matter

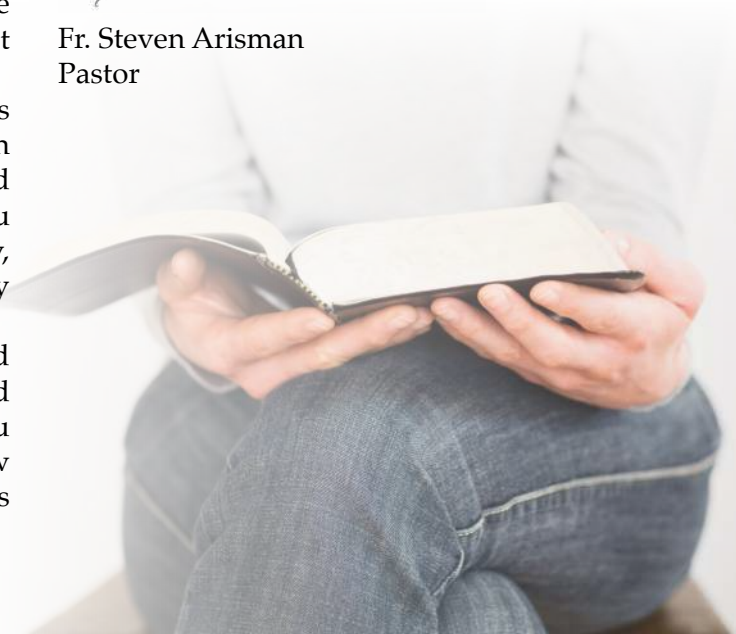
what time of year it is.

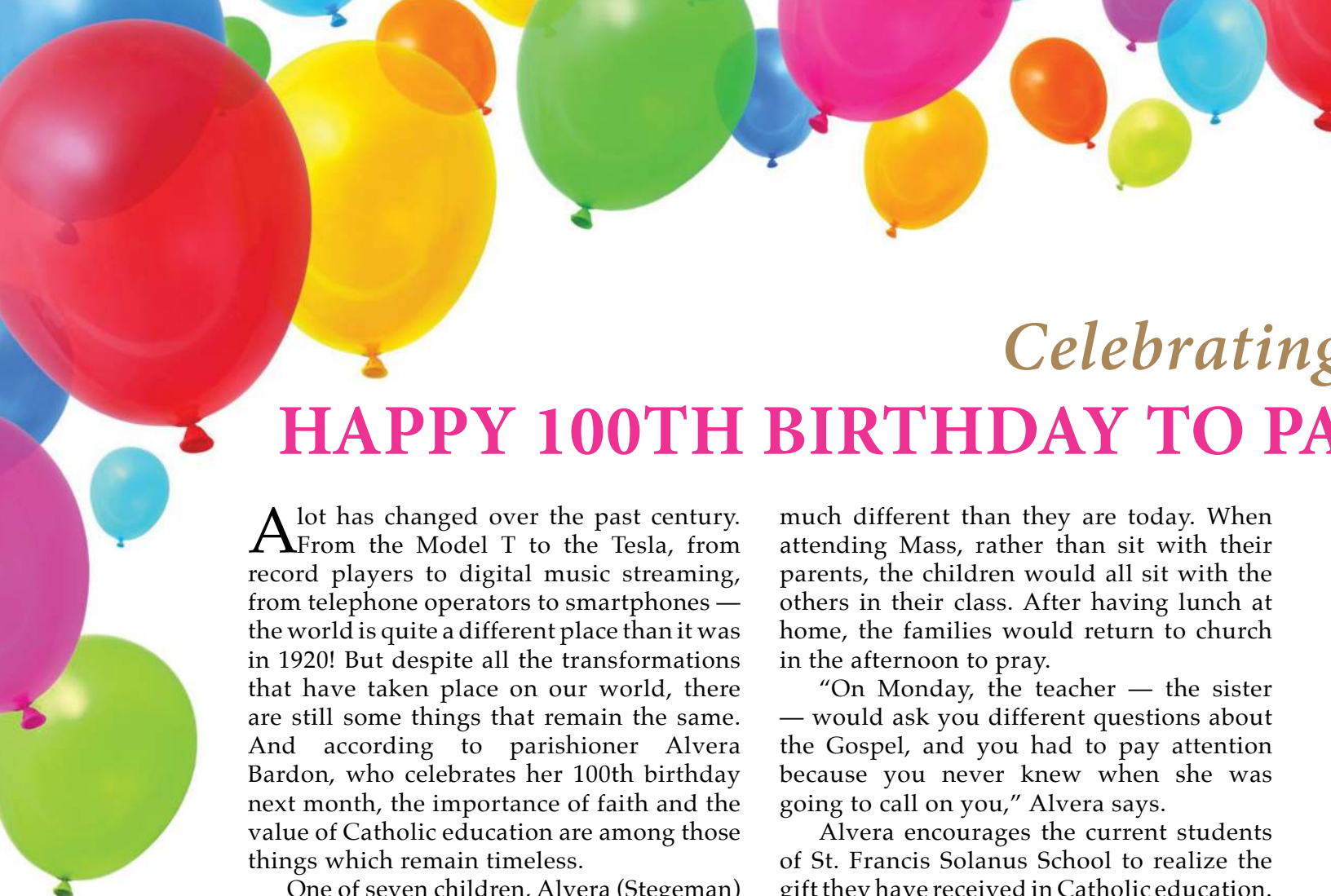
I am grateful for you, your support, your prayers, and — most of all — your presence in my life. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rev. Steven Arisman".

Fr. Steven Arisman
Pastor





Celebrating **HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO PA**

A lot has changed over the past century. From the Model T to the Tesla, from record players to digital music streaming, from telephone operators to smartphones — the world is quite a different place than it was in 1920! But despite all the transformations that have taken place on our world, there are still some things that remain the same. And according to parishioner Alvera Bardon, who celebrates her 100th birthday next month, the importance of faith and the value of Catholic education are among those things which remain timeless.

One of seven children, Alvera (Stegeman) Bardon grew up in Quincy. As a child, she attended St. Francis School, beginning in first grade and graduating with the Class of 1935.

"I didn't like school," Alvera says, with a smile. "I only lived two blocks away [from school], so the first day of school, when it was recess, I went home. My mother said, 'What are you doing at home?' and I said, 'I'm not going to school,' and she said 'Oh yes, you are,' and she took me back. So, I had to stay there, and then, my dad wouldn't let me quit school until I graduated from Notre Dame."

Alvera recalls her experience of attending a Catholic grade school in a very different time. There were no school buses, no school lunch, and no girls wearing "slacks." The children attended Mass every morning, after fasting from anything but water after midnight. They were taught by religious sisters and spent recess playing hopscotch and jump rope.

"You learned a lot if you paid attention," Alvera says. "I was glad I went to St. Francis."

Alvera also recalls Sundays being

much different than they are today. When attending Mass, rather than sit with their parents, the children would all sit with the others in their class. After having lunch at home, the families would return to church in the afternoon to pray.

"On Monday, the teacher — the sister — would ask you different questions about the Gospel, and you had to pay attention because you never knew when she was going to call on you," Alvera says.

Alvera encourages the current students of St. Francis Solanus School to realize the gift they have received in Catholic education.

"Whatever you do, listen to the teachers and learn whatever you can learn," Alvera says. "The more you can learn, the better it will be in later life. You might not think so now, but later, you'll really appreciate what you learned today."

Alvera went on to attend and graduate from Quincy Notre Dame in 1939, and, after attending beauty school, she opened a small salon in her parents' home. Shortly afterwards, she met and married her husband, Harold, and after his time in military service, the couple opened an auto body shop together.

The couple was blessed to have three children — two daughters, Barbara (Bockhaus) and Nancy (Friye), and a son. But Alvera saw her share of difficult times as well. In 1970, her son was killed in Vietnam, and she lost her husband in 2009, days short of celebrating their 67th wedding anniversary. She credits her strong faith and positive outlook for sustaining her through these difficult times.

"The only way you get through is to trust in the Lord and take one day at a time,"

g a Century

PARISHIONER ALVERA BARDON!



Alvera (Stegeman) Bardon graduated eighth grade from St. Francis School in 1935. She is believed to be the oldest living St. Francis School alumnus.

Alvera says.

"Keep your faith," she adds. "I just talk to God like He's in the same room with me and I pray the Rosary all the time."

Through it all, Alvera kept her strong faith and connection to the parish community. Although she attended a number of different parishes over the years, based on where she lived, Alvera is glad to be back at St. Francis Solanus, where it all began. She hopes that she will be remembered in the parish community as someone who liked everybody and never carried a grudge.

And even with her 100th birthday quickly approaching, Alvera shows no signs of slowing down, either in her participation



Alvera (Stegeman) Bardon received her First Communion in 1929, along with her classmates at St. Francis School.

in the parish community, or in her service. You can still find her attending the Ladies' Meetings and helping out with the parish food pantry.

"As long as I can help someone else, I want to do it," she says.

Alvera looks forward to celebrating her birthday with her daughters and son-in-law, five grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

"I do believe if I didn't have that faith, I wouldn't have lived this long," she says. "I just trust in the Lord for everything. I have a prayer I say every day, thanking Him for another day."

Happy birthday, Alvera!

Alvera is hoping to reconnect with other St. Francis Solanus alumni from the Class of 1935. Please contact the parish office, if this is you! We are working to update all of our alumni records for St. Francis Solanus School. If you are an alumni, you may submit your current contact information by calling the parish office at 217-222-2898 or by visiting www.stfrancissolanus.com/alumni/.

Meet Our School Advisory Board

Poised to Faithfully Serve in Face of New Challenges

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic led to the shutdown of all schools, the St. Francis Solanus School Advisory Board has continued to meet virtually to ensure that our students, faculty and staff all stay safe and healthy.

As four new board members joined the group — led by President Amanda Garnett — discussions were ongoing about how distance learning was put in place, what challenges have arisen, and what decisions will have to be made for the students this fall.

“We’ve received the list of the CDC recommendations on how school can reopen,” Amanda says. “And we have had some feedback. There are lots of questions about what the environment would be and concerns about what learning would look like.”

Yet, despite all the uncertainties, parents and students can be assured that the Advisory Board will be working to make sure that our Catholic values will continue to be taught so the students are given a strong foundation in their faith.

The board members offer advice to the school administrators and help in disciplinary issues, on policy and policy changes. The board also oversees the policies and procedures for the gymnasium at school that allows outside parties to use it for extracurricular activities.

Board members also spend a lot of time in discussion on different topics covering the students’ education.

“If there is a new curriculum, the board tries to offer suggestions, especially on religion-based curriculum,” Amanda says. “We make sure the school and all involved uphold the foundation of our school, our Catholic faith. If we determine that something needs to be changed, we change it.”

One of the changes made during the past few years was having the students attend Mass once a week, instead of daily. Each grade now holds prayer sessions, and our Pastor also visits with each grade during the week, a change that allows the students to speak directly with him.



“There is a lot of discussion to ensure all the values are there, every day, for all of our students,” Amanda says.

As the board members go about their service to promote Catholic education, they are dedicated to offer their time and talents in stewardship to St. Francis Solanus Parish.

“Each board member is also actively involved in the parish and the school,” Amanda says. “For example, I serve on the St. Francis Board, and also the Quincy Catholic Elementary Board. It governs all four Catholic elementary schools in Quincy. We have two members who do a lot of promotions for the school and highlight all the wonderful things happening in our Catholic schools.”

When the shutdown began, a board member working in video production made an inspirational video highlighting our priests and school principal. Another member, an attorney, established the Solanus Saints, a volunteer program largely made up of retirees who serve as school tutors and classroom aides.

“They make sure the kids who need help, have it,” Amanda says. “The board members are constantly giving back. We all believe in stewardship and bringing our talents to school and the parish. We want to be an example of stewardship and being Catholics, modeling what Christ models to us, about giving back.”

As these last weeks of summer go by amid a time of discussions and decisions, be assured that our St. Francis Solanus School teachers, with the support of the Advisory Board, will be working to prepare for any eventuality.

“I offer my prayers up daily that God will grant us the wisdom and He’d help us make sure we are serving the students and faculty the best we can in these uncertain times,” Amanda says. “We have an amazing group of teachers, faculty and administrators. We are blessed. We are very lucky to have them.

“And I can’t say enough about our board,” she says. “They are the most genuine, hard-working people. For us, it is a gift to be so involved in the school where our kids go.”



Making Something Beautiful: THE QUILTERS MINISTRY

What if there was a way to enjoy your hobby, build relationships with fellow parishioners, and serve your community — all at the same time? For those who like to use their creative talent in quilting, there is! Here at St. Francis Solanus, our Quilters Ministry has been a staple of the parish for decades.

"It's a wonderful group to belong to," says Rosemary Duesterhaus, a longtime member who serves as the head of the ministry. "It helps you, it helps the other ladies that work with you, and then, you have something that makes money and adds a lot of beauty to the world."

The ladies meet on Thursdays and Fridays each week in the Parish Hall basement. Some of the women begin the day with Mass, and others join later in the morning to begin working. They continue to enjoy each other's company over lunch and coffee, and get back to work again in the afternoons.

"We all come in and sit down, and we work together to put the quilts in the frames and some do embroidery and some do piecing," Rosemary says.

"It's a good time to visit, too — it's not just all work," she adds. "We chat while we're quilting and we have a good time."

The ladies quilt pieces each year to be raffled at events like the Parish Picnic or Christmas Bazaar. In addition, they also make "pay-quilts," where someone will bring them a quilt top that they have already completed, and pay the ladies of the group

for supplies and to finish quilting it.

"People will usually have the quilt top finished themselves, and they'll ask us to quilt it because they may not have room and frames to quilt it," Rosemary says.

However, beyond any particular project is the sense of sisterhood that's been built around the quilts. For many of the women involved, they've been meeting and working together for years, and a strong sense of community — and friendship — has grown among the women.

"It's a wonderful experience, really," Rosemary says. "We keep pretty close tabs on each other. I really like the friendships, the other women to talk to, and getting together and working, and accomplishing something that's really beautiful when you get it finished."

The ladies also take occasional day trips, to Rutledge, Mo., to enjoy lunch in the small Amish community and purchase supplies.

Rosemary encourages other parishioners to come and join the Quilters Ministry, whether it's something they've done before or they would like to learn how to quilt.

"We always welcome anybody who wants to come, even if they don't know how to quilt at all," Rosemary says. "We welcome them to come and learn with us."

"You really don't have to be an expert quilter — if you can thread a needle, we can teach people to quilt," she adds. "You have to work at it, but it's not that complicated once you learn the basics. It's a wonderful group to belong to."

If you would like more information, or to become involved in the Quilters Ministry at St. Francis Solanus, please contact Rosemary Duesterhaus at 217-222-0827, or ministry assistant MinnieJo Glisan at 217-222-6727.

St. Francis Solanus

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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Welcoming Fr. David Beagles as Our New Parochial Vicar

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hear guest speakers. Considering one's vocation during Eucharistic Adoration, and praying the Holy Rosary about it really helps."

When asked about his time at St. Francis Solanus, he offers hopeful insights.

"I hope to be a good, humble faithful parish priest and to serve the people with gentleness and to the best of my ability," he says. "I know the parishioners have a great devotion to the Franciscan tradition. I hope they can teach me more about this wondrous saint and St. Clare and their teachings. I want to be an instrument of greater peace and comfort in these

challenging times by witnessing to the eternal truths of Christ. I love being part of the St. Francis Solanus parish family!"

Above all, he looks forward to journeying right alongside of us, as we do, to him.

"It is a joy to get to know folks, their families, and the loving ties that bind," he says. "Among the best part of life are its relationships. I look forward to understanding these connections better at St. Francis Solanus Parish, which I know will take lots of time at such a big and active parish. Still, it is just one person, one 'relationship' in the Lord at a time!"

Our new Liturgy Schedule begins August 3

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass: Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m. | W, 8:35 a.m. during school year | Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

Confessions: Saturdays following the 8 a.m. Mass, 3 - 4 p.m.

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil 5:30 p.m.; Holy Day: 6:30 a.m.; 8:35 a.m. on school days; 5:30 p.m.