

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church

130 Keating Drive • Winchester, VA 22601 • 540-662-5858

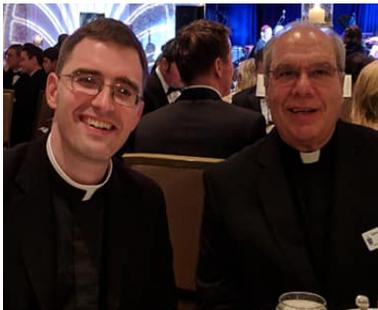
Dear Sacred Heart Family,

The month of Our Lady is an exciting time to update you on news and happenings at our vibrant parish. Throughout the summer, I'll provide details, but I want to share important clergy assignment changes with you.

First of all, we are sad to say goodbye to Father Holmes, and accompany him with our prayers and best wishes as he becomes Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, in Manassas. Father Holmes' new chapter is accompanied by a welcome to Father Stephen Vaccaro, who will be joining us from Nativity Church in Burke, Virginia, where he has been serving under Father Bob Cilinski. While I will be able to share more details later, here are some basic facts about these moves which will take place at the end of June.

Father Holmes will replace long-time pastor, Father Michael J. Bazan, at the Manassas Parish. It is a wonderful community that I got to know as well when I served at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School. Many JP families attend Sacred Heart, and Father Holmes will be serving a wonderful community committed to families, youth ministry, and outreach to those in need. Father Holmes will be able to share more with us in coming bulletins about his reflections of serving in Winchester, and things to come in Manassas. Please join me in thanking him for his dedicated service here, joyful spirit and let him know that you will join me in missing him tremendously as he heads on the road to future adventures and generous service. Without Father Holmes, we wouldn't be able to provide the level of pastoral care and service that he made possible in his three years here.

We will also have a chance to get to know more about Father Stephen Vaccaro's amazing story. Father grew up in Annandale, VA, and is familiar with Saint Michael parish where Father Muldowney also served before coming to Winchester. Father Vaccaro attended Bishop Ireton High School, and then graduated from the University of Virginia. His family is a joyfully Catholic one! His older brother Father Chris Vaccaro is the Campus Minister at the University of Mary Washington, in Fredericksburg. Another brother, Brian, is studying to be a Redemptorist Brother.



Father Vaccaro was in the ROTC at the University of Virginia, and studied at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Father is from a joyful family of nine, and has been extremely active in youth ministry, marriage preparation, service to the needy. He has mentored many young families under the wise guidance of Father Bob Cilinski, a gifted pastor and joyful priest of our diocese. Please join me in praying for Father Stephen as he makes plans to join us in Winchester, and welcome him as part of your family as well.

Father Stephen Holmes makes way to welcome Father Stephen Vaccaro. Father Holmes leaves Sacred Heart of Jesus in Winchester to serve at Sacred Heart in Manassas. We see the Lord's goodness and even sense of humor in these moves. However you look at it - whether it's an "Even Stephen" or "Heart to Heart" - there is goodness in the news of these transitions. It is bittersweet to say goodbye to Father Holmes. He will never know how much I will miss him, and what he has meant to me, personally, during these years of growth and COVID while serving our parish family.



Please join me in thanking Fr. Holmes for his dedicated and faithful service and thank the goodness and kind generosity of Bishop Burbidge in sending us such excellent, hard-working servants.

In our Lady's Immaculate Heart,


Rev. Bjorn C. Lundberg
Pastor