

GROUP #451

PENN HILLS / MONROEVILLE CATHOLIC PARISHES



Saint Bartholomew, Penn Hills
Saint Bernadette, Monroeville
Saint Gerard Majella, Penn Hills
North American Martyrs, Monroeville
Saint Susanna, Penn Hills

FROM OUR NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Parishioners of the Pitcairn, Monroeville, Penn Hills Communities,

I am pleased to be getting ready to greet you all in person. The priests and deacons assigned our parishes collectively know as grouping #451 are working together to prepare the interim Mass schedules and Confession schedules. These are set to be approved and announced in September. The need arose to have fewer Masses to accomplish the goals set forth by the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

In the interim, at least one priest will reside at each of the four parishes. As a student priest from Africa, Fr. Faustine will continue to live at St. Bartholomew, as will Fr. Ed. Each of us is still readying ourselves for upcoming moves to our new homes.

I know there are concerns about the new grouping and what the future holds. There are still many plans to be determined, and we know that in time you and we will work together to accomplish what will happen in the future. We are relying on your assistance, as we are all **ON MISSION FOR THE CHURCH ALIVE** to keep the faith alive in the Church of Pittsburgh for years to come. Peace and joy to you all, in Jesus' love,
Fr. Al Zapf+

“Father of Mercy, during this time of transition help us to grow with the parishes in our grouping
Grant us the wisdom and the willingness to understand how our parishes will become stronger and more vibrant in fulfilling the mission of the Church.
Assist us in opening our arms to welcome others as we continue to journey *On Mission for the Church Alive!*
Help us, O Lord, to trust in the future you have planned for us.
This we ask through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MEET OUR CLERGY

Father Albert Zapf, Administrator



I grew up in West Mifflin, and worked at Kennywood Park for three summers; I went to Penn State and majored in Accounting; Worked at US Steel, Homestead Works in accounting division three years; went to Gannon in Erie for Philosophy, then Christ the King Seminary in Buffalo four years. I grew up with three brothers and two sisters. I enjoy music, especially the Beatles, and Classical-Bach, Beethoven, Mozart. I enjoy doing artwork, like painting and

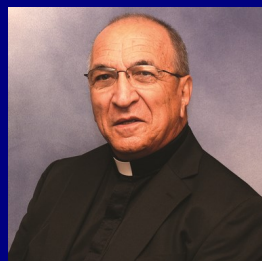
drawing, as well as daily walks for exercise.

Preferred name to be called: Father Al

Ordination Date: October 4, 1980

Previous Assignments: St. Athanasius (West View), Holy Family Institute (Emsworth), St. Veronica (Ambridge), St. Louise de Marillac (Upper St. Clair), Good Shepherd/Sacred Heart (Braddock), Our Lady of Victory (Harwick), St. Valentine (Bethel Park), Our Lady of Joy (Plum).

Father Edwin Wichman, Senior Parochial Vicar



I was raised in Glassport and graduated from Serra Catholic High School. From there I went on to obtain degrees from California University of Pennsylvania, Duquesne University, and Mount Saint Mary's Seminary. Also, I have a Principal's certificate from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I was ordained on October 4, 1980, by Bishop Vincent M. Leonard at Saint Paul Cathedral. I enjoy bowling, playing golf, going on cruises, playing cards and video games and have been part of a priests' support group with Father Al for nearly 38 years. Most fulfilling part of the priesthood is being able to offer people for-

giveness and hope in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Preferred name to be called: Father Ed

Ordination Date: October 4, 1980

Previous Assignments: Parochial Vicar at Saint Canice, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Raphael and Saint Maurice. Served as Pastor at Saint Joseph, Saint James, and Ave Maria. Served as Administrator of Saint Wendelin and Saint Bartholomew. Served as Director of Saint Anthony School and as Confessor to the Sisters of the Holy Spirit.

MEET OUR CLERGY — CONTINUED

Father Kenneth Sparks, Parochial Vicar



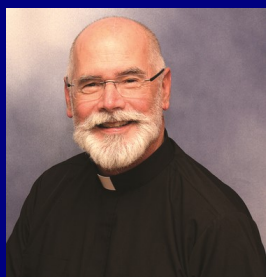
I was born in McKeesport in 1961 and graduated from South Allegheny High School in 1979. From there I went on to attend Penn State University and later Saint Vincent Seminary. Cardinal Wuerl ordained me in 1995. I enjoy suburbia not the great outdoors, and I am a roller coaster enthusiast.

Preferred name to be called: Father Ken

Ordination Date: June 24, 1995

Previous Assignments: St. Sebastian (Northside), St. Patrick (Canonsburg), Our Lady of Grace (Scott Twp.), St. Patrick (Oakdale), St. Alphonsus (McDonald), St. Theresa of Avila (North Hills), St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin (Whitehall), St. Januarius (Plum), Holy Trinity (Robinson)

Father Richard Thompson, Parish Chaplain



I grew up in Bellevue and was a Bulldog football player. I am a veteran of the US Army Airborne where I served for six years. I come to our group from Butler County, and previously served the southern end of our diocese in Greene County. In addition to being pastor of St. Ann in Waynesburg, for six years I was the director of the Newman Club at Waynesburg University and chaplain to Waynesburg Hospital and Greene County Jail. I enjoy the

great outdoors and fly fishing. I have a Golden Retriever named "Honey" and used to raise Retrievers.

Preferred name to be called: Father Rick

Ordination Date: June 1, 1996

Previous Assignments: Mater Dolorosa (Chicora) and St. Joseph (North Oakland), St. Ann (Waynesburg), St. Alphonsus (Boyers, Murrinsville, West Sunbury), St. Alphonsus (Wexford)

Father Faustine Furaha, In Residence



I am Fr. Faustine Furaha. I was ordained for the Catholic Diocese of Moshi in Tanzania. Before coming to the Diocese of Pittsburgh, I served in Cleveland. I have been in residence at St. Bartholomew since 2016, and I am currently a student at Duquesne University where I am working on my doctorate.

Preferred name to be called: Father Faustine

Ordination Date: July 10, 2004

Deacon Michael Kelly



I have been a member of St. Bernadette Parish since the early 1980's. I am married with four children, three of which live out of state. I retired from Verizon in 2003 and studied for a Master's Degree in Systematic Theology at St. Vincent Seminary. Following that, I worked as a chaplain for a hos-

pital and (briefly) for Catholic Charities. I now work full-time for the Parish as Pastoral Associate.

Preferred name to be called: Deacon Mike

Ordination Date: June 26, 1999

Previous Assignments: St. Bernadette

Deacon Richard Tucek



I have been a member of St. Bernadette Parish for 36 years, and I have been married for 39 years to the best person in the world and my high school sweetheart, Kathy. We have 6 kids, our oldest is Ryan, and he and his wife have 3 kids. Our second son is Cory, and he and his wife have 1 son. Our third son is Adam, and he and his wife have 2 boys. They are expecting their third boy in September. Emily is our fourth child and was born premature and is our families' personal saint in heaven. Our fifth child is Sarah and is an on-air host for WAOB, the Catholic Radio Pittsburgh. Our youngest child is Michelle. She and her husband were married last December and currently reside in NJ. I have held several jobs over the years. I worked in ac-

counting for the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad, worked for other CPA's until I opened my own accounting firm which I worked at for 25 years. I have worked at various churches as Business Manager as well as, being Deacon Administrator for St. Bede. I was assigned to St. Bernadette in June on my 7th anniversary as a deacon, and I became the director of the Missions Office for the diocese. I love sports especially the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates.

Preferred name to be called: Deacon Rick

Ordination Date: June 11, 2011

Previous Assignments: North American Martyrs, St. Maurice (Forest Hills), and St. Bede (Point Breeze)