

Dear St. John the Apostle Parish Family:

I am very pleased to let you all know of some very good news that I believe will serve to strengthen the parish as a whole and benefit our outreach and pastoral work on many levels! Effective October 15th, 2022, we have both a new parish family and a new Permanent Deacon added to our staff: I am very pleased to welcome Deacon Rich Napoli and his wife, Janet, to Virginia and St. John the Apostle Parish; they have recently relocated from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, where Deacon Napoli exercised his ministry. The Deacon has provided a short bio and picture by way of introducing himself, and more information will follow once he is settled into Virginia and becomes active in the parish.

Over the thirty years of my ordained ministry, in all the parishes in which I have served, there have been excellent Permanent Deacons who have collaborated with the parish priests to enliven and strengthen all parish ministries on liturgical, Sacramental, social, and outreach levels! Deacon Napoli brings with him a wealth of experience from the corporate, family, and parochial worlds.... all of which will be of great benefit to us here at St. John the Apostle parish. Apart from assisting at Masses (and preaching), Permanent Deacons can officiate weddings that are outside of Mass, as well as celebrate Baptisms and officiate funeral services and burials, along with assisting with Marriage preparation and other Sacramental preparation programs, counseling, and the like. I look forward to having Deacon Napoli with us and to the great work that I know he will accomplish here in Leesburg. Please be sure to extend a warm welcome to the Deacon whenever you happen to see him at Church, or elsewhere!

In addition to being blessed with an experienced Permanent Deacon in Rich Napoli; we all know that we have been praying for and supporting our parishioner and Permanent Deacon Candidate, Mr. Mark Voorheis, during his many years of preparation and formation. Mark has nearly completed his time of preparation and formation, and he will be, God willing, ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Arlington Diocese in January 2023. While nothing is official yet.... the expectation is that the newly ordained Permanent Deacon Mark Voorheis will be assigned to serve here in his home parish of St. John the Apostle, where he is already very involved in the liturgies, with Youth Ministry and the Parish Council! The Lord truly seems to be blessing our parish with these men, and I fully intend to use what the Lord has given to the utmost, because as we all know: there is so much good work going on here at St. John's, but there is so much more we can yet do!

Please continue to pray for Deacon Rich Napoli and Deacon candidate Mark Voorheis!

Blessings in Christ,

Fr. Kevin
Pastor



Deacon Rich Napoli

Deacon Rich Napoli has been married to his wife Janet for 41 years and they have three grown children and soon-to-be eight grandchildren. He and Janet grew up in Queens NY around the corner from each other and were married in 1981. They lived for 13 years in the Westchester County suburbs of New York City before moving to the Philadelphia suburbs for work. They recently relocated to the Leesburg area to be nearer to their kids and grandkids.

Deacon Rich retired last year after a long career in the software business, most recently as the CEO of a mid-sized software engineering firm. He is on the Board of the Busch School of Business at The Catholic University of America in DC and will start lecturing there in the spring. He has his BS in Computer Science from Stony Brook University and his MBA in Finance from New York University.

He was ordained in 2011 in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and served in two local parishes in the suburbs of Bucks County and is now assigned to our parish. Having been an atheist for most of his life, his journey back to his faith has helped him to better relate to those struggling with theirs. He looks forward to meeting all the many wonderful parishioners here and with the help of the Holy Spirit, hopes to invite you to a deeper relationship with God.