

Pastor's Notes: Fr. Valentin Iurochkin

August 9, 2020

When I went on my sabbatical from January to March, the Bishop graciously sent us a priest to help out during my absence. The priest he sent us was Fr. Valentin Iurochkin, a newly ordained priest, originally from Russia. Fr. Valentin had studied with and was ordained for the religious order called The Institute of the Incarnate Word, but now is pursuing diocesan priesthood in the Diocese of Knoxville. After his successful three months of filling in, the Bishop saw fit to leave him at the Basilica during the coronavirus quarantine and fallout. He fit in so well and contributed so wonderfully to our parish that the Bishop has now assigned him as Parochial Vicar to our parish. In addition, he has assigned Fr. Valentin to pick up where Fr. Blatchford has left off as Chaplain to the UTC Newman Center.

You are most likely already familiar with Fr. Valentin, as he has been saying Mass at our parish for more than seven months. Hopefully have been able to partake of his great talents, including his musical talents, through the two virtual piano concerts that we offered as part of our quarantine time family entertainment. Fr. Valentin also is a polyglot, speaking several languages – including Russian, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, and of course, English. He is also well-traveled, having visited very exotic locations on just about every continent. He chose to look into diocesan priesthood in East Tennessee through an acquaintance of his, Fr. Jesús Guerrero, a priest of our diocese who had previously been a missionary in Russia. Fr. Valentin's mother and sister immigrated to the United States many years ago and live in a suburb of Detroit, Michigan.

We are grateful for Fr. Valentin's zeal in serving the People of God, especially our Hispanic community, and his great love and devotion to the Eucharist, especially Eucharistic Adoration. Please join me in welcoming Fr. Valentin to our parish family in an official way. Hopefully we will have an opportunity at some point to celebrate this when coronavirus is behind us.



*Rev. J. David Carter*

