



Hello again St. James!

I am beyond excited to share with you that my family and I will be joining St. James (again), and I will be instituted as your new permanent deacon, effective June 1, 2024. How time flies...Fourteen years ago, my wife Angie and I moved from St. James to St. Mary's because we wanted our three boys to have a Catholic education. Our kids did receive a wonderful education there, we made many life-long friendships, and I was ordained to the diaconate in September of 2022. We will really miss St. Mary's but are comforted by the wonderful memories that were made.

But life is full of changes, right? When we first joined St. James in 1998, we were living in Sussex. We moved to the Falls in 2000 and lived there until 2015 at which time we moved back to Sussex where we have been living for the last 9 years. When I found out that St. James did not have a deacon, that got me thinking. At St. Mary/St. Anthony, there are 3 deacons, and a 4th will be ordained in September. Our youngest son is graduating 8th grade in May. And, we have history with St. James and it's closer to us than St. Mary's. Hmm...I think you can see what led us to explore this change.

For those who may not know us, my wife Angie and I have been married for 26 years. We have three boys – Logan (18, Freshman at U of Dayton), Carson (16, Junior at MUHS) and Ben (14, 8th grade at St. Mary's). Angie works at Kriete Truck Center as the CEO's assistant and Office Manager. My paying job 😊 is with FIS Global where I am a Director of Strategic Partnerships (business development). We are at a busy stage of life and definitely in the money outflow period of life! We enjoy traveling, reading, golfing (Lance) and the great outdoors.

I would like to thank Fr. John for being so supportive leading up to this decision. It has been about 6 months in the making, and I can't believe it's only a month away now! At my ordination, I kneeled before the bishop with my hands on the Book of Gospels and heard him proclaim these words to me: "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." I plan to live that out throughout the course of what I hope are many, many years at St. James. I can't wait to meet everyone, and I will send another note next week detailing some of the ministries and things I plan to get involved with after I start.

Until then, God Bless you all...

Dcn Lance Tappa