

Dear Friends,

I am writing this article as a somewhat overdue introduction. As many of you know, I am not only the newest priest at Peace of Christ Parish, but I am also the newest priest ordained in the Diocese of Rochester, NY. But other than that, you may not know a whole lot about me.

I would like to give you an idea as to some of the things I do at Peace of Christ, and ways you can communicate with me. As a parochial vicar, I am responsible for assisting the pastor in ministering to the parish. One of the main ways this is done is, of course, through the sacraments. Like Frs. Schrader and Werth, I offer Mass, preside at funerals, hear confessions, witness weddings, anoint the sick, and baptize babies (and am working on overcoming my fear of holding babies, but be patient with me!). I am a member of the Pastoral Council, the Liturgy Committee and the Website Committee. I am also part of the team that helps plan Young Adult Ministry events and activities.

As a child, priests were very influential on my upbringing, and I owe special thanks to my uncle who is a Holy Cross priest at the University of Notre Dame (by the way, Go IRISH!). I am trying to follow in my uncle's footsteps by reaching out to the youth of our parish, most notably by dropping in on the youth group and St. John Neumann School on a regular basis.

I am a firm believer in Catholic education, not just for youth, but for adults as well. I have a STL in Systematic Theology, which is a degree accredited by Rome that gives a license to teach Catholic Theology. I am planning on putting this to use in the parish with a *Lenten series on the Catechism of the Catholic Church for Adults*, as well as by offering classes or talks in other venues throughout the diocese.

It is my hope that you will join me for some of these activities and opportunities for worship over the next three years. I also look forward to hearing your own ideas for and about my ministry at Peace of Christ. I am always appreciative of personal feedback (even when I don't like or agree with what is being said). Additionally, I would like to make you aware of six parishioners who are on my parish support group. You can feel free to give me feedback through them as well. They are: Joe Carney, Dan Casey, Sally Krowl, Janice Plummer, Bob Ryan and Ruth Tanner.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Brian Carpenter