

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Howdy! My name is Mike Cardella, and I am happy to announce that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit Archbishop Aymond has assigned me to serve at St. Christopher Parish as an instituted acolyte starting this September! Our family has been parishioners at St. Angela Merici Church since we moved back home to Metairie in 2013. My wife Vanessa, who grew up at St. Angela, and I thank Father Beau Charbonnet and the St. Angela community for being a great parish home for us and our four children, who are all students at St. Angela's school. In particular, we praise the Lord with thanksgiving for the support given by our parish, particularly in the example of St. Angela's deacons, as we responded to the call to the permanent diaconate. Over the past four and a half years of our formation journey, God has transformed our lives in so many amazing and fruitful ways!

That path to formation has led up to now, and in a way that path has led me back to the beginning. St. Christopher has been in the Cardella family for over sixty years. My grandparents, Angelo and Josie Cardella, came to the neighborhood in the late 1950s and built the family home on Pasadena Street. My mom Donna, my dad Mike, and Dad's three brothers all graduated from St. Christopher, Mom and Dad were married in our parish church in 1975, and I was baptized right here in 1978. Mom and Dad also came back into the parish about 12 years ago and have been parishioners here since. So, despite my parents moving to LaPlace when I was about 3 years old, we have celebrated many a Sunday Mass right here at St. Christopher. So, when the Lord led us home eight years ago, little did I know that He would send me all the way back to the beginning of my life as a Christian! Nonetheless, we are grateful for the joyful reception from Father Raymond as I begin to serve as an acolyte. This role in the Church's ministry brings me to serve with Father and Deacon Phil on the altar. A special devotion to the Eucharist characterizes the service of an acolyte, which includes not only service on the altar and as a Eucharistic minister at Mass but in other roles, such as communion for the sick and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This particular ministry also brings me to the final steps on the formation journey, as, God willing, I prepare for ordination as a permanent deacon for the Archdiocese next June.

Vanessa, Rosie, Mikey, Vinny, Augie, and I look forward to being here and growing in faith here at St. Christopher! We look forward to meeting you and living with you here. God bless you all, be assured of our prayers, and please keep us in yours!

Yours in Christ,  
Mike Cardella