

Rev. John K. Sheaffer

Pastor

Fr. John K. Sheaffer was appointed the 9th pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish by Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski on August 31, 2019.

Fr. Jack was born in Springfield on November 28, 1963 to the late E.J. "Butch" Sheaffer, Jr. and Marie Sheaffer. He grew up as a member of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in the Pine Point section of Springfield. He attended Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, graduating in 1977 and graduated from the former Cathedral High School in 1981. He took a "gap year" of sorts, working as a short order cook, and then entered St. John's Seminary College in Boston, graduating in 1986 with a BA in Philosophy, with an area of concentration in Psychology. Fr. Jack worked for a Boston bank until he entered Mundelein Seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake in the Archdiocese of Chicago in August 1989. He was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate by the late Archbishop of Chicago, Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, on December 12, 1992. He received his Master of Divinity in May of 1993 and was ordained to the priesthood by late Springfield Bishop John Marshall at St. Michael's Cathedral on June 5, 1993.

Fr. Jack is a 3rd Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and in November of 2017, he was invested as a Knight in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by His Eminence, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, the Archbishop of Boston.

Fr. Jack has served in a number of parishes throughout the Diocese, as well as Chaplain to the former Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic High Schools (2002-2003), and at St. Stephen's Church in Middleburg, VA in 1999. He was the Chaplain for the Springfield Police Department for many years, retiring in 2015.

In addition to his mother, Fr. Jack has a stepmother, Frances, three siblings, Kelly (Geoff), Scott (Brienne), and Tracey (Gary). He also has four nephews, Sean, Owen, Mark, and Isaac, and two nieces, Erin (Joe), and Holly, as well as two grandnephews, Ryan and Coltan, and a grandniece, Claire Marie, due to show up sometime in April.

In his free time Fr. Jack has a number of interests, including beekeeping, creating and restoring stained glass windows, driving and tinkering with his 1967 Volkswagen Beetle, riding his motorcycle, photography, writing poetry, cooking, and he makes a number of Paschal (Easter) Candles for parishes throughout the Diocese. He has a keen interest in most types of motorsports, especially NASCAR Modifieds, Indycar, F1, and MotoGP.

Fr. Jack is very excited about being here at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish and looks forward to many happy and fruitful years here.