

## **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 city's Pine Point neighborhood. He attended the parish school, graduating in 1977 and graduated from the former Cathedral High School in 1981. In 1982, he entered St. John's Seminary College in Boston, graduating in 1986.

After graduation, 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. In November 2017, he was invested as a Knight in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by His Eminence, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston.

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

In addition to his mother, Fr. Jack has three siblings, Kelly (Geoff), Scott (Brianne), and Tracey (Gary), four nephews, Sean, Owen, Mark, and Isaac, two nieces, Erin (Joe) and Holly, two grandnephews, Ryan and Coltan, and a grandniece, Claire. His stepmother Frances died in September 2020.

In his free time, Fr. Jack enjoys beekeeping, creating and restoring stained glass windows, driving and tinkering with his 1967 Volkswagen Beetle, riding his motorcycle, photography, writing poetry, and cooking. He makes several 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.