

Hello! My name is Fr. Elliott Dees and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to all of you at St. Pascal's. I am blessed to be a priest of Chicago and was ordained on May 21st, 2011 and am getting ready to celebrate six incredible years as a priest.



Just a few weeks ago, I was privileged to receive a phone call asking me if I was willing to be pastor of St. Pascal's. Though I have certainly known St. Pascal's by reputation, especially as the home parish of our beloved Cardinal George, I asked around for the impressions of fellow priests and lay people who might know St. Pascal's better than me. I want to share with all of you that what I heard was incredibly positive. Again and again, I heard of the wonderful history that this parish has, the dedication of its parishioners, and the vibrant community that loves their parish and their faith.

Let me say a little bit about myself so that we can come to know one another. I am a lifelong member of the Archdiocese of Chicago having grown up in the western suburbs. My hometown is Western Springs and my home parish is St. John of the Cross. I spent my entire life as a member of that parish, and it was there that I first felt my vocation to the priesthood.

I am thirty one and the middle child of three. I have an older sister, Sarah, who is married to Kevin, and a teacher at St. John of the Cross. They have a three year old son, my nephew Everett. My younger brother, Spencer, is a coordinator of day camps and outdoor education at Camp Storer in Michigan. My mother, Christina, works at St. John of the Cross as a financial secretary, and my father, Richard, is an estate planner.

Throughout my life I attended public schools while remaining active in our parish youth group. I graduated college with a degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies, as well as Jewish Studies, from Indiana University in Bloomington. During college, I had the opportunity to study abroad at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel. It was at this time that I finally gained the courage to say yes to my vocation, and the Holy Land has since held a very special place in my heart. Soon after that experience, I applied and was accepted at Mundelein Seminary. That was ten years ago and the time has truly flown by! Over the coming months and years, I hope to share more of that vocation story with all of you.

Since being ordained I have had two very different assignments. I was first assigned as an associate pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Glenview. It was a wonderful assignment filled with many good experiences. I was there for four years before beginning advanced studies in Scripture in Rome. After a year and a half in that assignment, I felt that God was calling me to return to parish ministry. Despite my love of learning and education, I knew that God wanted me to serve as a parish priest and not as a seminary professor. With the agreement of Cardinal Cupich, I returned to ministry at my home parish, St. John of the Cross, and will be there for the next several months.

Words are not sufficient to describe just how excited I am to be coming to St. Pascal's parish. Over the coming months and years, I look forward to getting to know you all and serving amongst you. More than anything else, I cherish the opportunity to learn from you as I transition into the life of a pastor. I know that you have many things to teach about ministry. Know that you are constantly in my prayers and I cannot wait to be among you; July cannot come soon enough!

God Bless all of you,

Father Elliott Dees