

The ArchLou Deacon

DIACONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE | NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2025



From the Diaconal Director

Dear Friends, My Dear Companions on the Journey,

*Do you resolve to prepare yourselves in mind and spirit
to give faithful service to Christ the Lord
and His Body the Church? — Rite of Candidacy*



There is no doubt that there are many good men committed to the Church. As I live fully my baptismal call, I would like to think that I am one of such men. However, diaconal ministry takes more than being merely committed to the Church *by measure of the superficial activities of community life*. When contemplating the Church's ministry of the Word, ministry of liturgy, and ministry of charitable service and justice through the promptings of the Holy Spirit, the superficial activities of community life are insufficient to shore up the weight of the faithful service demanded to and for Christ the Lord and his Body, the Church. You, my dear brothers, are being asked to do a lot more!

I have been incredibly blessed to participate in Sunday Eucharist with varying parochial communities around our archdiocese. This participation in Mass with varying communities has been incredibly important — and life-giving — for me. These opportunities have served in a very special way to express how the work of discernment is not bound within a formation program of activities envisioned to promise results. Rather, the homilies during these liturgies, coupled with the participation in the Eucharist, praying with, encountering, and accompanying God's people in their respective communities, have drawn me into closer communion with the Lord.

As Sacred Scripture reminds us that God would encounter his people in the desert, similarly Jesus would go off into the desert to pray. Just as Jesus prayed that he not only might see more clearly the will of the Father but also embrace the will of the Father, let us also come to use these opportunities to encounter the Father in the desert. As sitting with the Lord through adoration of Christ in the tabernacle is a customary manner of adoration, we are provided a tangible opportunity to remember that Jesus too was a pilgrim.

In the flurry of activities that imbue our ecclesial ministry, coupled with the occasional frustrations of contending with difficult people, adoration *in the desert* provides opportunities not only to recharge, refresh, and energize, but also to allow the Lord to bring us back to him so that we may see more clearly his will for us. Let's approach this Advent encouraged to sit before the Blessed Sacrament, even without exposition. ✠

—F. DeKarlos Blackmon

Archdiocese of Louisville Diaconal Ministry

Deacons, as ministers, are not exempt from the missionary obligation of the universal Church. Hence, deacons should always remain open to the *missio ad gentes* [mission to the nations] to the extent that professional or family obligations permit (cf. *Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons*, §27).

Archbishop

Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre

Director

Dr. F. DeKarlos Blackmon, OblSB

Associate Director

Deacon Mark A. Preischel

Secretary

Madeline Kincaid

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Diaconal Ministry promotes the Diaconate by disseminating pertinent information, selecting and training candidates, providing opportunities for continuing education, and coordinating the pastoral supervision of ordained permanent deacons. In addition Diaconal Ministry provides support for the wives, widows, and families of the deacons.



More regular participation in the Eucharist and the *rhhythms of daily prayer* will prove to be the calculable means of discernment of mind and spirit to assist us in becoming more open to know and desire the will of God in our lives. If you haven't tried it, adoration of Jesus Christ *in the desert* could also become a place of prayer and discernment for you.

— DeKarlos

From the Associate Director for Diaconal Formation

We begin in November by honoring all the saints and all the souls who have gone before us in Christian witness. What a great time to remember those people who have had an influence on us and our call to diaconal ministry. Personally, I am reminded of the witness of my grandmother, my father, Our Lady and Saint Albert and how they have been examples of a life centered on Jesus and striving towards holiness. My hope is that we can all spend some time remembering and thanking those who have been mentors, examples and influencers in our lives as Catholics; not just those deceased, but the living as well.



I would not be fulfilling my responsibilities as the Associate Director for Diaconal Formation if I didn't remind everyone of the need for fifteen (15) hours of continuing education each calendar year [*Directory for the Ministry of Permanent Deacons of the Archdiocese of Louisville*, 2024, p. 27.] and the need for an annual retreat [*Directory*, p. 3.]. Please find the schedule of ongoing formation opportunities that Diaconal Ministry will offer in 2026. We have also included the date of our community retreat and our annual Assembly Day.

The next assembly will follow a similar schedule as the 2025 Assembly Day. Mass will be celebrated at the beginning of the day and will include the Rite of Installation of Lector for the candidates in formation. We look forward to seeing everyone at these gatherings.

Prayers that everyone has a blessed Advent.

Peace,
Deacon Mark



Ongoing Diaconal Formation

January 10, 2026

The Gospel of Matthew

with Father Eugene Hensel

Flaget Retreat Center, Louisville | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

April 25, 2026

Finding Peace in the Chaos of Ministry

with Father Jeff Godecker

Location to Be Determined | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

August 15, 2026

Healing and Reconciliation

Saint James Church, Elizabethtown | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

November 7, 2026

Saints as Role Models

Location to Be Determined | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

REMINDER: As Ongoing Formation Days will begin with the Celebration of the Eucharist, deacons are expected to pray in community by attending Mass. As the respective formation day will last until about 2:30 p.m., deacons are expected to clear their calendars from other ministry obligations on these days to ensure that they are neither arriving late nor leaving early.

Calendar of Important Events

December 6, 2025

Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Louisville | 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

March 31, 2026

Chrism Mass

Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville | 10:30 a.m.

April 11, 2026

Mass of the Rite of Ordination of Deacons

Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville | 11:00 a.m.

May 30, 2026

Mass of the Rite of Ordination of Priests

Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville | 11:00 a.m.

June 5-7, 2026

Annual Diaconal Community Retreat

with Paulist Father Steven Bell

Saint Meinrad Archabbey - Bede Hall

September 26, 2026

Annual Deacon Assembly and Rite of Lector

Holy Spirit Church, Louisville | 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

October 3, 2026

75th Anniversary of Living Rosary

with Archbishop Shelton and Deacon Joe Calvert

Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville | 10:00 a.m.

CELEBRATING OUR MOTHER **MARY**

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Archbishop Shelton will celebrate Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe for people to seek with ever more lively faith the progress of peoples in the ways of justice and of peace.

The Church in the United States observes the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre will preside over a concelebrated Votive Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Saturday, December 6, at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Louisville. Father David Sanchez will preach. Catholics throughout Central Kentucky are invited to come together to commemorate and reflect on the miraculous apparitions to Saint Juan Diego at Tepeyac in Mexico in 1531.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, recognized as the titular of Mary, Star of the New Evangelization, holds a significant role as the patroness of the Americas and the unborn, having appeared as a pregnant mother. She serves as a unifying figure, bridging diverse cultural families and communities within the Church. Our Lady serves as a profound reminder of the call to unity in Jesus Christ. In times when so many of our brothers and sisters face fear and anxiety, we are called to reflect on the enduring words of Our Lady to Saint Juan Diego, which offer comfort and reassurance: *“Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?”*

All deacons with faculties are invited to vest in an alb, and the archdiocesan issued stole and dalmatic for the liturgy. Deacons should RSVP to Madeline Kincaid, mkincaid@archlou.org, at once to ensure appropriate seating by the Office of Worship.

LITURGIA?

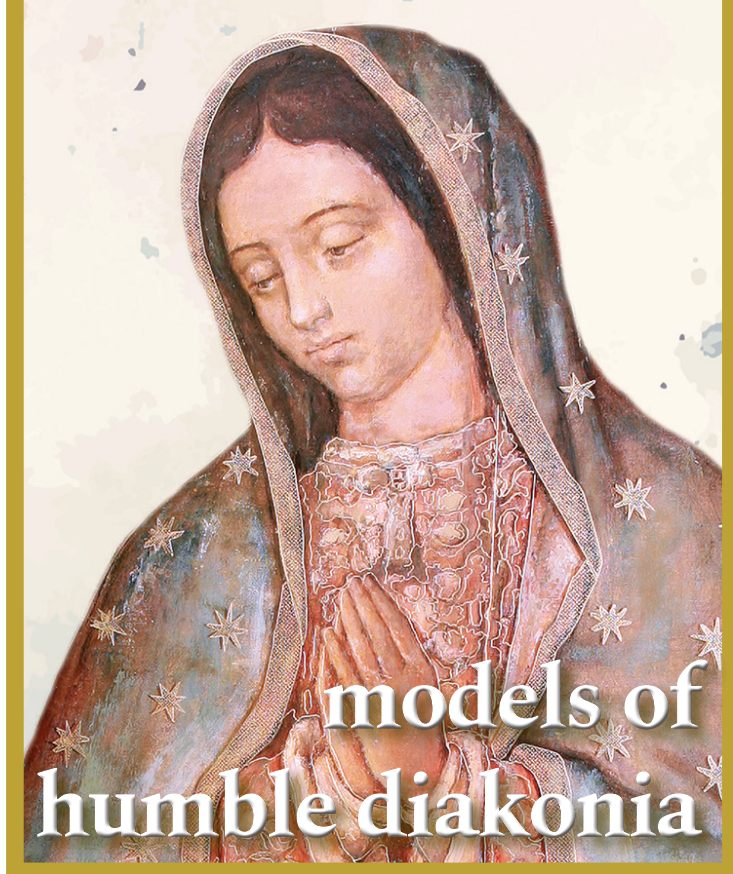
Stational Masses of the Diocesan Bishop

Deacons emphasize the diaconal nature of the Church between the Celebration of the Eucharist and the mission of the Church to serve our communities.

Currently, deacons are invited and expected to participate in the Stational Masses of the Diocesan Bishop. These liturgies include the Chrism Mass, diaconal ordinations, presbyteral ordinations, and other major archdiocesan liturgies. As previously stated to the community, “in the person of Archbishop Shelton, the presence of Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest, is manifested among the Christian faithful.”

These specific liturgies are important in the life of our local church as Archbishop Shelton proclaims the Word of God to all nations and continuously administers the sacraments of faith to the believers (*Lumen Gentium*, 21). This exercise of the fullness of the priesthood is especially realized in the Eucharist, which he offers (*Lumen Gentium*, 26), as the Church derives its very life from the Eucharist (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, 1), regarded as “the source and summit of the Christian life” (*Lumen Gentium*, 11; *Catechism*, 1324; *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 10).

As these liturgies are regarded as a symbol of unity within the Church – featuring a comprehensive ceremonial structure and the full array of ministers including not only concelebrating priests with the archbishop, but also deacons, acolytes, and lectors, together with the full and active participation of the lay faithful – the presence and participation of our deacons is imperative (cf. *Caeremoniale Episcoporum*, 119-121). Please know that the Chrism Mass and the two ordinations are scheduled at the Cathedral of the Assumption. Deacons who are not assisting in the sanctuary will assume the postures of the assembly.



models of humble diakonia – service that bridges divine mystery and human need, liturgy and social action. In like manner, the deacon, ordained “not for the priesthood but for the ministry” (*Lumen Gentium*, 29), embodies Christ’s servant heart, particularly in the diakonia of charity, where he witnesses and ministers to the poor as an extension of the Eucharist. Deacons embody the connection between the Gospel and a life characterized by love across various social and ecclesiastical settings.

The appearance of Our Lady to Saint Juan Diego exemplifies her role as the “handmaid of the Lord” (Luke 1:46). Through her humble service, she presents Saint Juan Diego with roses, symbolizing faith and trust. This action parallels the charge and task of the deacon, who is called to seek out those in need and to embody the compassion of the Good Samaritan (cf. Luke 10:25-37).

When speaking to permanent deacons and their wives during his Apostolic Journey to the United States and Canada in Detroit in 1987, Pope Saint John Paul II reminded deacons that the ministry of charity obliges deacons to serve as a transformative influence within society, acting as catalysts for renewal through Jesus Christ, ultimately fostering a community that reflects the family of God. The pope was echoing the words of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council by conveying that the Church “serves as a leaven” and the spiritual essence of human society, aiming to be renewed in Christ and transformed into a community that reflects the family of God (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 40).

May the annual celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe present a valuable opportunity to entrust the threefold responsibilities of diaconal ministry – the proclamation of the word, the celebration of liturgy, and the practice of charity – to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Let us ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to continue to enrich diaconal ministry through our focus on humble service, charity, and the connection between the Church and the broader world – reflecting the role of the deacon as an exemplar of Christ the Servant. ✠

Mary and Juan Diego are models of humble diakonia — service that bridges divine mystery and human need, liturgy and social action.

The appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe in 1531 stands as a significant example for Catholic social teaching and diaconal ministry, highlighting key principles such as human dignity, culturally relevant evangelization, preferential care for the marginalized, and solidarity in the pursuit of justice. By choosing to reveal herself to Saint Juan Diego, a humble indigenous man, Mary exemplified a faith-driven approach to social change that addresses cultural contexts and the needs of the vulnerable.

The connections between diaconal ministry and the miraculous appearances of Saint Juan Diego at Tepeyac in Mexico in 1531 encompass several key elements: the proclamation of Mary’s message in Nahuatl (proclamation of the word), the tilma’s Eucharistic imagery portraying Mary as pregnant, symbolizing the presence of Jesus Christ, the “Bread of Life” (celebration of liturgy), and the commitment to charitable outreach aimed at protecting the marginalized and oppressed (practice of charity).

As we meditate on Our Lady of Guadalupe, we are able to see how Mary and Juan Diego are portrayed as

DEACON COUNCIL



The Diaconal Advisory Council, a consultative body representing the diaconal community, provides advice and counsel to the Archbishop and the Director of Diaconal Ministry.

Archbishop Shelton has made some recent appointments to the Council on the Permanent Diaconate (Diaconal Advisory Council). With the expiration of the terms of Deacon Stephen Heil and Regina Ryan, the archbishop has appointed Deacon Dean Giulitto to serve as the representative for Deanery 6 and Jennifer Bush as the representative for the wives, effectively replacing Deacon Heil and Mrs. Ryan on the Council. Deacon Richard Fagan is being reappointed to represent Deanery 7.

Members of the Council are Deacon Jim Shields (Deanery 1), Deacon Lucio Caruso (Deanery 2), Deacon Mark Kelley (Deanery 3), Deacon Kenneth Roberts (Deanery 4), Deacon Dean Sears (Deanery 5), Deacon Dean Giulitto (Deanery 6), Deacon Rick Fagan (Deanery 7), Deacon Bruce Sullivan (Deanery 8), Jennifer Bush (Wives), Donrita Webb (Wives), Deacon Dennis Nash, Deacon Mark Preischel, Dr. DeKarlos Blackmon, and Madeline Kincaid.

The Council met at Flaget Retreat Center on November 15 and elected officers for 2026. Deacon Kelley was elected the chairperson, Deacon Shields was elected the vice chairperson, and Madeline Kincaid continues to serve the Council as secretary.

DIACONAL MINISTRY

Annual Retreat

...to live out with "humble charity" diaconal ministry while assisting pastors for the good of God's people



with Paulist Father Steven Bell
Saint Meinrad Archabbey - Bede Hall
June 5-7, 2026

Mark your calendars for the community retreat which satisfies the canonical requirement to make annual spiritual retreat.

Deacons are strongly encouraged to participate in this spiritual retreat to foster personal holiness and to support pastoral ministry, which is intrinsically linked to their role as clerics who connect the altar with the world through charity, preaching, and liturgical service. Together the community will deepen its union with the Lord and holiness, engage in ongoing formation to realize ministerial effectiveness, and foster a sense of community and ecclesial accountability.

ABOUT THE RETREATMASTER. The Reverend Steven Bell, CSP, is a member of the Missionary Society of Saint Paul the Apostle (the Paulist Fathers), a Catholic society of apostolic life of pontifical right for men. The mission of the Paulist Fathers is to evangelize by preaching the gospel with the intention of converting people to Catholicism in a manner suited to the culture of the people.

Father Steven is a full-time missionary preacher who leads retreats, revivals, workshops, and parish missions that focus on reconciliation, healing and hope. He has extensive experience in campus ministry, parochial ministry, and media ministry — having served as associate director of Busted Halo, a Paulist Fathers media ministry.

Please be reminded that "[deacons] are obliged to participate in an annual spiritual retreat that is either organized or sanctioned by the Archdiocesan Office of Diaconal Ministry" (*Directory for the Ministry of Permanent Deacons of the Archdiocese of Louisville*, 2024, p. 3; cf. *Code of Canon Law*, can. 276, §4).

Happy Birthday

We praise you, because we are wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!

(Psalm 139:14)

NOVEMBER

4 - Kathy Hart	27 - Chuck Bent
15 - Audrey Schmitt	28 - Chris Herbert
20 - Susan Diemer	29 - Kevin Webb
22 - Donrita Webb	29 - Randy Perkins
23 - Kelly Fellonneau	
26 - Wanda Puga	

DECEMBER

1 - Lynda DaPonte	16 - Donnie Coulter
1 - Leslie Herbert	20 - Julie Fagan
1 - Holly Preischel	20 - Pete Rendon
2 - Theresa Smith	28 - Derrick Barnes
3 - Berta Calvert	28 - Chris Kelly
8 - Becky Roth	31 - Tom McNally



Mass for Life

Edificar una Cultura de Vida



Misa por la vida

To Build a Culture of Life

SATURDAY 24 Saint Raphael the Archangel Church

with Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre | 10:00 a.m.

Family and Life Ministry invites you
to participate in the 2026 Mass for Life as
the Church promotes the **dignity of human life** at all stages
with Deacon Scott Haner of Saint Patrick Parish.

Let's take a stand for the **totality of the Gospel of Life**.



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE | FAMILY AND LIFE | DEACON STEPHEN BOWLING, DIRECTOR | [SBOWLING@ARCHLOU.ORG](mailto:sbowling@archlou.org)

Necrology of the Archdiocesan Diaconal Community

Since ancient times, the Church has consistently included prayers for both living and deceased members during every Eucharistic celebration. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* emphasizes that these intercessions highlight the communal nature of the Eucharist, underscoring that the offering is made for all members, both living and departed, who are called to share in the redemption brought forth by the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Ken Ward	November 2, 2018	Ethel Klosterman	December 2, 2008	Harry Prestwood	December 15, 2022
John Fargen	November 2, 2004	Raymond Logsdon	December 3, 1997	Fern Prestwood	December 15, 1999
George Scholl	November 4, 1991	Tim Golden	December 5, 2019	Theresa Hettich	December 16, 2024
John Shutts	November 8, 2007	Pat George	December 5, 2012	John Kromer	December 18, 2024
Bill Mullins	November 10, 2012	Cecilia Hawkins	December 7, 1996	Paul George	December 22, 2009
Jesse Schook	November 12, 2022	Bob Burns	December 9, 2016	William Gnau	December 29, 2013
Charles Walther	November 17, 2006	Margaret Lincoln	December 9, 2009	Bob Imel	December 29, 2011
Florence Donoghue	November 22, 1982	Sharon Filiatreau	December 9, 2023	Betsy Jones	December 30, 2017
Stephan Phelps	November 22, 2022	Brian Karley, C.R.	December 13, 2019		
Joyce Benton	November 22, 2012	Helen Phelps	December 13, 2013		
Charlotte Schetzer	November 25, 1992	Dan Parker	December 14, 2019		



Archdiocesan Celebration of **OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*

**Bring your family, friends,
and your heartfelt prayer petitions**

Saturday
December 6, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church
508 Breckenridge Lane, Louisville

Join in the recitation of the Holy Rosary
for peace, unity, and the progress of peoples.

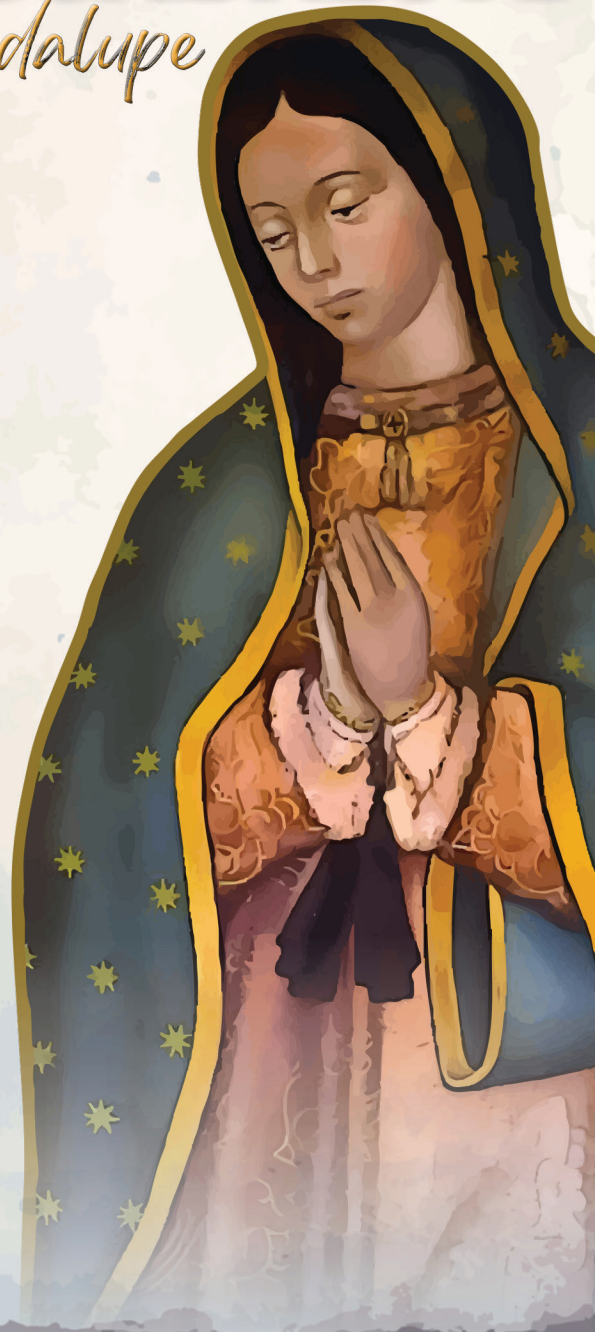
Dress in your traditional attire from the nationalities
and ethnicities represented within the archdiocese.



Principal Celebrant
Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre
Archbishop of Louisville



Homilist
Rev. David Sanchez
Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church



**CAMPUS MINISTRY • HISPANIC MINISTRY • MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY • WORSHIP
DIACONAL MINISTRY • FAITH FORMATION • FAMILY AND LIFE • YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**



**ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE**



**Giving
HOPE
to All**



**Catholic
Services Appeal**
Bringing Christ to Others

<https://www.archlou.org/olg-2025>

Please email mkincaid@archlou.org for more information about the Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration