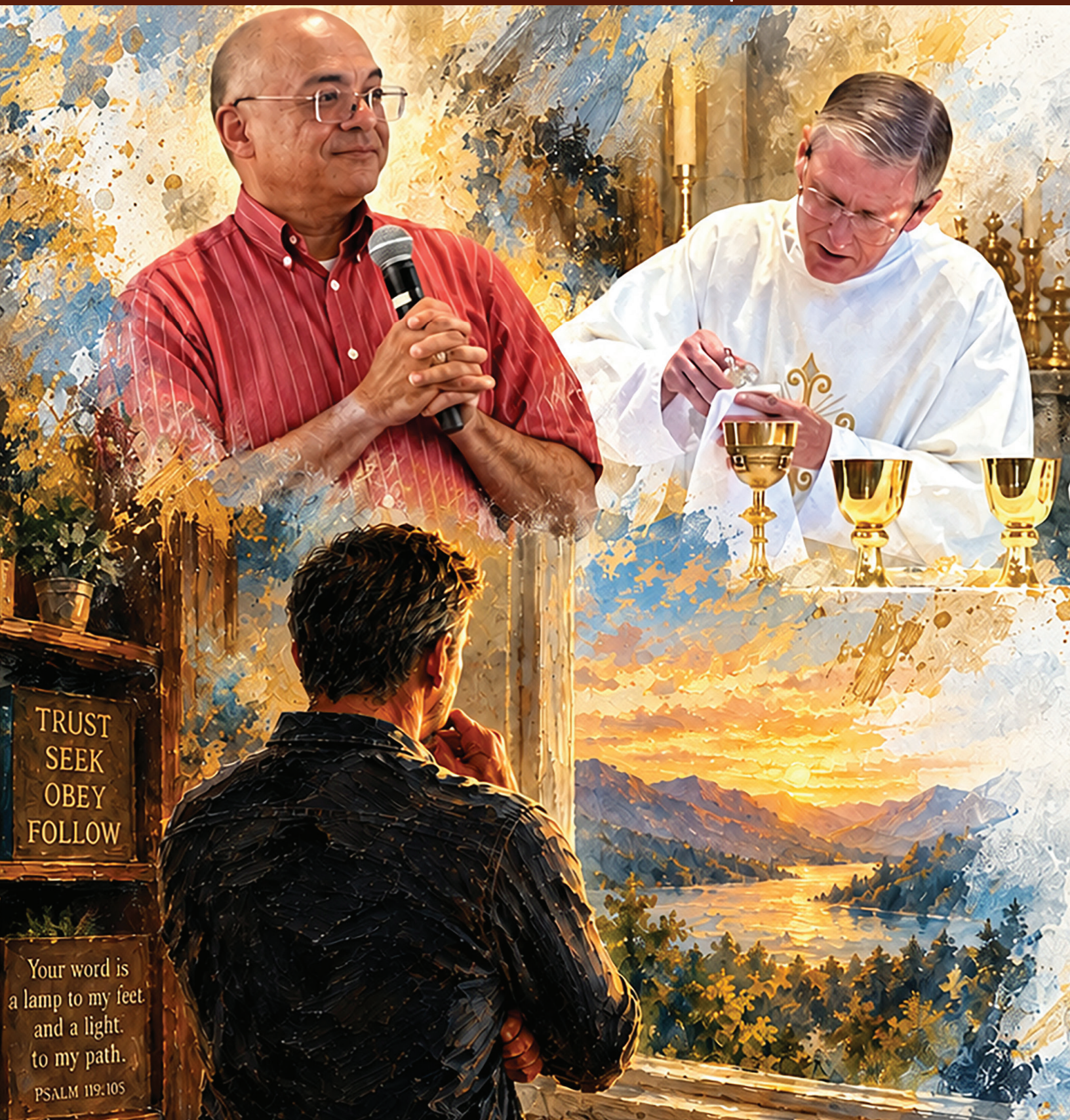


The ArchLou Deacon

DIACONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE | JULY-OCTOBER 2026



From the Diaconal Director

Dear Friends, My Dear Companions on the Journey,

This past summer, many of us who participated in the community retreat paused for a moment to take in what the Lord has done among us. In the quiet prayers, in the shared conversations, in the sacraments, and even in the moments of silence — God was present, speaking not always in grand gestures, but often in the gentle whisper that called us deeper. Our community retreat, and our opportunities for ongoing formation, give us something precious: time. Sometimes, it is the time set apart (1) from the busyness of ministry, (2) from the demands of daily life, and (3) from the constant movement that can sometimes leave our hearts lagging behind our service. It is in the sacred pauses of life, you are reminded that before you are deacons who serve, you are disciples who belong to Christ.

Your ministry as deacons is unique and beautiful. As you stand at the intersection of the altar and the world, you proclaim the Gospel, serve the needs of God's people, and function as living signs of Christ the Servant. You and your wives know very well that the beatific calling to diaconal service can stretch you. It asks much of your mind, your time, your energy, and your heart.

This is why our community gatherings are essential: They rekindle the fire; they renew the sense of purpose; they strengthen the bonds of fraternity that remind you that you are not alone. Archbishop Shelton, Father Thomas Reitmeyer, Paulist Father Steven Bell, and Diana Macalintal have all reminded us to accept the invitation to listen again to the Lord, to one another, and perhaps most importantly, to the quiet movements within our own hearts. It is believed that what we will hear in the stillness is the same invitation Jesus gave from the very beginning: "Follow me." Not just in what we do, but in who we are becoming.

Please be encouraged to carry with you the grace of our community gatherings that are intended to provide you the peace found in prayer, the insights received in reflection, and the encouragement experienced in fraternity. Remember, each of these graces should take root in your daily ministry because your witness matters. While the Christian faithful may not remember every homily you preach or pastoral task you fulfill, they will likely remember through you the presence of Christ they encounter — through your compassion, your humility, and your faithfulness.

Finally, I express deep gratitude to Deacon Mark Preischel, Madeline Kincaid, and the Council on the Permanent Diaconate who provide for our meaningful opportunities to build community. ✠

—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

Contact Information

Phone: (502) 636-0296

Fax: (502) 636-2379

Email: diaconate@archlou.org

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.



From the Associate Director for Diaconal Formation

Recently, while attending several meetings of deacon directors, I learned about a number of ministries in which deacons across the country are actively involved, many of which were previously unfamiliar to me. During the USCCB Region V meeting in Memphis, attendees received a presentation on *Stella Maris*, the Church's ministry and apostolate serving seafarers, fishers, maritime workers, and those who travel the seas. The presentation also highlighted the ministry's outreach to workers on inland waterways, including those serving on barges along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. At the National Association of Deacon Directors (NADD) meeting in Fort Worth, a chaplain presented the Apostolate to Circuses and Traveling Shows, a ministry serving an estimated 300,000 entertainers and workers, about 40% of whom are Catholic.* I was surprised also to learn about the Apostolate for the Race Car Circuit, which provides pastoral support to drivers and workers throughout the INDY, CART, and NASCAR racing communities.

To me these ministries seemed exotic and exciting. But then it occurred to me that they really aren't any different than the ministry we do every day. Ministry to those who are on the move, whose schedules just don't allow regular participation in the sacraments in a stable community are just as vital. These apostolates aren't that much different from our visits to the homebound or incarcerated, or evening those in hospitals or nursing facilities. The Church must reach out to those traveling on the roads of life, wherever they may be.

Our ministry began with Jesus preaching the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Later, the Apostles heard the complaints of the Hellenist widows who felt they were not being ministered to fairly (Acts 6:1-7). This, in turn, became the basis for our own ministry. Brothers, our diaconal ministry is especially needed today, as the Church strives to reach people where they are and respond to their many spiritual and temporal needs with



Ongoing Diaconal Formation

November 7, 2026

Saints as Role Models

Saint Francis Xavier Church, Mount Washington

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Ongoing Formation Opportunities

September 19, 2026

Shared Christian Praxis: Fostering a Lived Christian Faith

Loyola University New Orleans via Zoom

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Contact Lynn McDaniel | lmcdaniel@archlou.org or (502) 636-0296, ext. 1267

October 15, 2026

Introduction: The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

Saint Stephen Martyr Activity Center

3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Contact Lynn McDaniel | lmcdaniel@archlou.org or (502) 636-0296, ext. 1267

November 4, 2026

Pastoral Leadership for a Changing Church

Flaget Retreat Center

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Contact Linda McLemore | lmclemore@archlou.org or (502) 585-3291, ext. 1110

Calendar of Important Events

September 26, 2026

Annual Deacon Assembly and Rite of Lector

Holy Spirit Church, Louisville | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

November 20, 2026

Deacons' Gala

Audubon Country Club, Louisville | 6:00 p.m.

the love of Christ (*National Directory for the Life and Ministry of the Permanent Deacon*, p. 39)."

We are called to be Christ to all those we encounter in our daily life; especially those on the margins. Often it is simply a ministry of presence. And we do that regularly, whether we acknowledge it or not. Ministry is meeting people where they are and reminding them that the Church is there with them. I want to close by thanking you for your ministry, whether it is "exotic and exciting," or what may just seem ordinary. Peace. ✠

—Deacon Mark A. Preischel

* <https://www.usccb.org/committees/pastoral-care-migrants-refugees-travelers/circus-and-traveling-shows-ministry>

FAITH ALWAYS BEFORE POLITICS

Preaching on Faithful Citizenship for Deacons

Archbishop Shelton shares some resources to be used to support the formation of the Christian faithful in public life. The resources are to assist Catholics in placing faith before politics.

Deacons participate in the important work of forming disciples who bring the light of the Gospel into public life. Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre of Louisville, who serves as Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, has recently shared several new resources designed to support clergy and parish leaders in this mission. The materials are intended to strengthen the collective commitment to placing faith before politics, encouraging the Christian faithful to engage the civic sphere with hearts rooted in Christ and minds shaped by the teachings of the Church.

A set of preaching aids is currently available for the eight weeks of Ordinary Time during this fall of 2026. Parallel resources for Year B and Year C will follow in 2027 and 2028, respectively. The multi-year approach reflects that formation in faithful citizenship is most effective when offered consistently, not only during election cycles.

These resources encourage Catholics to place faith before politics, reflect on the Church's mission to transform society, and consider the Gospel question, "Who is my neighbor?" They invite deeper reflection on how we encounter and care for those who are vulnerable.

Preaching on Faithful Citizenship may be found with other resources at <https://www.usccb.org/sjp/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>. Archbishop Shelton and Dr. DeKarlos Blackmon will provide a presentation during the annual assembly on September 26 at Holy Spirit Church. ✠

INQUIRY CLASS OF 2032

A compelling testimony to the work of the diaconate

Deacon Ministry has prepared a formation inquiry presentation for men discerning if the Lord is calling them to ministry as a permanent deacon in the archdiocese.

As we continue to strengthen the ministry of the Permanent Diaconate in the Archdiocese of Louisville, we thank you for your faithful witness and invite your active participation in fostering future vocations to this important ministry. The growth and vitality of the diaconate depend not only upon men who hear God's call, but also upon the encouragement, accompaniment, and example provided by those already living and supporting this vocation.

The Office of Diaconal Ministry has prepared a formation inquiry presentation as a resource for those discerning whether Christ may be calling them to serve the Church as permanent deacons. It presents the nature of diaconal ministry, the formation process, eligibility requirements, and the unique vocation shared by married deacons and their wives. It also highlights the Church's understanding that formation is a journey of human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral growth, preparing men for a ministry of Word, Liturgy, and Charity.

As we prepare men for diaconal formation, we ask you to promote vocational discernment within our parishes and communities. Please share the presentation with prospective inquirers and their spouses, encourage attendance at inquiry sessions, and most importantly, pray that the Holy Spirit will raise up faithful men who are willing to answer Christ's call to servant leadership in His Church.

For further information, contact the Office of Diaconal Ministry at diaconate@archlou.org. Thanks for your devoted service to the People of God. ✠

A Celebration of Service, Charity, and Grace **Deacons' Gala**



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE
Diaconal Ministry and Formation

Join us for an unforgettable evening
as we celebrate the invaluable ministry and service
of the *P*ermanent *D*eacons of the *A*rchdiocese of *L*ouisville.

This elegant gala will feature a cocktail reception [Cash Bar],
a gourmet multi-course dinner, and exclusive live entertainment.

Friday, November 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

AUDUBON COUNTRY CLUB

3265 Robin Road | Louisville

Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre
Archbishop of Louisville

Reverend Charles D. (Chuck) Walker
Emcee

Erin Shields and David Shenton of Shields & Shenton
Entertainment

Tickets - \$50.00/Person; \$500.00/Table

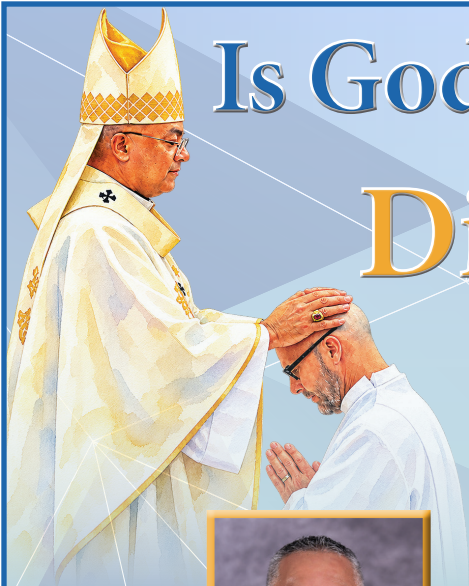
For more information or to purchase tickets,
contact Madeline Kincaid, diaconate@archlou.org or (502) 636-0296.

Dress Code | Business Casual or Cocktail Attire

We will honor the deacons who faithfully serve the Church through the ministries of Word, Liturgy, and Charity, as well as their wives, whose steadfast support and partnership strengthen their calling. We invite you to join us in recognizing their dedication, sacrifice, and impact on our faith community.



Is God Calling You to the Diaconate?



**ARMANDO
AVALOS TORRES**
Saint Rita



**JEFFREY
BUNCH**
Saint Edward



**MARCOS
FUSTER RAMOS**
Saint James, Elizabethtown



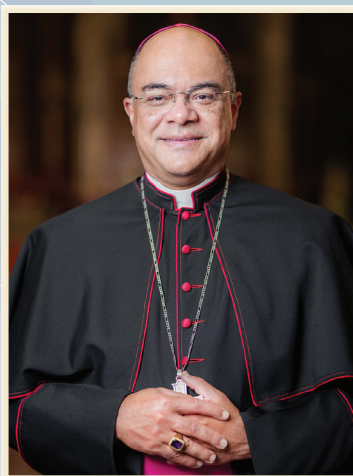
**GREGORY
HERBERGER**
Saint Elizabeth of Hungary



**ELIAHAZAR
HINOJOSA CARRAZCO**
Saint John Chrysostom



**GENTRY
JAMES HUGHES**
Saint Patrick



**RAFAEL
LUNA DIAZ**
Saint Rita



**TIMOTHY
MAY**
Saint Athanasius



**JESUS
MOLINA TUERO**
Saint Edward



**STEVEN
SCHERDIN**
Saint Martha



**KIRK
JOHN WAGNER**
Our Lady of Lourdes



**Deacon MARK
PREISCHEL**
Associate Director of Formation



**Dr. F. DeKARLOS
BLACKMON**
Director of Diaconal Ministry

Is God calling you to the Permanent Diaconate? Let's Talk!
Deacon Mark Preischel | (502) 636-0296 | diaconate@archlou.org



Diaconal Ministry of the Archdiocese of Louisville
requests your prayers and presence for

**The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
and Rite of Institution of Lector**

for the candidates in formation to be permanent deacons by

The Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre

Archbishop of Louisville

Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Holy Spirit Church, Louisville

ARMANDO AVALOS TORRES

Saint Rita, Louisville

JEFFREY BUNCH

Saint Edward, Louisville

MARCOS FUSTER RAMOS

Saint James, Elizabethtown

GREGORY HERBERGER

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Louisville

ELIHAZAR HINOJOSA CARRAZCO

Saint John Chrysostom, Eminence

JAMES "GENTRY" HUGHES

Saint Patrick, Louisville

RAFAEL LUNA DIAZ

Saint Rita, Louisville

TIMOTHY MAY

Saint Athanasius, Louisville

JESUS MOLINA TUERO

Saint Edward, Louisville

STEVEN SCHERDIN

Saint Martha, Louisville

JOHN "KIRK" WAGNER

Our Lady of Lourdes, Louisville

Happy Birthday

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

(Psalm 139:14)

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER		
1 - Betty Miller	1 - Jim McGoff	2 - Fran Bidwell	27 - Joan Nitzken	20 - Steve Smith
2 - Shirley Hutchins	4 - Mark Kelley	2 - Lillian Kramer	27 - Tim Stout	22 - Laurie Kelly
3 - Carol McGoff	6 - Bev Olrich	2 - David Smith	29 - Julia Kelley	23 - Steve Age
4 - Tim Johnson	7 - Julia Lish	2 - Judy Walsh	29 - Mark Preischel	23 - Carolyn Gnau
5 - Pat Klinglesmith	8 - JoAnn Haner	4 - Mary Jo Abell	29 - Wanda Turner	23 - Jim Turner
5 - Lisa Shields	9 - Greg Gitschier	6 - Mike Jones	30 - Stephen Bowling	24 - Tom Mattingly
6 - Karl Drerup	9 - Colleen Perkins	8 - Bill Niemeier	30 - Melani McDonell	24 - Helen Froehlich
8 - Angela Maxwell	10 - Tim Stewart	10 - Bill Klump	OCTOBER	26 - Jerry Buehner
12 - Charlotte Shumway	11 - Dan Bisig	12 - Bob Hall	2 - Peggy Cecil	28 - Jean Harris
13 - Gerry Mattingly	15 - Bob Hart	15 - Becky Box	3 - Linda Dant	29 - Doug Korfhage
15 - Dennis May	15 - Gloria Sullivan	17 - Joan Heinsohn	3 - Cheri Hall	29 - Kim Rougeux
19 - Alice Burns	17 - Ned Berghausen	18 - Sandy Moore	9 - Ellen Creely	31 - Craig Lish
27 - Jim Creely	18 - Bryan Bush	19 - Ken Mitchell	9 - Jim Shields	
29 - Louie Dugan	21 - Jim Olrich	20 - Susan Bowling	12 - Rich Zoldak	
30 - Cheryl May	28 - Beth Hedges	21 - Scott Haner	15 - Ralph Bartley	
31 - Jim McCarty	31 - Jan Smith	22 - Fran Brown	15 - Kate Berghausen	
	31 - Scott Turner	26 - Lucio Caruso	15 - Ken Roberts	
			17 - Jim Cecil	

Necrology of the Archdiocesan Diaconal Community

Since ancient times, the Church has 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 who are called to share in the redemption brought forth by the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Charles Hammond	July 2, 1994	Mistianna Barnes	August 8, 2026	Betty Dew	September 11, 2011
Gary Fowler	July 7, 2024	Charles Beckmann	August 11, 2026	Raymond Ishmael	September 15, 2004
Walt Jones	July 7, 2025	Harold Leppert, Sr.	August 12, 1988	Lorenzo Hayden	September 16, 1981
John Hobb	July 8, 1991	Arthur DeWitt	August 13, 1985	Mary Lou Houck	September 17, 2022
Mary Leppert	July 8, 1999	Jerry Antile	August 13, 2001	James Fogarty	September 23, 1982
Rosie Hosch	July 10, 2024	Joseph Stuber	August 13, 2002	William Kiefer	September 23, 1992
Sam Filiatreau	July 11, 2021	Bruce Lincoln	August 13, 2010	Margaret Thornbury	September 25, 1993
Diane Maguire	July 12, 2025	Rita Livers	August 15, 2018	Norma McGinty	October 1, 2006
David Newton	July 13, 1997	JoAnn Filiatreau	August 20, 2021	Larry Biven	October 1, 2019
Dan Patterson	July 15, 2022	Alma Sturgeon	August 20, 2023	Jessie Ross	October 2, 2019
Barbara Whelan	July 16, 2022	John Tohill	August 21, 2008	Emma Logsdon	October 3, 2008
Joseph Hutchins	July 17, 2014	Fred Higgins	August 23, 2015	Virginia Shutts	October 3, 2014
Mary Ann Simpson	July 19, 2016	Jan Mitchell	August 23, 2025	Dorothy Tohill	October 7, 2007
Jack Hawkins	July 20, 1999	Jay Jenkins	August 24, 2007	Sue Ronald	October 11, 2019
Benjamin Thornbury	July 20, 1999	Dee Fitzmayer	August 26, 2020	Elnora Higgins	October 21, 2005
Liz Waldon	July 22, 2015	Joe Bishop	August 27, 2009	JoAnn Cooper	October 22, 2023
Charles Voll	July 24, 2002	Butch Padgett	August 27, 2011	Mildred Collard	October 28, 1988
Francis Klosterman	July 28, 2002	Dick Walsh	August 29, 2024	Joanne Golden	October 31, 2016
Joe Amon	July 29, 1997	Cheryl Biven	August 29, 2025	Syl Nitzken	October 31, 2024
Genevieve Churchill	July 30, 2023	Mary Hayden	August 31, 1997		
Carter Ross	August 8, 2015	Rosie Fante	September 2, 2023		

REQUIESCANT IN PACE