

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ,

On May 16th my assignment as Administrator for St. Edward's began, and as of June 3rd Saint Paul's was also added to my duties. An Administrator has most of the duties and responsibilities as a pastor, minus the sacraments, especially the Mass and Reconciliation. As a deacon, I can baptize children, witness marriages, and do funerals that don't have a mass.

Most permanent deacons are married, as am I. My wife, Denise, and I will be married 46 years as of this coming July 10. We have three daughters, Alicia - 43, Kristin - 41, and Cassandra - almost 39. Kristin has three children, Brandon - 21, Toby - 20, and Marie - 18. Cassandra has one son, Wyatt - 7. Before we are ordained, one of the documents we sign states that our marriage is the primary sacrament, which means that our work for the Church needs to be balanced with the needs of our wife and family. Having been ordained for 24 years, I have been quite successful in making that balance work.

Bishop Daniel has also kept my assignment as a deacon at Our Lady of the Lakes parish in place. Our Lady of the Lakes consists of three churches, St. Christopher's in Nisswa, St. Alice in Pequot Lakes, and Our Lady of Lourdes in Pine River. There are two other deacons than myself in this parish. Our pastor is moving to another parish and there are no priests available to appoint as pastor of Our Lady of the Lakes, so I've been appointed coordinator, starting July 13. Fr. Garry at St. Francis in Brainerd will be the administrator, and one of his associates will be the sacramental minister. I will be responsible for the day to day operation of the parish.

There are a lot of details being worked out for both of my assignments, so I ask for your patience during these transitions.

In Christ,
Deacon Rick Paine

*****Deacon Rick will be with us in the office at Saint Edward's most every Monday and Friday 9 AM to Noon. Please drop in and visit.*