



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

Office of the Bishop

424 North Broadway | Wichita, Kansas 67202

DECREE OF APPOINTMENT

By this decree, I hereby appoint

The Reverend Andrew J. Bergkamp

Pastor

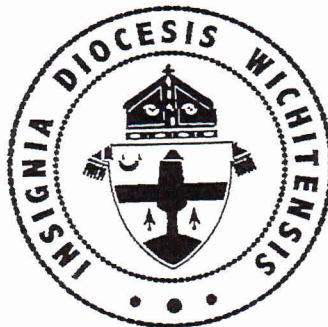
St. Mary, Newton

Effective July 6, 2022

Chancellor
Reverend Brian Nelson J.C.L.

Most Reverend Carl A. Kemme, D.D.
Bishop of Wichita

May 24, 2022
Wichita, Kansas



Fully Alive as Missionary Disciples



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

Office of the Bishop

424 North Broadway | Wichita, Kansas 67202

DECREE OF APPOINTMENT

By this decree, I hereby appoint

The Reverend Maximilian K. Biltz

Chaplain

St. Dismas Ministries

Effective August 3, 2022

Chancellor
Reverend Brian Nelson J.C.L.

Most Reverend Carl A. Kemme, D.D.
Bishop of Wichita

May 24, 2022
Wichita, Kansas



Fully Alive as Missionary Disciples

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary's,

My name is Fr. Andrew Bergkamp and it is with great joy that I write these words of introduction. Bishop Kemme has appointed me the pastor of your parish, for which I am grateful and excited. This last Friday I celebrated my five-year anniversary to the priesthood, and it seems God has willed it that I begin the next chapter of my priestly ministry with and for you. As you know, I will be following an experienced pastor in Fr. Voelker. It is reassuring to know that I will be stepping into a healthy and holy parish, with no small thanks going to Fr. Voelker.

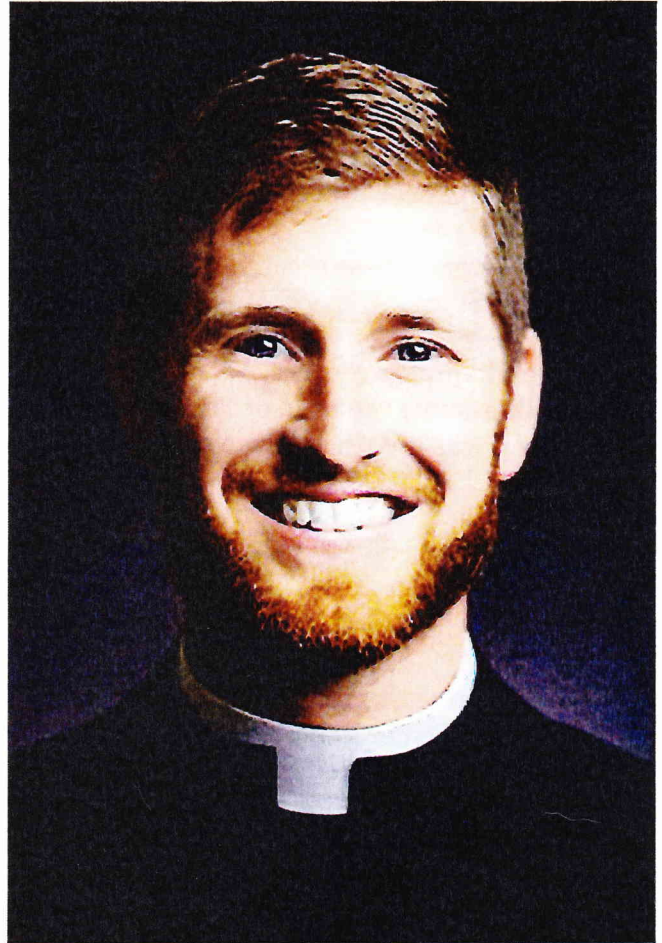
I look forward to getting to know your parish and all of you. I am eager to see how God is at work in your lives and where He is leading each of you. It is my hope and prayer that I am able to assist all of you in your relationship with God and pursuit of holiness. I can promise you that regardless of my strengths and weaknesses, this will always be the guiding motivation to all my work as your pastor.

Since the day I learned that I was becoming your pastor, I have been praying for you. I humbly ask that you pray for me as well in your daily prayers, as it is greatly needed and appreciated. Please also pray for one another, as times of transition are not necessarily easy. By the grace of God may I faithfully serve you as pastor of St. Mary's.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray For Us.

In Christ,

Fr. Andrew Bergkamp



God desires not death, but faith; God thirsts not for blood, but for self-surrender; God is appeased not by slaughter, but by the offering of your free will. ~ Saint Peter Chrysologus

May 26, 2022

Ascension Sunday

Dear People of St. Mary:

For seven years, it has been my honor to serve as Pastor of St. Mary. On this journey we have traveled together it has been a period of consequence - a time set apart. A time where we have learned how the Holy Spirit has lead us through personnel changes to stability, from conflict, illness, scandal and political turmoil to a path of peace...

At this time, the Pastor of these great parishes will pass to a successor chosen by the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Andrew Bergkamp currently Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Parish in west Wichita will assume the Role of Pastor of St. Mary on July 5th, of 2022 Fr. Bergkamp was ordained to the priesthood on May 27th 2017.



Fr. Bergkamp hails from Garden Plain Kansas and grew up on the farm. He comes with many gifts that he will bring to St. Mary and St. Mary Catholic School. Gifts that include his love for Almighty God, Our Blessed Mother, Holy Mother Church and Catholic Education with working with teens at Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.

Fr. Max Blitz has been reassigned to Prison Chaplaincy for the Catholic Diocese of Wichita and will reside at the Priest Retirement Center in Bel Aire. His assignment will begin on August 3rd of 2022. Fr. Drew Hieman will take over as Pastor of Sacred Heart on August 3rd of 2022. In the meantime both Fr. Max and I will continue to serve as Administator and Parochial Vicar.

This is a moment of excitement, wonder, and trust for our parishes. I join all Catholics in Newton in offering best wishes and a warm welcome to Fr Bergkamp and Fr. Drew as they continue their priestly ministry here in Harvey county.

Finally, I am filled with gratitude to almighty God - to the past and present parish leaders who have assisted me in my time as pastor. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you here at St. Mary in Newton and Sacred Heart in Halstead. Thank you for the trust, love, prayers and friendship you have given to me these past seven years. I leave with what Venerable Fulton Sheen said at the end of his TV shows in the 1960s' called "Life is Worth Living"

Bye now and God Love you...

Respectfully yours,

Fr. Voelker
Pastor elect of St. Peter (Schulte)