



Rev. Jeremy M. Gries

(“Father Gries” if under 18, “Father Gries” or “Father Jeremy” if over 18)

Born: June 30

Indianapolis, IN

Ordained: June 06, 2009

Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral

St Mary of the Immaculate Conception – Pastor – July 2011 to June 2018

St Monica – Associate Pastor – July 2009 to June 2011

Let me begin with a big **thank you!** Thank you for your warm welcome, generous patience, and kind assistance in making my transition into *Holy Family* so smooth thus far. Staff and Parishioners have all been so nice.

I grew up on the southeast side of Indianapolis in *Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ* parish. My parents, Bob and Kathy, are still active members at Nativity. I have three brothers and one sister. All are married. Two live in Indy and the other two are out of state. My siblings and I all attended Nativity Catholic Grade School followed by Roncalli Catholic High School. From there, I earned a Bachelor and Master degree in civil engineering at Purdue University – West Lafayette with a specialty in structural engineering.

While at Purdue, I was a regular daily Mass attendant, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, and altar server at the Sunday Masses. After Purdue, I worked in Fort Wayne for a year. While there, I attended a *Christ Renews His Parish* retreat weekend. The retreat rekindled a calling to the priesthood, which I had wrestled with for several years. I returned to Indy and actively discerned in consultation with the Archdiocesan vocation’s office.

After more than a year of prayer, retreats, interviews, and the affiliation process, I started seminary at Saint Meinrad School of Theology. There I earned both a Master of Arts and a Master of Divinity degree. I particularly enjoyed my systematic theology and pastoral counseling courses. My last two years at Meinrad, my parish placement was here at *Holy Family*. During seminary, I had other placements at: the Institute for Priestly Formation (a summer spiritual program at Creighton University), the Richmond Catholic Community, chaplaincy at Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis, and St. Pius X in Indianapolis.

My most recent assignment was as pastor of *St Mary of the Immaculate Conception*, Rushville and dean of the Connersville Deanery. St Mary is the only parish in Rush county with about 425 families and a PreK to 6th Grade Catholic school of about 115 students. Rush county is predominantly a rural, agricultural community. During my tenure, Mass attendance, school enrollment, adult faith activities, and social outreach through our food pantry and rent/utility assistance all grew. I oversaw two capital campaigns for a combined \$2.1 million dollars for: 1) an interior renovation of the church (which turned out beautifully!), and 2) address significant deferred maintenance issues for the school building. Liturgy and the rhythm of parish life are very important to me, as are my relationship with the parishioners.

Beyond parish life, I enjoy working with stained glass and travel. I’ve been to 12 different countries, including several in Europe and India. I also love the outdoors, including hiking, camping, and canoeing.

It is an honor to be assigned to *Holy Family Catholic Church*. I understand you’ve been praying for me prior to my arrival. Please don’t stop! As *we* settle in together, let’s remember patience. It will take time for me to learn names, families, and the local routines. You’ve been doing great things here at *Holy Family*, and I pray we can continue. I look forward to your assistance and active engagement as we build the Kingdom of God together. May our time together aid us all to *become Saints for Christ and the Church*.

In Christ,
Fr Jeremy M. Gries