

SAINT CLARE PARISH PROFILE

KYLE FOX



St. Paul Church in Wrightstown is breathtaking all by itself.

Nonetheless, Kyle Fox puts forth his best effort to make the church interior even more visually appealing throughout the year.

“We are so blessed to have such a beautiful church,” Kyle said. “Ever since I’ve been little it’s been a major inspiration to me to be a member of this church — it lifts me up in my faith, the beauty of the church and the beauty of God. So to be able to make the church even more beautiful during the liturgical seasons is such an honor for me.”

Kyle, 24, of Wrightstown has served as the environment coordinator (decorator) at St. Clare Parish’s St. Paul Church since 2017 after the previous coordinator moved.

“Fr. Brian (Wideman) was doing some of the decorating at that time, and with three churches to oversee he already had a lot on his plate,” Kyle said. “Since I’ve always had an eye for that sort of thing I told him I’d be more than happy to help. And I’ve been doing it ever since.”

Kyle’s favorite liturgical seasons for decorating are Christmas and Easter. It may take him

five to six hours to decorate for Christmas, depending if he works alone or if someone assists. He takes pictures of each season's completed decorations and carefully reviews them, sometimes replicating the arrangements during the following year and sometimes incorporating new elements. He also ensures plants are watered and decorations are properly stored.

Kyle is the son of Dan and Sally Fox, and his older sister is Katie. Both sets of his grandparents were married at St. Paul Church. He noted that his grandmother Maureen Van Zeeland "was instrumental in helping introduce me to her love of God and faith, and she helped instill that in me."

Kyle embraces the opportunity to be an active young parishioner.

"It's just my way of contributing to the parish, doing whatever I can," he said. "The parish is where we receive the sacraments, where we receive Christ himself. To be able to volunteer and help where needed, I think it's the duty of every Catholic to help in their local parish."

In addition to serving as the environment coordinator, Kyle contributes at St. Paul Church as a lector, sacristan and singer in the mixed choir. "I'm definitely not the strongest member of the choir, but it's something I enjoy doing," Kyle said.

St. Paul Church is especially meaningful to Kyle since it's where he was baptized and received his sacraments.

"Because we are part of a smaller community, I think our parish has a local community feel," he said. "A lot of people know each other. We have people who have been parishioners forever and welcome others who are new to the area. There's a very friendly, open feel to St. Clare Parish."

Kyle attended St. Paul Catholic School (now known as St. Clare Catholic School) before transitioning to Wrightstown High School. He went on to graduate from Silver Lake College in Manitowoc in 2019 with degrees in history and theology. Currently, Kyle works at St. Patrick's Gifts & Books in Appleton, and he's considering pursuing a career as a Catholic school teacher.

Kyle's favorite saints are St. Joseph and Blessed Karl of Austria.

"I am drawn to St. Joseph through his quiet obedience to the will of God and his love and service to Jesus and Mary," Kyle said.

"With Blessed Karl, I'm very interested in learning about royal families of Europe," he added. "He was the last emperor of the Austro-Hungarian empire during World War I, and he lived a very holy life with his wife, Empress Zita. They had eight children and consecrated their family to the sacred heart of Jesus. They're kind of like the Holy Family — holy life that can be achieved in everyday living."

During his free time, Kyle enjoys drawing and painting, with a focus on spiritual images and historical figures. He also likes traveling up north, spending time with family and friends, and reading books, especially historical biographies.