

Please welcome Deacon Matthew Colle to St. Clare Parish!



Hello St Clare Parish,

My Name is Deacon Matthew Colle. I am a seminarian for the Diocese of Green Bay. I was just ordained a deacon two Sundays ago by Bishop Ricken at the Cathedral in Green Bay. Diaconate ordination was the last step before being ordained a priest. My ordination to the priesthood will take place next summer at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Green Bay. Before being ordained a priest, I will return to Rome in the fall for my final year of seminary formation and theological studies. But before all that, I will be serving as a deacon at St Clare Parish this summer.

I am thrilled to be serving as a deacon of the Church. As a seminarian studying in Rome, I was given the freedom to choose whether I wanted to be ordained in Rome in September or back here in the Diocese of Green Bay in June. I choose to be ordained at home for two reasons. One was so that more family and friends would be able to come to the ordination. The other was

that I could have the experience of serving the people of the Diocese of Green Bay as a deacon. I especially look forward to preaching at Mass.

I am also excited to be assigned in Askeaton, Greenleaf, and Wrightstown for the summer. I feel right at home at the rectory in Greenleaf with a corn field outside my window. I grew up on a farm two miles east of Luxemburg. My grandparents sold the milking cows a few years before I was born. The farm has had beef cattle and sheep on it ever since. My two brothers and I were very involved in 4-H and FFA. We exhibited our animals at the Kewaunee County Fair and Wisconsin State Fair and participated in livestock and meats judging competitions. These experiences lead me to pursue a career in animal science.

After graduating from Luxemburg-Casco High School, I went to UW-River Falls where I earned a bachelors degree in animal science. Then, thinking I would one day become an animal science professor, I went on to study meat science at the University of Idaho in Moscow. It was there that after getting involved with the Vandal Catholics, the Catholic student group on campus, spending time in adoration, and getting to know the priest, I started to feel a call to holiness and later a call to the priesthood.

When I was in Catholic grade school at St Mary's in Luxemburg, my pastor, Father Sues, thought I would become a priest. However, at that age, I could not fathom the idea of me being a priest. Instead, sports and farming occupied most of my attention. Yet, looking back I can see how Father Sues' example of holiness and my parents' example of the faith planted the seeds of my vocation.

Thank you to Father Brian and to all of you at St Clare for welcoming me into your parish this summer. I look forward to getting to know everyone, to praying together, and to following God's daily call to holiness for all of us. Lastly, be not afraid to invite me to your home and/or farm.

In Christ our hope,

Deacon Matt