

25 June AD 2020

Dear Members of St. James,

Amy, Liam, and I are excited to be moving to Texarkana and beginning our life and ministry together on 1 August! From the search process, our visit, and interactions with the Search Committee and Vestry we know that St. James is a wonderful parish with a great heart. I am truly honored to accept the call to serve as your Rector, and I hope as a friend also. We look forward to meeting each of you in the weeks ahead.

To help us get to know each other, I offer the following as a brief introduction.

Amy and I are entering our 27th year of marriage and have two wonderful children, Sarah and Liam, and recently added a great son-in-law, Nick.

I was born in Toledo, Ohio and raised on a hog farm in Michigan. I attended a small high school where I was involved in theatre, football, wrestling, track, and forensics (debate). I am a graduate of Spring Arbor University (BA 1995), United Theological Seminary (MATS 2002), and Bexley Hall (MDIV 2003). Currently, I am a PhD Candidate with the Antiochian House of Studies.

I was ordained to the Priesthood on 19 June 2004 in Southern Ohio, and have served several congregations over the past 16 years. For 12 years I was a member of the Ohio Army National Guard, where I earned my spurs with the Cavalry. I am a Rotarian and have served community organizations in multiple capacities including board work and fundraising. I have served in various diocesan offices, most recently as Dean of a rural deanery, member of Council, and the Commission on Ministry. In my spare time, I have coached football and baseball, officiate all levels of youth and high school football, read, enjoy outdoor activities, and doing home improvement projects.

Amy is a National Board-certified Music Educator and has taught at the elementary level for 23 years. She has also taught private lessons in piano, flute, and voice. She has been offered a position with T ASD this fall. She, too, has been highly involved in our communities and is ready to do so in Texarkana. She enjoys reading, making music, gardening, baking, and football games.

Liam (17) will be entering his senior year and is extremely excited about the opportunities for his choice of high school. He even asked if it would be possible to complete an extra year of school to take advantage of instruction in technology. He plays football, runs track, and enjoys participating in drama and musical theatre. Last Fall, he portrayed Frank Butler in Tri-Valley High School's production of *Annie Get Your Gun*, and was slated to be Black Stache in *Peter and The Starcatcher* before Illinois suspended on-site instruction this spring.

Sarah (23) just celebrated her marriage to Nicholas Saulcy on 30 May, after dating for 7 years. Unfortunately, they will not be moving to Texarkana, but reside in Orland Park near Chicago. Sarah is a graduate of Illinois State University, and serves as an actuary with Country Companies.

Nick is a graduate of Rose-Hulman and is employed as a chemical engineer. They both enjoy travel, and are avid hikers and climbers.

Again, we are excited to be joining the St. James family, and are keeping you all in our prayers during this transition.

May God bless each of you,

Fr. Dave, Amy, Liam, Sarah and Nick