



# MEET FR. FERGUSON

Hello! I am Fr. Bill Ferguson, and I recently moved here to St. Andrew Parish to serve as your new Parochial Vicar (Associate Pastor). I am privileged to take the place of Fr. T.J. Lehigh, and I ask you to join me in prayer for him as he begins his first pastorate in the parishes of Perry County. I know Fr. Lehigh well as I had the honor of being a supervising Pastor for him during one of his summer seminarian assignments when I was Pastor at Buckeye Lake several years ago. I am sure he will do a fine job in his new assignment.

I am very happy to be here at St. Andrew, and I look forward to meeting you all and getting involved with the pastoral work of the parish. It actually is a "second round" for me, of sorts, as I was assigned here 15 years ago as a Deacon during my final year of seminary. I remember fondly coming here on weekends to assist with Masses, Adoration, and Stations, as well as doing baptisms, and I am happy to return here to familiar surroundings.

In the intervening years, I have served at a number of parishes, including as Pastor not only at Buckeye Lake's Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, but also at Heath's St. Leonard (with whom Buckeye Lake was eventually clustered), as well as Pastor of Logan's St. John, and most recently, as Pastor of the cluster of parishes of Hardin County (Ada & Kenton). With the approval of Bishop Brennan, I am currently taking a "break" from "pastoring" parishes in order to begin some certification studies through the "Theology of the Body Institute" in Philadelphia, with the hope of eventually serving in some form of teaching role in this and/or other topics. In my years as a priest, I have come to enjoy teaching in various settings, helping parishioners to come to learn and experience more deeply the beauty, wisdom, and love of God that our Catholic faith has to offer us as disciples, especially given the challenges we face in living our faith in the current culture. To that end, I look forward to be very engaged in parish life during my time here at St. Andrew's, and I invite everyone to contact me for whatever spiritual needs you may have. I am here to serve.

In terms of my personal background, I am a native of upstate New York (i.e., a "refugee" from bad winters...), but I have been in Ohio since 1995 when I moved here to attend graduate school. In my "previous life," I was an environmental groundwater geologist, and I was called to the priesthood after some years of professional work. I have interests in family history (yes, I am one of those strange people who plans vacations around visits to old cemeteries), as well as hiking and camping. I also have a cat named "Jackie" - a surprise gift to me by some youth group members 12 years ago - who has been known to write bulletin columns for the children in my previous parishes, which usually got more attention than my own columns!

Again, I am happy to be here at St. Andrew. Feel free to contact me at 614-451-4290 ext. 103 or [hamilton.college@outlook.com](mailto:hamilton.college@outlook.com). Thank you for your support!