

Welcoming Father Booker

From the Pastor's Desk

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

July 1st has finally arrived and I could not be more excited about the arrival of Father Booker. After 12 weeks of handling St Joseph as the only priest, I am ready for additional help to ease my workload. All of you have known him since he has been here as a deacon. I am excited to see what he can offer our parish. For my part I will try and work with him and teach him how to live as a diocesan priest and to have a heart for the people of God.

Father Booker's first Masses as our associate will be the 4:00PM on Saturday, and the 8:00AM and 10:30AM on Sunday. We will have a welcome reception for Father Booker on Sunday, July 19th at 6:00PM after the 5:00PM Sunday evening Mass in the Spiritan Center.

Thank you all for your prayers and support these past few months. I am blessed to serve you as your pastor. Below is a brief biography of Father Booker. **Father John**

I was born and raised in Fort Worth, Texas, and spent my high school years at Woodrow Wilson High School in East Dallas. I am the oldest child of four and have two younger brothers and a little sister. Those years in Texas shaped me deeply, from the values I learned growing up to the love I still carry for my home state. I went on to attend Hendrix College here in Conway, where I played football and experienced one of the most important chapters of my life. It was here, at Saint Joseph's, that I encountered the Lord in a profound way and entered the Catholic Church. That decision remains the greatest gift God has ever given me.

I'm a passionate sports enthusiast through and through. You'll usually find me cheering hard for my Dallas teams, the Cowboys, Mavericks, Stars, and Rangers, as well as my Texas Longhorns. When I'm not watching a game, I love spending time outdoors fishing or in the kitchen cooking. I'm also looking forward to getting more serious about golf and hunting in the years ahead.

Music has always been a big part of my life. While my taste is pretty broad, I'm usually drawn to chill, soulful sounds, especially 90's R&B, classic soul, soft rock, and bands like the Red Clay Strays. I appreciate how good music can express things in ways that words sometimes can't.

Above all, my greatest passion in ministry is walking with people through every season of life. I'm deeply committed to accompanying others and helping them to discover and hold onto hope in Our Lord, no matter how difficult or uncertain their circumstances may be. Whether in joy or

in sorrow, my desire is to point people to the same Jesus who met me on my own unexpected road and changed my life forever.

Fr. Duwan Booker
St. Joseph Catholic Church
1115 College Ave
Conway, Arkansas, 72032