

Who's Who at St. Isidore the Farmer Family of Parishes



Fr. Adam Berning

Parochial Vicar

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PASTORAL MINISTRY

I'm Fr. Adam, and I've been assigned as parochial vicar to the St Isidore the Farmer Family of Parishes since July 1, 2024. My main role is to assist the pastor in the sacramental ministry of the parishes, but I also help in many other “odds and ends”, including OCIA, visiting parochial school and CCD classrooms, serving on the Family Leadership Team, and taking on any other assignment the pastor gives me. My office is located at Immaculate Conception, but I maintain a regular presence

at Holy Rosary and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

What I most enjoy is being an instrument of the Lord's grace. A man isn't called to be a priest in order to sit at a desk and do work – though that is a necessary requirement in today's society – he is called to minister to God's people through the sacraments; that's what I enjoy most about my vocation.

SAINTS & PRAYER LIFE

Do I have a favorite Saint? This is a difficult question to answer – like “Which is my favorite niece or nephew?” I love them all, but if I had to choose, I would have to say St. Francis of Assisi because of his intense love for Christ and his example of giving up all to follow Him and His Gospel. I also have a tender second tier for St. Catherine of Siena and St. Hildegard von Bingen.

There are certain sections of the Gospels that resonate with me in prayer. I find myself often returning to the Raising of Lazarus in John 11, but I also greatly appreciate and meditate on the Psalms often. They form the “voice of the Church”, prayed daily by priests, monks, and nuns in the Divine Office (a lesser-known side of the Church's liturgy). Because of a priest's daily contact with them, one often finds oneself recalling these throughout the day.

During my time at the seminary, we prayed the *Anima Christi* together after Mass. This beautiful prayer has stayed with me, and I still pray it privately after Mass.

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

I enjoy being outside, whether that's biking, hiking, camping, or just sitting on a porch. I am also an avid reader with a particular interest in history and theology. Recently, I read *The Cypresses Believe in God* by Jose Maria Gironella about the prelude to the Spanish Civil War. I found it to have one of the most tragic and beautiful endings to a book I've ever read. I also have a fondness for *Kristin Lavransdatter* by Sigrid Undset, following the whole life of the eponymous character in medieval Norway. While it may sound about as interesting as watching golf on TV, it is a masterpiece of literature, showing the complexities of the human person, society, sin, and grace.