

## NEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBER

My name is Jeff Driscoll; along with my wife, Miranda, and our two daughters, Callie and Clara, we have been parishioners of St. Boniface since 2019. I grew up in Erie and was raised in a Christian household but was not Catholic. I met Miranda in college while we were both pursuing degrees in accounting. After graduating, Miranda and I moved out to Colorado. It was in Colorado that I started attending Catholic Mass with Miranda but had still not considered converting. In fact, Miranda and I would alternate between churches each weekend although we gravitated more toward the Catholic church. Shortly before we had our first daughter, Callie, we decided that we could no longer attend both churches and that we wanted to raise our children in the Catholic church. Both Callie, Clara, and our daughter Bella, who passed away in infancy, were all baptized in Colorado. When we moved back to Pennsylvania in 2013 we started attending Our Lady of Peace in Erie. We enjoyed our time there but really found ourselves at home when we started attending St. Boniface in 2019. After getting to know Father Marc he encouraged me to go through the OCIA program. I was confirmed at St. Boniface in 2021, and Miranda and I brought our marriage into the church that year as well. In 2022 we moved to Greene Township into the house of beloved St. Boniface parishioner Walter Breindel. We have learned how much he loved St. Boniface from his daughter and our neighbors, and it is no secret why. We have been enriched by the friendships we have made at St. Boniface through attending weekly Mass and through the various ministries my family and I serve in. Currently my family is serving in the following ministries: Both Callie and Clara are altar servers; Callie and Miranda are both Eucharistic Ministers; Miranda is helping with the new youth ministry; and Callie, Clara, and I all sing in the choir. Professionally, I am still working in the field of accounting; I own a tax and accounting practice in Erie that I have been running since 2014.

Why do I want to serve on the St. Boniface Pastoral Council? The idea of serving on the Pastoral Council first came to mind after a few parishioners asked if they could nominate me. Admittedly, I was pretty reluctant because I am busy with work and did not think this was something I had time for. I realized pretty quickly, however, that I needed to pray about this and let the Holy Spirit guide my path. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way." (Proverbs 3:5-6) About a week ago I felt the strong pull (or call if you will) that I should accept those nominations. I am running for Pastoral Council because I want to be a part of keeping St. Boniface the caring and vibrant parish that my family and I care so deeply about. I believe, as a more recent convert, that I can bring the excitement of a new Catholic to the Pastoral Council. I also value the tradition of the Catholic church and want to help preserve the rich history of our faith and country church. I believe that St. Boniface has strong vision, mission, and value statements and that is a big part of why we are thriving – we are living up to those statements. As a member of the Pastoral Council, I would be focused on keeping our church on the path it is on, so that we will remain strong and growing for years to come.

## **BLESSING BAGS FOR HOMELESS**

**Collection will start January 4/5 2025 through January 11/12 2025. Items can be dropped off in the tubs in the entrance to church.**

**NOTE: Please follow the list below so items can fit into a gallon size freezer bag. The bag allows homeless individual to transport his/her items.**

**Small bottles of water**

**Small sized Tissues**

**Toothpaste**

**Chapstick**

**Small comb**

**Hand lotion**

**Toothbrush**

**Pre-packed Q-tips**

**SNACKS: Packs of crackers, granola bars, Hard candy**

**Socks (new)**

**Gloves and or Hand warmers (new)**

**Following the collection date, Confirmation Students will sort items into 1 gallon zip lock bags. The bags will go to a shelter for Homeless Individuals.**

**Jesus calls us to serve the least of our neighbors. St. Boniface Parish has an opportunity to answer this call.**