

St. Stephen Protomartyr Ukrainian Church

VIEWS FROM THE PEWS | August 2/20

WELCOME Father Michael!



Fr. Michael was born in Edmonton on May 15, 1983. He was Baptized and Chrismated at St. Josaphat Cathedral, and was a student in the Ukrainian Bilingual Program first at Holyrood Elementary, then at St. Kevin and finally Austin O'Brien High School.

Although Michael was discerning a call to the priesthood from his childhood, his father Roman counselled him to go to school to become a teacher first in order to continue discernment and to gain education and experience.

Fr. Michael attended the University of Alberta and graduated with a Bachelor of Elementary Education and began his teaching career in 2005. Over the next seven years Michael taught Grades 4-6 at St. Mary and St. Brendan Catholic Schools before moving up to teach English Language Arts and Religion in Junior High and High School at JH Picard. During his early career Michael met his wife Kimberly and they were married at St. Josaphat Cathedral in 2007. In the following years the Bombak family grew with the births of Tobias, Miriam, and Georgia. ➡

During this time, the discernment of a priestly “calling” never left Michael, and while attending Study Days at the Shepytysky Institute in Ottawa during the summer of 2011, and staying at the seminary, Michael felt the Lord tell him that this was the time to go to seminary. Michael returned to Edmonton with this news and the Bombak family moved to Ottawa to commence full-time studies and formation at Holy Spirit Seminary in Ottawa. During the summer of 2014, Michael was ordained a deacon at the St. Josaphat Cathedral before returning for his last year of seminary studies.

Upon graduation from three years of full-time formation, Michael, Kim and the kids moved back to Edmonton where Michael continued his growth through the “Internship Year” at the same Cathedral he was Baptized, Chrismated, Married and Ordained in. At the end of 2015 the Bombaks welcomed Philomena, their fourth child into the family. Fr. Michael was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on January 1st 2016, and served as the Assistant Pastor at St. Josaphat Cathedral. On July 1, 2017 Bishop David appointed Fr. Michael the pastor of the Vermilion District and encouraged him to pursue graduate theological studies at Newman College in Edmonton. During this time, he also taught a Grade 10 Christian Ethics class at “Holy Rosary,” the local Lloydminster Catholic High School, and the Bombak family welcomed their fifth child, Ignatius, into the world! In the summer of 2019 Fr. Michael made his final promises as a “Madonna House Associate Priest” (<https://www.madonnahouse.org/programs/associatepriests/>)

Fr. Michael is looking forward to defending his thesis at the end of August. In his free time (yeah right) he enjoys strength training and is hoping to get back into guitar, bass and harmonica playing in the future.



Check out his YouTube channel: **“Musings with Father Mike”** to hear some of his homilies

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCafdVqV_BA6BsF7bt38yRaQ?reload=9

