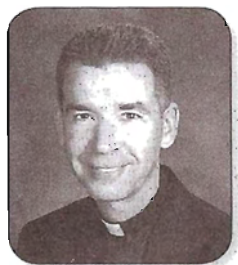


# Monroe Vicariate

MONTHLY PUBLICATION FEATURING NEWS  
FROM AROUND THE MONROE VICARIATE



## Priest Profile

**REV. DAVID BURGARD, PASTOR**  
ST. MARY PARISH, MONROE

*This series about the priests who serve the Vicariate parishes and is brought to you by the Monroe Vicariate Vocation Committee.*

Father David Burgard is the oldest of the four sons of David and Marilyn Burgard and grew up in an active Catholic family in Erie, MI. He attended Mason schools through 8th grade and graduated in 1983 from Monroe Catholic Central High School. After graduating from high school, Fr. David attended Lourdes College, completing his bachelor's degree in 1987. That fall, he entered Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and after completing his studies was ordained a priest by Adam Cardinal Maida in June 25, 1994.

From an early age, Fr. David was inspired by the faith of his paternal grandparents and his four paternal aunts who are Sisters of Notre Dame in Toledo. His pastor, Fr. Robert Haener, invited Fr. David when he was in grade school to become active in the parish, beginning as an altar boy and moving on to other parish activities. Fr. David first made visits to the seminary in high school and continued these visits in college while discerning a call to the priesthood.

The Burgard family is a very close-knit family and has always been supportive of Fr. David's vocation to the priesthood. The family has vacationed in Hillsdale for forty years. Father David is very interested in history, enjoying visits to museums and historical sites. Admitting that he is not athletically inclined, he likes walking, biking, gardening and water activities.

When asked what he likes the most about being a priest, Fr. David mentioned three things: the privilege and honor he has for being a part of the journey of life of the people of faith that he serves; the multi-faceted life of a priest; and seeing the difference that the Gospel message can and does make in people's lives. Dealing with people who cannot get along or work out their issues with each other and people who are upset with the Church are two of Fr. David's least favorite things about being a priest.

Among the challenges in the life of a priest, financial concerns and limited

resources of parishes to maintain their buildings and programs are particularly mentioned as Fr. David's biggest concern. He also sites the fewer number of practicing Catholics today and how many are complacent about their faith and involvement in the Church. Fr. David strives to engage people in the life of the Church and to help them not judge other people, remembering that God can bring good out of anything.

Since his ordination, Fr. David has served as associate pastor at Guardian Angels in Clawson and St. Patrick parish in White Lake. He has been the pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Anchor Bay and for the last five years, St. Mary parish in Wayne. In addition to his parish duties, Fr. David has served as a spiritual director at Sacred Heart Major Seminary and as Vicar of the Blue Water vicariate. He is presently Boy Scout chaplain for the archdiocese and an advisor for graduate level seminarians at the seminary. Fr. David is humbled and grateful for the support and welcome of the people of St. Mary parish in Monroe.

Fr. David advises those considering a call to the priesthood to not be afraid of thinking about a vocation as a priest. "It is natural to be afraid of a vocation to the priesthood. It is counter cultural to be a priest today in our secular world, but God provides what you need to fulfill His call, and to be happy in it. Have faith and trust in God".