

# We Welcome our First Deacon, Andy Zucaro!

Andy's preaching at the 11:30am Mass on June 5, and we're hosting a meet 'n greet for him afterwards.

We welcome Presentation's first deacon ever, Andy Zucaro, who's married to Lori. They have been active in many ministries here over the past 20 years. They have three children and two grandchildren, both awaiting grandpa's ordination to be baptized! Andy's Godmother, Katherine, was the first to ask him about becoming a Deacon. Ten years later, he has graduated from Seton Hall's Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology with a Master's degree and a certificate in Diaconal Studies and he will be ordained next Saturday.



After being quiet for many centuries in the church, the Diaconate was renewed by the Second Vatican Council, and the Archdiocese of Newark ordained its first deacons in 1974. There are three major orders under the term, "Holy Orders": Deacon, Presbyter (priest) and Bishop.

Deacons have been a great help in the church. Besides doing many things which staff members do, they can also perform marriages and baptize. They can proclaim the Gospel and have several of their own responses during the Liturgy. They periodically will wear a black clerical shirt,

particularly in some institutional settings, i.e. hospital and jails.

We thank Andy for his years of study to bring him to this moment. We also thank his wife, Lori and the rest of his family for their patience and support, and we look forward to many years of his fruitful ministry among us. **Join us in welcoming him on June 5!**

Very early in the history of the church, deacons were understood to hold a special place in the community, along with bishops and presbyters (priests). The very first Deacons mentioned in Scripture were really used to help free the early apostles so they could be about preaching and teaching. The emphasis was on service, for the word "Deacon" is derived from the Greek work for "Servant," *Diakonos*.