



April 29, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters,

I am excited to announce that I have been officially named as Pastor of St. Mary Magdalen!

Many parishioners have been asking why my title has been “Temporary Administrator” since my arrival in July 2021. The reason is that the Pastor of a particular parish has certain rights within the Universal Catholic Church. While a Bishop can suspend the ministry of a priest and place him on leave, the Bishop is actually unable to remove that priest as the official Pastor. Either the priest must voluntarily resign as Pastor or the case must be sent to a tribunal in Rome in order to remove him as Pastor. There are certain provisions within the Church in the event that a Pastor cannot fulfill his duties to a parish, but has not yet resigned or been removed. In those cases, a Temporary Administrator may be appointed to oversee the parish until a final decision has been made.

This has been our situation at St. Mary Magdalen. Fr. Shaun had not resigned, but obviously had been placed on leave and was unable to fulfill the priestly ministry required of a Pastor. At the same time, the court in Rome had not reached a conclusion regarding his case. Thus, during this time I have been the Temporary Administrator of the parish.

However, I am delighted to report that Bishop Boyea accepted the resignation of Fr. Shaun on Tuesday, April 26 and has appointed me as the Pastor of St. Mary Magdalen. The Bishop will come to our parish sometime this spring or summer to have an official installation Mass with us.

At this time, I do not have any further information concerning the status or future of Fr. Shaun. I ask that we all continue to hold him in our prayers, that his current situation may come to a swift resolution according to the will of God.

It has been such an honor serving the parish and people of St. Mary Magdalen, and I am thrilled to continue here as your Pastor. Together, by the guidance and inspiration of St. Mary Magdalen, let us witness to the resurrection of Jesus with love and boldness.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Paul Erickson, Pastor