

## **Our Lady of the Pines welcomes Fr. Joseph Sigur**

by [Michael G. Maness](#), *Tyler County Booster* (4-29-21), 2B

Fr. Joseph Sigur, a priest of the Diocese of Beaumont, assumed duties at Our Lady of the Pines in September of last year and prays to build on the successes of its past.

He has been busy, assisting Fr. Ron Foshage in covering all of Jasper, Tyler, and Newton Counties, though now spending most of his time in Woodville. He is fluent in Spanish and spends most of the rest of his time ministering to the Spanish-speaking congregations in Jasper and Kirbyville.

The diocese oversees 47 churches. Technically, he is “parochial vicar,” which can be compared to an associate pastor, even though the scope is larger than most pastors. In many ways he is a jack of all trades for the church and learning more and more.

Port Arthur is home, and St. Catherine of Siena was his home church. He father was the principal at the grade school there for two years.

He graduated with a philosophy degree from the University of Dallas in 2015 while attending Holy Trinity Seminary, a bachelor’s in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome in 2018, and a license (master’s) in Biblical Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 2020. His ordination to the priesthood was originally scheduled for June of 2019, but was anticipated in December of 2018 because his mother was dying of cancer. She was able to attend both his ordination and first Mass in late December 2018 and died just four days before his original ordination date on June 19, 2019. They were all so blessed that she was able to attend both of those milestones.

His father, Michael Sigur, just retired from Port Neches-Groves ISD, where he taught for 16 years, and before that 13 years in Nederland. He just bought a place on Lake Amanda and is studying to be a deacon with the diocese of Beaumont.

In college, Fr. Joseph loved languages and took several semesters of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and minored in Spanish. He has studied some French and German and plans to become more proficient in German. He is also fluent in Italian from his five years spent in Rome.

In Spring 2020, he was able to study in Israel at the École Biblique in Jerusalem (French for “Biblical School”), founded in 1890 by the French-speaking Dominicans, on the site Roman Catholics identify as the place of St. Stephen’s martyrdom. The “Garden Tomb” was right next door, where a lot of Protestants visit. He relished his time there and mentioned it was just a three-minute walk to the old city. He was supposed to finish up in May of last year, then Covid hit, and he was called back to Texas.

On his desk was a recent acquisition, a multi-volume set of commentaries on the Church’s liturgical year by a Benedictine abbot. He loves to read and has quite the collection of books.

He has a brother who teaches grade school in Oregon, and his sister is working on her Master’s in speech-language pathology at Lamar.

He just finished his online volunteer training for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and he looks forward to ministering with Fr. Ron Foshage at the Gib Lewis Unit in Woodville and the Goodman Transfer Facility in Jasper.

He dabbles a bit in painting and loves to read and woodwork, a passion he gets from his father who taught woodshop for 35 years.

He was welcomed to the Tyler County Ministerial Alliance, and Sigur looks forward to being a part of the ecumenical community.

