

Meet the Pastoral Staff

Father Dave Durkee was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. He is the youngest of five children-four older sisters. Father attended Saint Vincent grade school, Walsh Jesuit High School and Borromeo and Saint Mary Seminaries in Cleveland. He was ordained on June 7, 1980. Father Dave was named as Pastor of Queen of Heaven Parish in July 1999. Prior to his installation as Pastor, Father served at these parishes:

- Annunciation in Akron
- St. Charles in Parma
- St Peter in N. Ridgeville
- St Matthew in Akron
- St. Mary in Chardon

His hobbies include biking, camping, hiking, kayaking and woodworking. He has a faithful companion, Max, the dog.

Father Thom Kowatch, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, is the Parochial Vicar who assists the Pastor in ministering and caring for the parish. Ordained in January of 1985, Fr. Thom has had numerous parish and hospital assignments prior to being assigned to Queen of Heaven Parish in August 2007.

Deacon Bob Bender was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. He and his wife, Martie have been married since 1975 and have two children. He has an

Undergraduate Degree from the University of Akron and a Master's Degree in Social Sciences Administration from Case Western Reserve University. He is employed as the Associate Director of Child Guidance & Family Solutions. Bob has been a member of Queen of Heaven since 1993 and ordained a Permanent Deacon in May 2002.