

WELCOME FATHER CHRISTOPHER DORSEY



O LORD, BE MY HELPER (PSALM 30:11)

May 4, 2025

Beloved Family of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church:

The psalmist asks God to help His people as they receive God's gift of divine love and mercy; so, they are not tempted to follow earthly things. In the Gospel, Jesus asks us if we love Him and when we reply, 'yes,' He also asks us to tend to one another, to bring the splendor of God to His people by our living each day through, with and in God.

Today, I write knowing of your steadfast love for God. Father Edwin Cardona and I are ever grateful for your prayers for him. Father Edwin is still in need of care and will not be able to return to parish life at this time. Therefore, it pleases me to appoint Father Christopher Dorsey as the parochial administrator of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, effective April 26.



I introduce Father Christopher Dorsey to you. As you read about him, you will see that he has the experience of the psalmist's wisdom and serves God's people to bring His splendor across the world.

Christopher Dorsey was born on July 9, 1986, in Spokane, WA to his parents, Leo and Mary. He is sibling to sister, Candice, and brother, Nicholas. His family relocated to Brevard County in 1997, and he attended public schools in Brevard County and graduated from the University of Central Florida in 2008 with a BA in English. He comes from a 'military' family and his father served in the United States Air Force. After the family relocated to Melbourne, Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Indialantic became their home parish. He received the Sacrament of Holy Orders on May 23, 2015, at St. James Cathedral. He was ordained to serve the Diocese of Orlando and the Archdiocese for the Military Services as he felt called to minister as a chaplain for the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces.

On June 4, 2019, Father Christopher Dorsey was appointed a United States Army Chaplain. His first assignment was at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri with the 84th Chemical Battalion. The all-encompassing assignment led him to provide faith formation, sacramental preparation, opportunities for fellowship, and moral and spiritual direction for the soldiers and their families. He arrived as the COVID pandemic was just beginning and felt called to visit the sick in a special infirmary. He celebrated seven Masses each Sunday and he recalls the blessing of being able to reconnect young soldiers with God.

In 2021, Father Dorsey was assigned the chaplaincy at Camp Zama, Japan. Father Dorsey was the only Catholic priest in Japan serving the United States Army. He was advisor to Christians and those who did not know God. He remembers speaking with a soldier who was not Catholic and not married and was pregnant. He spoke to her about this extraordinary gift of life, and she chose to embrace this gift, instead of choosing abortion, which had been advocated by the father of the child. Father Dorsey received a photo of the child recently. Of his chaplaincy, Father Dorsey offers, "You may be the only priest some may ever meet. To be there in times of difficulty, even if I don't get to bring the fullness of the faith to them, but to point them in that direction, I believe is a beautiful ministry in and of itself."

Father Dorsey concluded his tour with the Archdiocese for the Military Services. We pray with gratitude for his return home. Beloved people of God, welcome Father Christopher Dorsey with the Peace of Christ. Gather him into your parish community as he gathers you into the open arms of our triune God. The Lord will be your helper!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,


Most Reverend John Noonan
Bishop of Orlando