



**Our
Men
in
Black**



Favorite prayer

The Mass because our lives and the lives of family members and friends who have gone before us, angels and saints, all meet in the mercy of God.

Something about you few people would know

My middle name is taken from my grandfather, Elmo, God rest his soul.

Favorite saint

Mary, because she has done more for my well being, especially spiritually, than any other saint, and that is saying a lot. I need a lot of help!

**Father Dean
Russell**
Pastor, St. James
Church, Rockford

What has been a holy moment for you in your priesthood?

There are so many I will instead give the example of two priests that taught me something important:

Father James Murphy, my first pastor at St. Edward, taught me that it was a gift to be able to serve people as their priest. Msgr. Raymond Wahl, my second pastor at St. Edward, taught me to trust in providence, especially as providence works through the church.

Advice for young people considering a vocation

Pray—Discern—Act: Pray always from the heart. Discern what the calling involves by attending a camp, talking to a priest or religious, and reading. Act when you determine the



next step God is calling you to. It is always good to get advice from those who truly care for you.

Favorite hobby or pastime

Tennis.

Favorite temporal things

Green Bay Packers, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” “The Chronicles of Narnia.”

Favorite food

Some priests are profound chefs. I am not. I do make a tasty chocolate chip cookie.