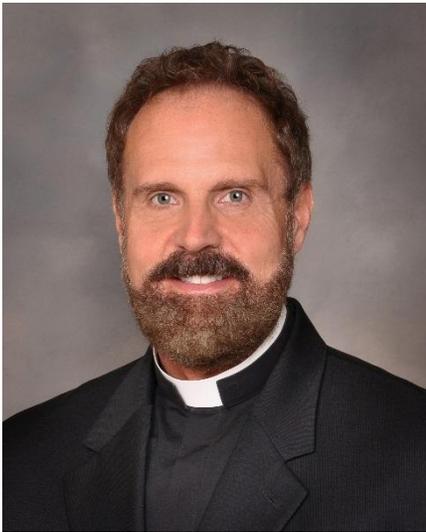


Fr. Craig Lusk



Fr. Craig Lusk was born and raised in the Detroit metro area and had a strong family life which he still maintains. His mother Alda Jean Lusk still has a home in Plymouth, Michigan. Since her stroke in 2011 she has lived in assisted-living homes near Fr. Craig, her primary health advocate. Fr. Craig's father, Wayne Lusk, passed away in 2000. He has two married brothers, two nieces, and three nephews all residing in the greater Detroit and Ann Arbor area.

Fr. Craig was baptized and raised in the Lutheran faith tradition and was very active in the youth choir and youth groups while growing up in South Redford, Michigan. Fr. Craig has a deep love for classical and liturgical sacred music. He is a graduate of Concordia University with a BA in Music, with concentration in organ performance and choral conducting. He also completed some graduate level work in music at Santa Clara University in California. He worked in Customer Service and Human Resources for many years at Hewlett Packard Company and Software Services Corporation.

Fr. Craig's first experience with the Catholic Church was after he graduated from college and became the Organist-Director of Music at St. Genevieve Catholic Church in Livonia, Michigan. This experience planted the seeds for his conversion and *coming home* to the Catholic Church many years later in 2001. It was a glorious day for Fr. Craig when he was received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church on Pentecost Sunday of 2001 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth, Michigan!

Shortly after entering the Church he felt the Holy Spirit calling him deeper into his faith and ministry. Fr. Craig entered the seminary in 2004 and was ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ on May 3, 2008. He first served the Diocese of Kalamazoo as Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Battle Creek. There he was very involved in the elementary, middle and high schools, the RCIA program and hospital ministry. He also chaired the organ search committee for the purchase of a new Schanz pipe organ.

Fr. Craig was asked by Bishop Bradley to take his first assignment as pastor to serve the people of St. Mary of the Lake in New Buffalo, Michigan. He had never been to New Buffalo so he had to look on a map to see that it was located near Lake Michigan on the Michigan–Indiana border. Immediately upon arriving at St. Mary of the Lake a renovation that had been in the works for a number of years needed to get underway and be brought to completion. Diligently working together with the Diocese of Kalamazoo and the ***Building on His Cornerstone Committee*** the renovation commenced in October of 2010 and was

completed in November of 2011. What an exciting day it was when Bishop Bradley came on November 6, 2011 to rededicate the beautifully renovated church!

Fr. Craig was very involved with St. Mary of the Lake Elementary and Middle School where some major changes took place. He did some teaching in the school and was active on the Education Commission. The school developed a much stronger Catholic identity and a wonderful teaching staff. He also held a *first ever* all-day, spiritual team building retreat for all staff members of the church and school resulting in a stronger, more unified faith community.

Fr. Craig was sad to leave the wonderful parish of St. Mary of the Lake where the Lord used him and so many faith-filled parishioners to accomplish so much in short four-plus years. Yet, obediently and graciously he accepted the call by Bishop Paul Bradley to become the **Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Marshall, Michigan** in July 2014. In his first two years in Marshall Fr. Craig has fostered the ongoing development of a more vibrant and welcoming parish by actively engaging more parishioners - men, women, children, families, those with disabilities, *all people* - in the life of the church and in service ministries. He has an ecumenical approach to his ministry and is quite visible in the Marshall community, most recently leading some of the prayers at the annual community prayer breakfast. He has also initiated restoration and improvement projects for the beautiful and historic Catholic church and church grounds. With his strong background in sacred music Fr. Craig supports the ongoing development of a quality liturgical music program. Perhaps most significant, though, has been Fr. Craig's commitment to the support of his people's sacramental and spiritual needs which may be a major factor in the great growth in the number of parishioners at St. Mary Church.

Fr. Craig continues to answer his Bishop's call to serve on a broader scale and is an active member of a number of key Diocesan committees. He also just completed a 2 year term as the Dean of the Eastern Deanery, supporting 9 parishes in the eastern region of the Diocese. Most recently he has been appointed **Pastor of St. John Parish, Albion** as part of the re-assignment of priests across the Diocese of Kalamazoo in an effort to more fully address the sacramental and spiritual needs of the people of the Diocese with the existing supply of priests. He will be working closely with **Fr. Joseph Gray, current Pastor of St. John Parish, who will transition into the role of *Senior Priest in-residence***.

Reflecting on how God has worked so mightily in his life and in the lives of others - moving from a life without a faith commitment to a life of complete faith commitment - Father Craig states, *"I thank God for His mercy, love and forgiveness. Without these, I would be nothing."*