

BISHOP'S CROSS 2021

Dr. Bradley Lauderdale

Dr. Brad Lauderdale is a longtime member of St. Thomas, Menasha. His involvement in the life of the church is varied and impactful. He has led a men's Bible study for more than a decade. He is a serious student of the Bible and brings that care with him when he prepares and teaches. In a time of strong beliefs and weaker patience, he has stayed true to what the text of scripture says even when the message is difficult to hear. Because of his integrity, the members of his study have remained engaged and open to hearing from the Bible and from God.



Brad has held other positions in our church, including Jr. and Sr. warden. His insight, spirituality and faithfulness helped the vestry address issues with clarity and completeness. When he spoke (with a quiet voice) everyone listened. His wisdom was valuable to his rector. His overall involvement in parish life has been an example to all of us. Regular attendance, coffee hours dinners for 8, and special events are part of his membership in our church.

Brad has been generous with his time, resources and expertise. When parishioners have had a medical issue, he has been available to give careful advice for us to move forward. Always calm and thoughtful, he has added life to the church.

In March 2020, in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Dr. Lauderdale was asked to serve on Diocese of Fond du Lac Covid-19 Task Force. He answered that call. In the subsequent 21 months, he met nearly every week with the Task Force. His years of experience and knowledge as a pulmonologist were invaluable to the Task Force. He also provided weekly updates on the state of the pandemic in Wisconsin. Dr. Brad carries his knowledge and expertise lightly while speaking with authority. His clear but non-alarmist approach has been invaluable to the Covid-19 Task Force and to me as bishop. He also helped the diocese of Fond du lac Summer Camp Director and staff navigate holding in person camp in 2021 under continuing Covid Conditions.

For his faithful service to his congregation, to the bishop, and to the diocese, I present the 2021 Bishop's Cross to Dr. Brad Lauderdale.

The Rev. Christopher Arnold

The Rev. Chris Arnold became rector of Trinity, Oshkosh at a time when that congregation had been through a long season of transition. In the five years Fr. Chris was there, he brought and prayerful faithful stability to the congregation. He encouraged involvement with Bishop Curry's 'Way of Life' theology and many parishioners participated in the Way of Love Revival. He was very active with Trinity's youth group, attending weekly meetings. He introduced and led Centering Prayer, a practice that continues at Trinity. Fr. Chris brought back regular practice of the Rite of Reconciliation. Fr. Chris organized and led Trinity's all-parish discussion sessions about Christian faith and human sexuality resulting in the approval of same-sex marriage and support of a LGBTQ+ inclusive and welcoming congregation. He worked closely with Trinity's Faithful Innovation team.



Fr. Chris has also served the Diocese of Fond du Lac in a variety of ways. He has been active with Diocesan wide youth ministry and camp. He has served on Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, and as an Examining Chaplain.

In March, 2020, in the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Fr. Chris was asked to chair the Diocese of Fond du Lac Covid-19 Task Force. He answered that call. He set up the weekly zoom account and sent meeting reminders. In the subsequent months, the task force met nearly every week. Fr. Chris brought a prayerful, theologically grounded perspective to the Task Force that was appreciated by the bishop and a gift to the diocese.

For his faithful service to his congregation, to the bishop, and to the diocese, I present the 2021 Bishop's Cross to the Rev. Chris Arnold.