

## **Father Peter St. George – Blessed Sacrament**

### **Nov 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting – Serra Club**

Fr Peter St. George recalls wanting to be a priest at 4 years old. The fourth of seven children in a devout Catholic family, one of his earliest memories is of a traveling Mary statue, “and being very excited that it was my family’s turn” to host her in their home, he said.

The idea of being a priest “was strong in my mind and heart, and never went away,” during his years at St. Theresa School in Ashburn (grades 4-8) and Bishop O’Connell High School in Arlington. But in high school, he also became interested in biology and medicine, and thought about becoming a Navy doctor. His father is a retired U.S. Marine Corps fighter pilot, and Fr St. George, 30, said he has “always wanted to serve.”

He studied biology at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, where his faith deepened. It was there that “the idea of the priesthood came back — not as the fleeting idea of a 4-year-old, but as the beginning of a vocation,” he said. He joined Navy ROTC, but “it also became clear that the Lord was calling me to be his priest,” and Mary was encouraging him to say yes.

In his prayer, “Mary really showed me that handing myself over to the Lord completely was the way to happiness, fruitfulness and a joyful life,” he said.

Father St. George will spend three years in pastoral service in the Arlington diocese, then fulfill his five-year commitment to the U.S. Navy.