



**The Serra Club of Arlington**  
*Minutes for Tuesday 05 November 2024 | Luncheon Meeting*  
*The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia*



**GUEST SPEAKER – FATHER ANDREW CLARK**

Father Andrew Clark grew up in the Shenandoah Valley as the second of eight children and is a graduate of Christendom College. Three years after graduating he entered the seminary for the diocese of Arlington and attended St. Charles Borromeo seminary in the archdiocese of Philadelphia. He was ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ in 2023 and is assigned to Blessed Sacrament parish in Alexandria Virginia.

*Highlights:* Father Clark summarized his reflections on the church, the community, family and various experiences. In no particular order:

- Greatest privilege was to become a priest
- Family and community are two aspects of the church
- Reflected on the prayers and sacrifices of his grandparents leading him to become a priest
- He thanked all Serrans for their prayers and support
- Reflected on his family in Bavaria surrounded by Christian reminders. In contrast to his experience in Alexandria where Christians are “strangers” to everyone
- Italian family – None of Americans think the same thing; colonize their kids minds; how do you function?; can’t trust neighbors.
- Families feel increasingly judged by other people. Feel isolated and alone
- Experience in public school “wouldn’t let you think about God”
- Serrans zeal for vocations, and genuine compassion for families
- Think of the broader family. That is, nuclear family is self-contained, but church is the family of God. We belong to the family of Christ Jesus.
- Christians should think of the broader family of one church, responsible for each other. Responsible to the broader family existing in a culture that will not accept us.
- Incredible joy being part of a family
- Key – reconcile yourself to God and be reconciled to the church through family