

The Rev'd Father H. Ivor Kraft, ssc

Fr Kraft has served St Matthias' as an assisting priest since moving to Texas from California in January 2019. He is a member of the Society of the Holy Cross (ssc) and a Benedictine oblate of Mount Angel Abbey in Northwest Oregon. Upon the untimely death of the parish's rector, Fr Christopher Cantrell in early March 2004, Fr Kraft was appointed *Priest Assistant* to Canon Duncan, upon his appointment as *Interim Rector*.

Born in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania on February 9, 1943, Fr Kraft studied music at Carnegie Mellon University and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1965. He was briefly a graduate student at Duquesne University and pursued a career both as a performing musician and teacher of instrumental music in the Pittsburgh Catholic Schools. He performed with the Wheeling Symphony, the Worcester Symphony, the Boston Ballet Orchestra and as a recitalist.

Gradually convinced that the Lord was calling him to serve in the ordained ministry of the Church he entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg in 1968, continued his theological education at Harvard Divinity School in 1969 and graduated from LTS Gettysburg and was ordained in the Lutheran Church in America on June 11th, 1972 - the Feast of St Barnabas. He served as pastor of Hebron Lutheran Church in the Borough of East Pittsburgh, where George Westinghouse founded Westinghouse Electric, and in June 1978 he assumed the pastorate of All Saints Lutheran Church in the University City community of San Diego, California.

In the Fall of 2004 Fr Kraft left the Lutheran Church and in January of 2005 began to serve as an assisting priest at St Michael's-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Carlsbad California until he and his wife Dorothy moved to North Texas in January 2019. On the Feast of St Barnabas 2019, Fr Kraft was received into the Anglican Church in North America and the Diocese of Fort Worth by Bishop Jack Iker.

Fr Kraft has an MA in Counseling Psychology and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction. He taught homiletics for the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego for twenty-four years. Fr Kraft and his wife, Dorothy, are blessed with two children and four grandchildren.