



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE *of*
ROCKVILLE CENTRE

P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571
Tel: 516-678-5800 • www.drvc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bishop Barres to Ordain Three Men to the Priesthood on June 20, 2026

ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. – June 16, 2026 – On Saturday, June 20, 2026, beginning at 11 a.m., the Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Rockville Centre, will ordain three men to the priesthood for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. The Mass of Priestly Ordination will take place at the Cathedral of Saint Agnes, 29 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre, N.Y. The faithful are invited to attend the ordination.

Those being ordained are: Rev. Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Rev. Mr. Dillon Vita, and Rev. Mr. Nicholas Waldron.



Rev. Mr. Patrick O'Brien



Rev. Mr. Dillon Vita



Rev. Mr. Nicholas Waldron

The ordination will air live on Catholic Faith Network (CFN). Viewers may watch through participating television providers, by livestream at CFNtv.org, or on the Catholic Faith Network mobile app and streaming platforms.

Rev. Mr. Patrick O'Brien

First Mass: Sunday, June 21, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.
Church of St. Patrick
400 Main Street, Huntington, N.Y. 11743

Deacon Patrick O'Brien was born on June 8, 1996, and grew up in Riverhead, N.Y., with his parents and his two sisters. His home parish is St. John the Evangelist, Riverhead. He attended twelve years of Catholic school at St. John the Evangelist, Riverhead; Our Lady of Mercy Regional School, Cutchogue; and Bishop McGann-Mercy Diocesan High School, Riverhead.

From ages nine to twenty-one, he was involved as an actor in plays and musicals at the educational, community, and professional levels. When he was fifteen, he was invited to a youth group event for extra credit. The event was an evening of Eucharistic Adoration, and it was that encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist that was the springboard for the rest of his life, leading him to become involved in the Life Teen youth group at St. John the Evangelist, Center Moriches. He spent years there as a



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teen, attending Mass and youth group, as well as retreats, youth conferences, and other events, and later served as a core member and chaperone during his college years.

From ages fifteen to twenty-two, he worked at the Long Island Aquarium in Riverhead, all but one of those years in the education department, working with marine life and giving lectures and tours. He studied at Suffolk County Community College for two years and worked as a Peer Mentor in the Student Life Office before transferring to Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio. While studying at Franciscan, he directed and performed in musicals, worked as a Resident Assistant, and first heard the call to be a priest. He graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theology.

Deacon O'Brien entered the seminary for the Diocese of Rockville Centre in August 2019. He spent three years studying philosophy and theology at Theological College at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., followed by three years studying theology at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie. He had summer seminarian assignments in the Diocese at the parishes of St. Joseph, Babylon; Curé of Ars, Merrick; St. William the Abbot, Seaford; St. Martha, Uniondale; and Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Roosevelt. He spent his pastoral year at St. Patrick, Huntington, and was assigned to Notre Dame and Holy Spirit, New Hyde Park, on weekends during his final year of seminary as a transitional deacon.

Rev. Mr. Dillon Vita

First Mass: Sunday, June 21, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.
Church of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
175 Wolf Hill Road, Melville, N.Y. 11747

Deacon Dillon Vita was born on August 2, 1995, and grew up in Melville, N.Y. He has three brothers, one of whom is his twin, and a sister. He attended public school in the South Huntington Union Free School District through middle school and, afterward, attended St. Anthony's High School, South Huntington, N.Y.

For his undergraduate studies, he double-majored in Biochemistry, Cell, and Molecular Biology and in Philosophy, with an English minor at the University of Scranton. After college, he began a year of service through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Camden, New Jersey. During this year, he worked at Cristo Rey Philadelphia, where he co-taught freshman Latin and helped with campus ministry events.

After his year of service, he began working at DRG International, a biotech company in New Jersey, as a Product Quality Assistant, where he fielded complaints and tested the various viral blood assays that the company produced. He worked at this company for two years until he returned to Long Island to work in a similar capacity at another biotech company called United Biomedical, Inc.

Deacon Vita made this move back to Long Island so that he could more actively discern the diocesan priesthood. After a year working at United Biomedical, he entered the seminary for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, during which time he studied for one year at The Catholic University of America and for three years at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie. While in seminary, he served in pastoral assignments at Maria Regina, Seaford; St. Dominic, Oyster Bay; and St. Anne, Brentwood.



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Rev. Mr. Nicholas Waldron

First Mass: Sunday, June 21, 2026 at 12:30 p.m.
St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School Auditorium
101 Maple Avenue, Westbury, N.Y. 11590

Deacon Nicholas Waldron was born in Port Jefferson, N.Y., and raised in Aquebogue, N.Y. He began serving as an altar server at his home parish of St. John the Evangelist, Riverhead, when he was eight years old. He also attended Riverhead High School, where he was commanding officer of his NJROTC unit. He performed in numerous high school music groups while playing many instruments, including tuba and bass trombone. He played first tuba in the New York State Band Directors Association Symphonic Band in March 2016.

He first thought of the priesthood at a confirmation retreat in seventh grade. In his sophomore year of high school, he decided that the best way to understand his calling was to act on it, after being inspired by an image of priests serving in the military. After graduating from high school, he entered the college seminary at Cathedral Seminary House of Formation, Douglaston, N.Y. He studied philosophy at St. John's University, where he developed a devotion to St. Maximilian Kolbe. In 2018, he moved to Theological College in Washington, D.C., where he completed a licentiate in philosophy at The Catholic University of America in 2021.

In 2021, Deacon Waldron moved to the Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he studied theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University. During his time in Rome, he served as a tour guide in St. Peter's Basilica and as a chaplain at the remote campuses of Duquesne University and The Catholic University of America. He was elected student government president and worked as an event planner for the college. In 2024, he returned from Rome and began a pastoral assignment at St. Brigid, Westbury, a very multicultural parish in the heart of the Diocese, where he developed a love for the parish's community outreach.

Having returned to Rome in 2025, he was ordained a deacon in October 2025 at St. Peter's Basilica. He is now completing a licentiate in moral theology at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (The Angelicum) and is joyfully anticipating his ordination to the priesthood in June 2026. In his free time, he enjoys traveling throughout the world, hiking, and backpacking with friends.

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