

# Our Seminarians

## 2023-2024



**Bruce Muise**  
Paroisse Notre-Dame de l'Assomption, Argyle  
1st Year Theology- St Peter's Seminary

Having been raised in a single-parent and multi-generational home, I was blessed to have the influence of a very pious grandmother, a devoted mom (devoted both as a parent and in her faith), and a very faith-filled church community, led by wonderful Holy Cross priests. As such, the seed of priestly discernment was planted at a very young age. As I grew into my teens, I continued discerning, and in high school, I realized that I had to make a decision. As much as I felt as though I was being called to the priesthood, the call to eventually marry and become a father was stronger. I went on to pursue a nearly 30-year career in funeral service, marry, and have two wonderful sons. Unfortunately, the marriage ended in divorce, and with my two children now grown, the call to the priesthood made itself felt known in my heart once again.

After a life-changing Cursillo experience, and with my family's blessing and the wonderful support of the bishop and the archdiocese, I said yes to God's call to pursue that vocation. I entered formation at St. Peter's Seminary in 2022 as a pre-theology student and I am currently in first-year Theology. God's blessings have been abundant in my life, and I am thankful for his persistence and for the gift of the support and prayers that he continues to send me through so many wonderful people.

**Nathan Hoffmann**  
Saint Mary's Cathedral Parish, Halifax  
Spiritual Year - St Augustine's Seminary



I was born the fourth of five kids to a faithful Catholic family in Calgary, Alberta. Growing up, I was blessed to be able to travel to and live all around the world. My family left Calgary when I was four and we spent the next 14 years living in Indonesia, Texas, and Australia. Throughout these years, my faith was one of the few constants in my life. I could always rely on the Mass and the Church to be the same, no matter where in the world we lived. I first had an inkling that God was calling me to discern the Priesthood in 7th Grade when a religion teacher encouraged us to ask God how He would like us to serve Him. Although I knew that the Lord was not asking anything of me at that moment, it was clear He was asking me to leave the door to the priesthood open in my life.

My family returned to Canada in 2014 and I moved to Halifax not long after to pursue post-secondary education. I eventually achieved a Bachelors and Masters Degree from a University in Halifax. After graduation, I worked for a Municipality near Halifax for several years. Since moving here in 2014, I have fallen in love with Nova Scotia and feel it has truly become my home.

I began to hear a more serious call to the priesthood during the pandemic lockdowns. Although churches were closed, I felt God calling me to participate more fully in the sacramental life of the Church and to be able to provide the sacraments to the faithful. I wrestled with the calling God had placed on my heart and my own desires and expectations for my life for several years. Eventually, I had a powerful experience in which I chose to give God total control over my life. After this decision, He quickly went to work and led me to St. Augustine's Seminary. I am excited to continue following the path God has set out in front of me and look forward to following it where He leads me.

Please pray for me, our other Seminarians, our Priests, and our Bishop and be assured of my prayers for you and all the faithful of Halifax-Yarmouth.



**Greg Vess**  
Stella Maris Parish, Halifax  
Spiritual Year - St Augustine's Seminary

I was born and raised in a strong Catholic household. My parents, cradle Catholics themselves, brought my siblings and me to Mass regularly, instructed us in the faith, taught us about Scripture, how to pray, and how to live the moral life. Most importantly, they taught us that God's will ought to come before everything else. Given this strong foundation in the background, the possibility of becoming a priest had been in the back of my mind for as long as I can remember. As a toddler and young child I 'played Mass' as many Catholic children do. I was always interested in priests and what they were doing, especially in the Mass. As I grew older, my attraction to the priesthood continued to grow. The main reason for this was that I had begun altar serving at my parish. This gave me a deeper, more different exposure to the liturgy than I previously had, and it taught me so much about it.

I cannot pinpoint my perceived call to one specific, 'lightning-strike' moment like many people seem to. Through ordinary circumstances in living a life of faith, I gradually realized that I have an attraction to the priestly life which cannot be ignored. This led me to apply to seminary at the prompting of our vocations director, Fr. Craig Cameron. It seems that Seminary is the only way to advance my discernment of this call, to see whether this is indeed what God is calling me to do.

**Morgan Wilson**  
Immaculate Conception Parish, Truro  
Spiritual Year - St Peter's Seminary



My name is Morgan Wilson, and I am a convert to the Catholic faith. After being raised without any faith background, I went to Fredericton, NB, to get my degree in electrical engineering. While there, I explored my lifelong interest in philosophy by taking some elective courses, and in the process discovered the Christian intellectual tradition. Confronted with the need to take Christianity more seriously than I previously had, I read the New Testament with an open heart for the first time in my life, and began to fall in love with Jesus Christ, since I could not help but see His goodness and His love, while also acknowledging His seriousness and authority. I returned to Nova Scotia and began my work as an electrical engineer-in-training, but the fire that had been kindled continued to grow, and I continued to read and learn about Jesus and the faith He had given to His Apostles. Within six months I was asking the local Catholic priest about entering the Church. I continued to work as an engineer, but with my conversion thoughts about the priesthood had entered my mind, though remained in the background for a long time as I continued to grow into the Church. In 2023 these thoughts entered the foreground, and now I am happily a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth, discerning the will of God.

I greatly enjoy poetry and literature, and I love spending time in nature, especially far away from cities so I can do stargazing at night. Ultimate is my preferred sport, and whenever I find a group who play, I eagerly join them. I always love spending time with my family, especially when we are all together.

