

Fr. Caleb Cunningham grew up near Jordan Valley, Oregon, on his family's cattle ranch and was a member of St. Bernard's parish. He is the third of the four children of Ron and Nancy Cunningham. Growing up on the ranch, he enjoyed riding horses, roping, driving tractors and 4-wheelers, along with all the other things that are done on a cattle ranch. He went to college at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, where he received Bachelors Degrees in Philosophy and Theology.

He then applied to be a seminarian for the Diocese of Baker, and was sent to Mount Angel Seminary near Salem, Oregon, for his theological studies. He received a Master of Theology from Mount Angel in 2020, and was ordained a deacon June 25, 2020. However, he had some major health problems and had to take two years away from seminary. Thanks be to God and many people's prayers, he was able to return to seminary in the fall of 2022. He graduated from Mount Angel Seminary in May of 2023, and received a Master of Divinity. He also received a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from San Anselmo, the Benedictine college in Rome, through a distance learning program at Mount Angel.

He was ordained a priest June 15, 2023. He is the first native born priest ordained for the Diocese of Baker in about 20 years. He began his assignment as parochial vicar at St. Thomas Redmond in July 2023. He is excited that he is beginning his priestly ministry here at St. Thomas and looks forward to getting to know the community. Besides his priestly desire to minister to the people of God, his other interests include hiking, cross-country skiing, and riding horses.