

# Welcome



## Deacon Jim & Penny Atkinson

Please greet the newest deacon in our parish family, Deacon Jim Atkinson, who comes to us from “just up the road” in Mooresville, North Carolina. Since Deacon Jim’s ordination in 2006 he has served the Church and her people not only as a deacon in Holy Spirit parish in Denver, North Carolina, but also as an Advocate for the Marriage Tribunal for the Diocese of Charlotte, working with people seeking marriage annulments. Deacon Jim and Penny have been married for 52 years and have three married children and 14 grandchildren. The have a son Dustin who lives in Virginia with six children; a son Jim lives in Matthews, North Carolina with four children and daughter Cassy Vernau lives in Irmo with four children. Having lived in Irmo some twenty years ago, they are still familiar with the area. They are also well acquainted with Our Lady of the Lake since the Vernau family are long-time parishioners and Deacon Jim and Penny visited often. They wanted to move back to Irmo after retirement and with that in mind they have been looking at houses for sale in this area for the past several years. When Bishop Guglielmone decided to sell Fr. Andrew home, they purchased it immediately. Now they are not only “near” family, they are next door neighbors to the Vernau’s! The Atkinson’s are very excited to be living here and to be part of Our Lady of the Lake parish and are looking forward to getting to know all of our parishioners in the months to come.

*Deacon Jim’s diaconate status is considered to be “Retired-Active” so you can expect to see more of him around the parish. Please introduce yourself to him when you do!*