

ORDINATION STUDY GUIDE

Liturgy of the Word:

Listen to the readings and reflect on how God is calling you to a particular vocation

Isaiah 61:1-3a

Every priest is called to be another 'Jesus' to the world. As the Holy Spirit filled Jesus to bring truth and life to the world, how will the Holy Spirit descend upon this new priest? How will he "proclaim liberty to captives" in his own priestly ministry?

Psalm 84

This new priest seeks the "courts of the Lord" and knows that his "home is by [the Lord's] altars." How will he find the Lord more deeply in his ministry at the altar and how will he allow others to find the Lord at the altar?

1 Peter 5:1-4

This passage says to the new priest, "Tend the flock of God in your midst, [overseeing] not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it." How should a priest shepherd his people after the example of Jesus?

John 21:15-19

Jesus asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?" How is this new priest expressing his love for Jesus and how are you being called to show your love for the Lord?

Rite of Ordination:

Before he is ordained, each candidate must be called forth by the Church to receive the gift of ordination. He must also make certain promises to be kept for life giving witness to the power Jesus through his priestly ministry.

Reflect on these promises. What response to they create in your own heart?

1. Fulfill the duties of the priesthood as a key collaborator and supporter of the Bishop
2. Preach the Word of God faithfully, even if the world does not want to hear it
3. Celebrate the sacraments with care and reverence, especially Confession and the Eucharist
4. Pray for his people faithfully, that God will have mercy upon them
5. Conform his life more deeply to the life of Jesus, who laid down his life that we might have life
6. Pledge his respect and obedience to the Bishop and to all future bishops



The candidate will lay face-down on the floor in an act of humility before God as he prepares for the great gift of ordination. The Litany of the Saints will be chanted, asking the holy saints of heaven to pray for him. What does this act of humble act of prayer inspire within you as you seek to offer your life to God?

Bishop Nickless will confer priesthood upon this man through the Laying on of Hands and the Prayer of Ordination, which have biblical roots among the first Christians.

Afterwards, he will be vested as a newly ordained priest and his hands will be anointed with Sacred Chrism oil, symbolizing his participation in the one priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Following this, the priest will be given gifts of bread and wine, asking that he always offer these gifts from the people of God as a worthy offering to the Lord in the Eucharist.

Finally, the priests who are present at the ordination will welcome their new brother into the rank of the presbyterate with a sign of peace.

Rite of Communion:

Offer your own reflections on what it is like to see a priest participate in the consecration of the Eucharist at the altar for the first time?

What do you suppose it is like for the new priest to offer Holy Communion to his family members for the first time?

What must his family members be thinking, knowing that he now shares in the power of consecrating bread and wine into the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus?

As priestly power is now in this man, Bishop Nickless asks the newly ordained for his first blessing at the end of Mass. You too are encouraged to receive a blessing from him in the coming months as he begins his public priestly ministry.

Please pray for Fr. Travis Crotty and all those whom he will serve in his first assignment in All-Saints Parish in LeMars and at Gehlen Catholic School.

