

**Today is the Memorial of St. Matthias, Apostle**

The first act of the apostles after the Ascension of Jesus was to find a replacement for Judas. But Jesus had chosen the original twelve. How could they know whom he would choose? Peter had one criterion, that, like Andrew, James, John, and himself, the new apostle be someone who had been a disciple from the very beginning, from his baptism by John until the Ascension. The reason for this was simple, the new apostle must become a witness to Jesus' resurrection. Two men fit this description - Matthias and Joseph called Barsabbas. They cast lots in order to discover God's will and Matthias was chosen. Clement of Alexandria says that Matthias, like all the other apostles, was not chosen by Jesus *for what he already was, but for what Jesus foresaw he would become.* He was elected not because he was worthy but because he would become worthy. Jesus also calls men and women to ordained and religious life for *what they will become!*

***How can we support those who are called to ordained and religious life?***

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO ORDAINED & RELIGIOUS LIFE**

***Gracious and loving God,***

**Help the men and women of our parishes to hear the call to serve in the Diocese of Kalamazoo.**

**Our needs are great and our people thirst for your presence.**

**Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel,  
dedicated holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons,  
who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.**

**Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance, *especially Bishop Bradley, Fr. Craig, Fr. Joe, Deacon Mike, and Deacon Ken.***

**Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

***Holy Spirit, eternal Spring of joy and peace,***

**It is You who open the heart and the mind to the divine call;  
it is You who make effective every impetus towards good, towards truth, towards  
charity.**

**Open the hearts and minds of young men  
so that a new flowering of holy vocations to the priesthood  
may show forth the fidelity of your love,  
and all may know Christ, the true life of the world,  
who offers to every human being the sure hope of eternal life.**

**Amen**