



## **Promises and Prayers for the Episcopal Election**

**The promises made by the bishop-elect at the time of ordination:**

Will you accept this call and fulfil this trust in obedience to Christ?

Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the study of holy scripture, that you may have the mind of Christ?

Will you boldly proclaim and interpret the gospel of Christ, enlightening the minds and stirring up the conscience of your people?

As a chief priest and pastor, will you encourage and support all baptized people in their gifts and ministries, nourish them from the riches of God's grace, pray for them without ceasing, and celebrate with them the sacraments of our redemption?

Will you guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church?

Will you share with your fellow bishops in the government of the whole Church; will you sustain your fellow presbyters and take counsel with them; will you guide and strengthen the deacons and all others who minister in the Church?

Will you be merciful to all, show compassion to the poor and strangers, and defend those who have no helper?

### **Prayers for the Election of a Bishop**

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a new bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Most gracious and loving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, we pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new Bishop for our diocese. Open our hearts and minds and give us your insight, that we may be faithful to Your will in preparing for, and carrying out the election. Bless and guide all those who will elect our new Bishop. Deepen our trust in your guidance, O God, that we may move forward with you in our life together, through the power of your Holy Spirit and in the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **A Six-Week Cycle of Prayer & Bible Reading for Election of a Bishop**

**The First Week:** Pray for the mission of the Church.

**Consider:** The Bishop is to proclaim, interpret and witness to the Good News of God in Christ.

Everliving God, whose will is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ. Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hear the Word of God.

Sun. Luke 24:44-49a	Thu. Acts 5: 27-33
Mon. Acts 4:23-31	Fri. Acts 5:34-42
Tue. Acts 4:32-37	Sat. Acts 6: 1-7
Wed. Acts 5:12-26	

**The Second Week:** Pray for the Diocese.

**Consider:** The Bishop is called to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church.

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese of Ottawa to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless the one who is to become our Bishop, the other clergy and all the people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according, to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God.

Sun. Isaiah 42: 1-9	Thu. Acts 8:9-24
Mon. Acts 6:8-15	Fri. Acts 9:10-20.
Tue. Acts 7:51-8:1a	Sat. Acts 10:1-5, 25-31, 34-35, 44-48.
Wed. Acts 8:1b-8	



**The Third Week:** Pray for the Synod of the Diocese.

**Consider:** The Bishop is called to celebrate and provide for the administration of the Sacraments of the New Covenant.

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who will take counsel in the Synod of this Diocese for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God.

Sun. I Cor 3:4-9	Thu. Acts 13:13-35
Mon. Acts 1:1-18	Fri. Acts 13:26-33
Tue. Acts 11:19-26	Sat. Acts 13:37-43
Wed. Acts 12:24-13:5a	

**The Fourth Week:** Pray for the choice of fit persons for the ministry of the church.

**Consider:** The bishop is called to ordain priests and deacons and join with other Bishops in the ordination and consecration of bishops.

O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place. Grant that your Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, may choose suitable persons for the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and may uphold them in their work for the extension of your kingdom. We pray that the Bishop we elect would have a heart to discern Your vision for Your Church and implement that vision; through Him who is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God:

Sun. Heb 5:1-10	Thu. Acts 15:7-21
Mon. Acts 14:5-18	Fri. Acts 15:22-31
Tue. Acts 14:19-28	Sat. Acts 16:1-10
Wed. Acts 15:1-6	



**The Fifth Week:** Pray for the election of a Bishop for this Diocese.

**Consider:** The Bishop is called to be in all things a faithful pastor and a wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift. Look graciously on your Church in this Diocese, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for us, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God

Sun. I Tim. 3:1- 7	Thu. Acts 18:1-8
Mon. Act s 16: 11-15	Fri. Acts 18:2 -2B
Tue. Acts 16: 16-34	Sat. Acts 19:1-8
Wed. Acts 17:15, 22-18:1	

**The Sixth Week:** Pray for the one who shall be chosen Bishop.

**Consider:** The Bishop is called to share with fellow Bishops in the leadership of the Church throughout the world.

Almighty God, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church. Give your grace, we humbly pray, to the one who will be called to the office and ministry of Bishop for your people in this Diocese; and so fill them with the truth of your doctrine and holiness of life, to faithfully serve before you, to the Glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God

Sun. John 17:1-9, 18-21	Thu. Acts 22:30, 23:6-11
Mon. Acts 19:21, 20:6-12	Fri. Acts 25:13-21
Tue. Acts 20:16-27	Sat. Acts 28:16-20, 30-31.
Wed. Acts 20:28-38.	

## **A Five-Week Cycle of Prayer & Bible Reading for Election of a Bishop**

### **SUNDAYS**

#### **Morning Prayer.**

Almighty God, you have revealed to your Church your eternal Being of glorious majesty and perfect love as one God in a Trinity of Persons: Give us grace to continue steadfast in the confession of this faith and constant of our worship of you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; you who live and reign, One God now and forever. Amen.

#### **Evening Prayer**

Lord God, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared us a place in the New Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the Light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **Bible Readings**

Week 1:	Ex 3:11-15	Week 4:	Rom 11:33-36
Week 2:	Matt 28:18-20	Week 5:	Eph 4:1-12 -1
Week 3:	John 1:1-12		

Steadfast in witness constant in worship.

### **MONDAYS**

#### **Morning Prayer**

Almighty and most merciful God, Grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit we may be enlightened and strengthened for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **Evening Prayer**

Most Holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

### Bible Reading

Week 1:	Isa 11 :1-9	Week 4:	I Cor 2:1-13
Week 2:	Isa 61:1-3	Week 5:	I Cor 12:4-14
Week 3:	Luke 11:9-13		

Spirit-filled and spirit-led.

## TUESDAYS

### Morning Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under His most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever: Amen.

### Evening Prayer

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Bible Readings

Week 1:	Jer 23:1-6	Week 4:	John 18:33-37
Week 2:	Dan 7:9-14	Week 5:	Col 1:11-20
Week 3:	Luke 19:29-38		

A peace-maker, proclaiming the rule of Christ.

## WEDNESDAYS

### Morning Prayer

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



### Evening prayer

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the fearful, the strength of those who labour, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night; through Him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Bible Reading

Week 1:	Isa 9:2-4, 6-7	Week 4:	1 Tim 1:14-16
Week 2:	Jer 31:7-14	Week 5:	1 John 4:1-11
Week 3:	Luke 1: 26- 38.		

We in Christ and Christ in us

## THURSDAYS

### Morning prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in a wonderful sacrament you have left us a memorial of your passion: Grant us, we pray, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of your redemption; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

### Evening prayer

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. this for the sake of your love. Amen.

### Bible Readings

Week 1:	Deut 8:2-3	Week 4:	1 Cor 11:23-29
Week 2:	Luke 24:13-35	Week 5:	Rev 19:1-28, 4-9
Week 3:	John 6:47-58		

Nourished and upheld by Word and Sacrament



## FRIDAYS

### Morning Prayer

Almighty God, whose Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Evening prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. Amen.

### Bible Readings

Week 1:	Isa 52:13-15, 53:10-12	Week 4:	Phil 2:5-11
Week 2:	1 Cor 1:18-24	Week 5:	John 12:23-33
Week 3:	Gal 6: 10-18		

Obedient courageous follower in the steps of Christ

## SATURDAYS

### Morning prayer

Grant, O Lord, to all who have been baptized into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, that, as we have put away the old life of sin, so we may be renewed in the Spirit of our minds and live in righteousness and true holiness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### Evening prayer

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Bible Readings

Week 1:	Ezek 36:24-28	Week 4:	Rom 6:3-11
Week 2:	Mark 10: 35-45	Week 5:	2 Cor 5: 17-20
Week 3:	Mark 3: 1-6		

Intercessor for the people of God



## Other Prayers

### Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: Look on your church with grace and guide the minds of those who shall choose a new bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Prayer for the Church

Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth; in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt purify it; where it is in error, direct It; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Saviour. Amen.

### Prayer for the Diocese

O God, by your grace You have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless all our clergy and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### More

1. Gracious God, source of all wisdom and goodness: As we search for our next Bishop, together, as one diocese, we recommit ourselves to our ministry, our future, and the vision of what we might become. We ask you to summon our dreams and our courage. We pray for realism in our discernment and the willingness to meet this challenge. We pray for the ability to listen to one another and to your voice in our midst. Ground us in common love and Spirit. Ignite us with a passion for the ministry you have called us to do and set our hearts on fire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
2. Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to whom you revealed your power and might and promised your presence and blessing, be among us during this special time in the life of our church as we pray for a bishop to shepherd us. Reveal your power and might to us in our ministries, in our ministers, in our planning and in all our deliberations. Bless and guide our prayers and our labors that our mission and witness might be strong in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. Send forth your Holy Spirit, O Lord, and raise up for us a shepherd of your own choosing: a bishop to lead and guide us, a shepherd of wisdom and strength, compassion and grace, holiness and learning, with vision and the commitment to build up your Church and unite your faithful people around the love of him who offered himself for us and for all the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
4. O Wise and Gracious God, when your chosen people Israel prayed for a leader, you sent the prophet Samuel to discern your will, not with the eyes of the faithless, not with the ears of the popular, not with the wisdom of humanity, but with the insight of faith and trust in you alone. As we prepare for the election of a bishop for our church, make our conversations holy, our listening attentive, our prayer fervent, our trust in you strong, and our insight filled with faith and knowledge of your will for our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
5. Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, by your Spirit fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and guide us as we seek to choose a new bishop for our diocese. Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory, so that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
6. Most gracious and loving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, we pray for the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new bishop for our diocese. Open our hearts and minds and give us your insight, that we may be faithful to Your will in preparing for, and carrying out the election. Bless and guide all those who will elect our new bishop. Deepen our trust in your guidance, O God, that we may move forward with you in our life together, through the power of your Holy Spirit and in the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.
7. Almighty God, prosper with your blessing the mission and ministry of our diocese. Stir up in us the grace and power of your Spirit, as we search for our next bishop. Give us all the courage to dream and the will to persevere to make those dreams a reality. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and ground us in the knowledge and love of you. Empower us with the gifts of joy and wonder as we seek out the special ministry you have for us together in our diocese; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
8. Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and earth; with Your loving-kindness, provide to this diocese a bishop who shall by holiness of life, wisdom in ruling and faithfulness in teaching, be a true witness of your love, and by watchfulness and zeal promote Your glory and the salvation of souls; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **More Resources**

### **1. WHAT ARE WE UP TO? - The Mission of the Church**

God of all, draw your church together into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Him in His mission to the world, and together witnessing to His love on every continent and island, particularly in our country of Canada. AMEN

Eternal God, You call us to live with faith in a world filled with so many challenges. Help us remember that Jesus talked of our being in the world, but not of the world. Teach us through your word, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and in our prayers to learn and understand that you would have us to be and to do, so that we may fulfil our calling as Christ's body here on earth. AMEN

Gracious God, may we be a church that preaches the Good News to the poor; binds up the broken-hearted, proclaims freedom to the captives and release prisoners from darkness. Guide us to comfort those who mourn and provide for those who grieve. May we be called the trees of righteousness, planted for the Lord to show His splendour. AMEN

### **2. WHO ARE WE? - The Role of the Diocese/Parish in the Church's Mission**

Almighty God, give us a new vision of you, of your love, of your grace and power; and then, give us a new vision of what you would have us do as your church in this nation at this time, and an awareness that in the strength of your Spirit we can do it to your glory. In Jesus' Name we pray. AMEN

Lord, make our parish a community who beholds your marvellous works. AMEN

### **3. HOW SHALL WE DISCERN? - Supporting the Selection Process**

O Holy One, guide all those who will be candidates for selection as bishop. We pray that those called to serve with this responsibility may be individuals living a holy life, seeking to be in your will, able to overcome prejudices, examining issues with care, and that the decisions they make may be to the building up of your church and to your glory. May we be truly unified as one under Christ. AMEN.

Gracious God, giver of all good gifts, look graciously upon our diocese with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for us, that we may receive a faithful servant and leader, who will care for your people and support us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

**4. WHOM SHALL I SEND? - Remembering the One Who Will Be Chosen**

Loving God, give your grace to the one who will be called and appointed to be the ministry of being bishop. May they be guided by the Holy Spirit to hear your call. Fill them with the truth of your Gospel and the skill and courage to proclaim it. May they faithfully serve you to your glory and for the benefit of the whole people of God. AMEN.

**5. OPENING TO THE SPIRIT - Affirming the Leading of the Holy Spirit**

O God the source of all things, you call us through baptism to discipleship with Jesus Christ and send us to proclaim to all people the good news of your gracious and loving rule. Inspire by your Holy Spirit the hearts of many to offer themselves for the ordained ministry of your Church, that with faithful courage and generosity of heart they may build up your people in this diocese to your glory and for the sake of the world you love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

O God, we pray for the Church in this diocese, that faithful people respond to the call to service and leadership: the Lord grant us discernment in selecting those who would lead us. AMEN.