

*Novena of Prayer for Bishop-Elect McKnight  
January 23 – February 2, 2018*

***Tuesday, January 23 – Opening Prayer: Our Father***

Today we begin a novena of prayer as we anticipate the episcopal ordination and installation of Bishop-Elect McKnight who will become the fourth bishop of our diocese. This novena will be prayed in all the schools of our diocese for nine days leading up to the ordination on February 6. Each day we will begin with one of Bishop-Elect McKnight's favorite prayers, we will learn a little bit about our new bishop and then we will also pray a closing prayer for Bishop Emeritus Gaydos, Bishop-Elect McKnight and our diocese as we experience this leadership transition.

We began this novena today by praying the Our Father because it is Bishop-Elect McKnight's favorite prayer. We will pray his second favorite (the Morning Offering) and third favorite (the Memorare) prayers as well throughout this novena. As Bishop-Elect McKnight begins his new ministry as our bishop, he no doubt will rely on God to be close to him through prayer as he leads our diocese.

– What prayers are your favorites and help you to grow in your relationship with God?

**Closing Prayer:**

**We Pray:** Gracious God, who sent your Son as the great Shepherd and Guardian of our souls, lead and guide the Diocese of Jefferson City during this time of transition. Bless Bishop Emeritus Gaydos for his faithful service to our diocese for the past twenty years. Bless also Bishop-Elect McKnight as he prepares to lead us into the future. May he imitate your Son Jesus in the way he leads with compassion and care. As he shepherds our diocese may he call us to be faithful to the Gospel, as we grow in faith, hope and love. Prepare all of our hearts to welcome our new bishop in good faith and love. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

***Wednesday, January 24 – Opening Prayer: The Morning Offering***

As Catholics we look to Saints as models of the faith who have gone before us. Bishop-Elect McKnight has shared that he has several favorite saints. These include SS. Peter and Paul (which is his confirmation name). St. Patrick, and the following American Saints: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; Fr. Damien de Veuster of Molakai; and Fr. Emil Kapaun, Servant of God. May these saints continue to inspire him as he begins his ministry as bishop.

- What saints inspire you in your life?

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***Thursday, January 25 - Opening Prayer: Memorare***

Jesus taught his followers of the importance of taking time for personal prayer. We need to take time for personal prayer in order to grow in our relationship with God. Praying in Church near the tabernacle is Bishop-Elect McKnight's favorite place to pray.

- Where do you like to spend time with God in prayer?

**Closing Prayer:** *See Tuesday, Jan. 23 or the end of this document for the prayer*

***Friday, January 26 - Opening Prayer: Our Father***

Each of us may have a variety of activities and interests that we like to do in our free time. Our new bishop enjoys reading, going to movies and running for exercise.

- What are some of the things you enjoy doing in your free time?

**Closing Prayer:** *See Tuesday, Jan. 23 or the end of this document for the prayer*

***Monday, January 29 - Opening Prayer: The Morning Offering***

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week we are aware that our schools are part of a larger community of faith as each of us is also connected to a parish community and a diocese. Bishop-Elect McKnight believes that a parish is at its best when people with all different gifts, talents and abilities work together to fulfill the mission of the church.

- How can you share your gifts, talents and abilities in your school and parish communities?

**Closing Prayer:** *See Tuesday, Jan. 23 or the end of this document for the prayer*

***Tuesday, January 30 – Opening Prayer: Memorare***

Bishop-Elect McKnight attended Catholic Schools. He attended Christ the King School in Wichita, KS until 5th grade. His family then moved to the state of Washington where he attended St. Anthony School in Renton, WA from 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade and then John F. Kennedy Catholic High School, Burien, WA until his junior year. When his family moved back to Wichita he completed high school at Bishop Carroll High.

- How has your Catholic education helped you to grow?

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**Wednesday, January 31– Opening Prayer: Our Father**

Our families play an important role in helping us to grow. Bishop-Elect Shawn McKnight comes from a large family. His father, grandfather and a great-uncle were killed in a boating accident when he was only a year and a half old. He and his mother lived with his grandmother McKnight for a couple years until his mom married again. He has one sister and six brothers from his mom's second marriage. When asked about his family he stated that he comes from a large family with big hearts.

- How has your family helped you to grow?

**Closing Prayer:** *See Tuesday, Jan. 23 or the end of this document for the prayer*

**Thursday, February 1 - Opening Prayer: The Morning Offering**

During Catholic Schools week we are invited to celebrate vocations. Each of us is called by God to live out a particular vocation in our lives. Bishop-Elect McKnight encourages the young people of our diocese when responding to God's call in your life to be open. Be not afraid. Say yes to God, always, no matter what.

- What vocation might God be calling you to say yes to in your life?

**Closing Prayer:** *See Tuesday, Jan. 23 or the end of this document for the prayer*

**Friday, Feb. 2 - Opening Prayer: Memorare**

*Today is the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and also the World Day for Consecrated Life.* Bishop-Elect McKnight names several sisters and religious priests who had a positive influence in his life. Sr. Anacleta Schuette, ASC, was his grade school principal at Christ the King. He states that she was and is a woman of faith, encouragement and love for children. Fr. Lawrence Landini, OFM, was his spiritual director in the seminary who helped guide him as he discerned his vocation. He also had several Cistercian monks who taught several courses he took at the University of Dallas from whom he learned much.

- Have there been any religious priests, sisters or brothers who have inspired you?

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*We Pray: Gracious God, who sent your Son as the great Shepherd and Guardian of our souls, lead and guide the Diocese of Jefferson City during this time of transition.*

*Bless Bishop Emeritus Gaydos for his faithful service to our diocese for the past twenty years.*

*Bless also Bishop-Elect McKnight as he prepares to lead us into the future. May he imitate your Son Jesus in the way he leads with compassion and care. As he shepherds our diocese may he call us to be faithful to the Gospel, as we grow in faith, hope and love.*

*Prepare all of our hearts to welcome our new bishop in good faith and love. Through Christ our Lord, Amen*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!*