

**Weekly Prayers**  
for  
**Diocese of Missouri**  
**Search, Nomination and Election of the New Bishop**  
**Diocesan Convention, Nov. 22/23, 2019**

*Prepared by*  
**CONFLUENCE**, a Roofless Center for Spirituality, a partner organization the Diocese of Missouri to  
enable us to pray regularly in common voice as individuals, groups and parishes  
for the search, discernment and election process.

Week	Search Timeline Activity	Prayer	
#1 July 28-Aug 3, 2019	Review of Applications Initial interviews	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 our Diocese of Missouri, 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	
#2 August 4-10	Review of Applications Initial interviews	Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that our Diocese of Missouri, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit as we move toward the nomination and election of a new bishop that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. <i>Amen.</i>	

<p>#3 August 11-17</p>	<p><b>Search/Nominating Committee</b> Review of Applications Initial interviews</p>	<p>Heavenly Father, as we journey toward our next Bishop, endow our Search/Nominating, Transition and Standing Committees with wisdom, grace and humility to discern your will and fulfill your purpose. Help us to remember always, Lord, that this is a sacred journey to be undertaken with joy and reverence and ultimately one designed to bring glory to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen</p>	
<p>#4 Aug 18-24</p>	<p><b>Search/Nominating Committee</b> Review of Applications Initial interviews</p>	<p>God of Love, raise up for the Diocese of Missouri a shepherd who will lead with compassion, courage and understanding of the diverse needs of all your people. May our diocese from the north, to the east and west, and to the south be joined by the gifts of a bishop endowed by your grace. This we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.</p>	
<p>#5 Aug 25-31</p>	<p><b>Search/Nominating Committee</b> Review of Applications Initial interviews</p>	<p>Gracious God, we give thanks and praise for your work among us and through us, from generation to generation, in the Diocese of Missouri. Guide us in the months ahead as we prayerfully search for our next Bishop. Bless our Standing Committee, the Search/Nominating and Transition Committees and all in our Diocese who work steadfastly for the renewal and mission of your church. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. <i>Amen</i></p>	
<p>#6 Sept 1-7</p>	<p><b>Search/Nominating Committee</b> Review of Applications Initial interviews</p>	<p>O God, we place our lives and the life of this diocese in your hands. Guide us with all wisdom as we move forward to discern the person best suited to serve us as our next Bishop. We pray in the name of the One who is always our Servant Leader, Jesus Christ Our Lord. <i>Amen</i></p>	

<p>#7 Sept 8-14</p>	<p><b>Search/Nominating Committee</b> Review of Applications Initial interviews</p>	<p>Everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, we thank you for the ways we are finding Christ in each other as our Diocesan Committees undertake the challenges of selecting nominees for our new bishop. Speak deeply into the souls of those you are preparing for diocesan leadership. Grant them the courage to pursue your call and the grace to accomplish all necessary steps in the process; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>	
<p>#7 Sept 15-21</p>	<p><b>Sept 16-19:</b> Retreat for potential candidates and Search/Nominating Committee. Committee.</p> <p><b>Sept 20:</b> Nominating Committee meets to pray and discerns the slate from potential candidates..</p> <p><b>Sept 21:</b> Nominating Committee presents the slate to Standing Committee.</p>	<p>O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Guide the Search/Nominating Committee members and the candidates gathered in retreat this week to faithful discernment to raise up those to be nominated for Bishop in our diocese that our faith may increase and our works glorify your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen</i></p>	
<p>#7 Sept 22-28</p>	<p><b>After Sept 26:</b> Slate published for the entire diocese.</p>	<p>O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Guide us as we receive the names of those nominated for Bishop in our diocese. Fill us all with the Spirit of discernment that our faith may increase and our works glorify your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen</i></p>	

<p><b>#8</b> Oct 6-12</p>	<p><b>Transition Committee</b> takes the lead after the nominees have been selected.</p> <p>Events are planned for diocesan members to learn more about the candidates.</p>	<p>O God, we pray for the Diocese of Missouri as we discern to elect a Bishop to serve your people, to build up the Church and proclaim the gospel to the world. Send us, we pray, an apostle who is a wise counselor and merciful pastor, filled with your joy and grace to lead us to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. All this we pray in the Name of our Great High Priest and Servant of the servants of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>	
<p><b>#9</b> Oct 13-19</p>	<p><b>Transition Committee</b> continues to take the lead to provide information and events for diocesan members to learn more about the candidates.</p>	<p>Gracious God, giver of every good gift: we thank you for your continued blessing upon our efforts to discern our next bishop. Guide, sanctify and bring our efforts into fruition that we may receive a faithful Bishop who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, so that all among whom we live may know the power of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	
<p><b>#10</b> Oct 20-26</p>	<p><b>Transition Committee</b> continues to the lead to provide information and events for diocesan members to learn more about the candidates.</p>	<p>God of grace and God of wisdom, pour upon us an abundance of that grace and wisdom that we might with discerning hearts and minds choose the next Bishop to lead us in the coming years in this diocese. We pray in the name of the one who is the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen</p>	
<p><b>#11</b> Oct 27-Nov 2</p>	<p><b>Transition Committee</b> continues to lead to provide information and events for diocesan members to learn more about the candidates.</p>	<p>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 any thing 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 Savior. <i>Amen.</i></p>	

<p><b>#12</b> Nov 3-9</p>	<p><b>Transition Committee schedules Walk-About Meet &amp; Greet events with Nominees – Nov 4-7</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St. Timothy's / Creve Coeur</li> <li>• Trinity / CWE</li> <li>• Calvary / Columbia</li> <li>• Christ Church / Cape Girardeau</li> </ul>	<p>O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Guide us this week as we gather throughout the diocese to meet those nominated for election as our next bishop. Enable us to prayerfully discern the next bishop to lead this diocese to answer your call that our faith may increase and our works glorify your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen</i></p>	
<p><b>#13</b> Nov 10-16</p>	<p><b>For Bp Smith &amp; Debbie Smith</b></p>	<p>Holy God, we give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Wayne Smith and his spouse, Debbie, in our Diocese. We offer our gratitude for the love and relationships they have given our church and for the mission we have shared together these last years. As they prepare to enter a new season of life in these next months, fill them with your grace that each new day may be holy and grace-filled to find joy, peace, and fulfillment. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.</p>	
<p><b>#14</b> Nov 17-23</p>	<p><b>Nov 21<sup>st</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup></b>  Election at 180<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention</p>	<p>O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Guide us as we gather this week at our Diocesan Convention to elect our next bishop. We pray for a bishop who will walk with us and shepherd us as we live into the vision God has set before us that our faith may increase and our works glorify your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. <i>Amen</i></p>	

<p><b>#15</b> Nov 24-30</p>	<p><b>Post-election</b></p>	<p>O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.</p>	
	<p><i>Additional prayers to be distributed to the diocese to join in prayer between the November election and the Consecration of our New Bishop on April 25, 2020</i></p>	<p>Forthcoming</p>	