Matthew Joseph Kensok

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,
give your servant Matthew
grace and power to fulfill his ministry.
Make him faithful to serve and constant
in advancing your gospel in the world.
May he follow the example
of Jesus Christ your Son,
who washed the feet of his disciples,
and set the needs of others before his own.
May his life be disciplined and holy,
his words declare your love,
and his actions reveal your glory,
that your people may walk with him
in the way of truth and be made ready for the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;
to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honor, worship and praise,
now and forever. Amen.

-taken from the Rite of Ordination to the Diaconate

Ordination to the diaconate

Friday, June 4, 2021
7:00pm
Cathedral of St. Mary
Fargo, ND
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Matthew Joseph Kensok was born to Terry and Shari Kensok on August 13, 1993 in Fargo, ND. Matt was born six weeks premature and had an emergency baptism in the hospital that same day.

Matt and his family lived in rural Moorhead and attended St. John's Catholic Church in Georgetown until moving to the family farm in Wheatland and joining St. Leo's Parish, Casselton, in 2004. Matthew was confirmed as a 5th Grader on January 22, 2005. He attended Religious Education classes at St. Leo's thru 12th grade. As Matt grew up, he was active in parish life as a reader and a musician. He played his trumpet for many Christmas and Easter liturgies.

Matt attended Central Cass School and graduated in 2012. He was active in the Music Department, played baseball, and ran track and cross country. He worked part time at the Pizza Ranch in Casselton during his high school years. After graduation he started to pursue a mechanical engineering degree at NDSU like his father, Terry.

And this is where the "God" moments began to happen. After getting involved in a weekly bible study at the Newman Center, he was invited to go on a weekend retreat. That event jump started his spiritual life and he began praying more and attending daily Mass. In silent prayer during adoration, Matthew began to feel Jesus calling him to be a priest. The pastor at the Newman Center invited him to a dinner at Bishop Folda's house for men considering the priesthood and he believed this invitation to be a sign confirming what he had experienced in prayer. Thoughts of the priesthood continued to come up during his weekly holy hour over the next several months. Later, his experiences with a national conference for college students (FOCUS's SEEK) and a discernment retreat brought him to apply to the Diocese of Fargo for priestly formation.

Matthew began his seminary schooling at St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, NE and now attends Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. Matthew will be ordained a transitional deacon on June 4, 2021 at The Cathedral of St. Mary in Fargo. He will be ordained a priest a year from then.

If you haven't had a chance to read (or want to read again) Matt's writings on his seminary journey, there are copies of it in the back of church. And you can hear Matt tell the story himself in a 7 minute video on the Fargo Diocese website at *fargodiocese.net/kensok* or on youtube at *https://youtu.be/hjz01DVQy5Y.*