



# ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

## Office of Communications and Planning

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Archbishop Carlson to Ordain New Priest on Thursday

**WHAT:** Priestly Ordination for the Archdiocese of St. Louis

**WHO:** Reverend Mr. Michael Rennie will receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 8, 2016, 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** Basilica of St. Louis, King of France - "The Old Cathedral" (209 Walnut)

**ST. LOUIS** – Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, will confer the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Reverend Mister Michael Rennie at the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France, on Thursday, December 8, the Feast of Immaculate Conception.

Rev. Mr. Rennie is a former Anglican minister who holds a bachelor's degree in New Testament Literature from Oral Roberts University and a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. He is being ordained under the Pastoral Provision established by Pope St. John Paul II in 1980 for the reception of Anglicans & Episcopalians into full communion with the Catholic Church. Since 1980, more than 100 former Episcopal or Anglican clergymen have been ordained in the Catholic Church.

Candidates for ordination, or *ordinands*, receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Part of the rite of ordination includes the laying on of hands by the bishop, a tradition that began with the original Twelve Apostles, and has continued in an unbroken line throughout the entire 2,000 year history of the Catholic Church. New priests receive supernatural graces through the Sacrament of Holy Orders whereby they are able to act *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ) when they hear confessions and offer the sacrifice of the Mass, which is a bloodless memorial of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross.

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the total number of potential ordinands for 2016, 548, is slightly down from 595 in 2015 and up from 477 in 2014.

The Mass of Priestly Ordination begins at 2 p.m. at the Basilica of St. Louis, King of France – the "Old Cathedral" – near the Gateway Arch.

Additional background information about the Rite of Ordination can be found at [archstl.org/ordination](http://archstl.org/ordination).

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