

# Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

## CATECHUMENATE SESSION: VOCATIONS

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A • January 25, 2026

Jesus,  
you called Simon, Andrew,  
James, and John  
to leave everything  
and to follow you.

Help me to follow you  
today and every day  
by sharing the Good News  
with everyone I meet.  
Amen.



### Sunday Word

**Isaiah 8:23–9:3**

**Psalms 27:1, 4, 13-14**

**1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17**

**Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17**

The above readings are available at  
[usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings).

### To Help You Remember



1. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The Lord brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.
2. Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to have no divisions among them and to be of one mind and one purpose.
3. Jesus calls four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John—to follow him. They left everything behind to follow Jesus.

## Key Teachings



### Called by Jesus Then

The first disciples were going about their business, fishing, when Jesus called them to become his disciples. The word *vocation* comes from the Latin *vocare*, which means “to call.”

### Called by Jesus Today

By our Baptism, as adopted sons and daughters of God, we too find our particular Christian vocation in the Lord Jesus. Each of us shares in Christ’s mission to be a light for the world and a witness to God’s justice, peace, and love.

## Faith Word



### vocation

A vocation is a special call from God to live a life of holiness in a particular way. At Baptism, we each receive a special call, or vocation, to serve God as part of the common priesthood of the faithful.

## Living Our Vocation

There are many ways to live our vocation, our call to holiness. Some men are ordained as bishops, priests, or deacons; other women and men become members of religious communities. God calls some to live as married people, and others remain unmarried. All are living their vocations.

## With My Family



### We Listen

The prophet Isaiah tells us that the people in darkness saw a great light. What or who is the great light? In the Gospel, we hear that Simon, Andrew, James, and John left everything and followed Jesus. They followed Jesus around Galilee as he proclaimed the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus’ message brings light to the world.

### We Believe

In Baptism, we are given a vocation to be holy. Our vocation also means we share in Christ’s work of bringing about the Kingdom of Heaven. Those who are called to be priests or members of religious communities do their work in the service of the Church. Those who are called to single or married life do their work for the kingdom throughout all the world.

### We Live As Disciples

Like the disciples in the Gospel, we are called to follow Jesus. Like Jesus, we proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven as we go around our community, our school, our workplace, and our neighborhood. Name one way you will proclaim the kingdom this week among your people.

### We Pray

During Baptism, the newly baptized are given a candle that has been lighted from the Paschal (Easter) candle. They are told, “*You have been made light in Christ. / Walk always as children of light, / that persevering in faith / you may run to meet the Lord when he comes / with all the Saints in the heavenly court.*” (OCIA 230).