

The Assister

DECEMBER 2016

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

*Minds to think
Hearts to love
Hands to serve*



We welcome you without concern for race, color, ethnic or national origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or age.

Special Edition - Ordination of the Reverend Corey Jones

It is pretty uncommon for a priest to plan their own ordination. I certainly did not plan my own by myself. The whole St. Francis community helped make the day special. Ashley, our parish administrator, worked many hours to get the bulletins just right and be liaison for the many moving parts for the special day. Alina not only offered many hymns to choose from, but brought together an incredible group of musicians and singers to make the day an incredible celebration. I am still working on all of my 'thank you' notes (thank you for your patience!) because there are so many wonderful people to thank for such an amazing day. But after my friend Daniel's concert the night before the ordination, we went home and everyone went to bed...except me. I made a small fire outside and talked to God for a little bit. Mostly, the conversation was me saying, "You are sure about this, right?" I





woke up the next day, and the anxiety about being the planner mixed with the emotion of what was about to happen. I got to the church and ran all around making sure everyone knew what to do, where to stand, what to say, and so on. But once the procession began, all that anxiety went away. The church was full of beautiful music, wonderful people, smells, smoke and the Holy Spirit. I looked around and realized that everyone was there for me, and that's an incredible feeling. All the work and all the travel that went into this day was to say, "We stand with you Corey Jones and we agree that this is what God is calling you to do." I am ok with being in the spotlight, but I rarely want to be the center of attention. But on that day, I was so moved by all the factors that went into the day that I was made a priest. The *veni sancti spiritus* was something I will remember distinctly for the rest of my life. We waited patiently for the Holy Spirit to not just arrive, but to completely fill the sanctuary and the hearts of everyone there. The day that I became a priest will always remain one of my favorite memories and I thank the good people of St. Francis for their part in it. I am without a doubt very blessed. ***Thanks be to God.***

Father Corey Jones





