

Prayers for the Parishes of the Diocese of Milwaukee

This is a cycle of prayers for the parishes and ministry clusters of our diocese. We, the members of the Commission on Mission and Development, strive to be faithful in our prayers for the parishes of this diocese. In recent months we have reached out to the parishes of this diocese to ask, "How would you have us pray for you?", and have written these prayers based upon the responses. This installment covers the first Sunday of Advent, November 30, through the last Sunday in February. We invite the parishes and people of this Diocese to join us in mutual prayer.

Comments or questions? Contact the Rev. Miranda Hassett at rector@stdunstans.com.

November 29 - A Prayer for our Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a godly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop Steven Miller, our clergy, and our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the power of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

December 6 - St Andrew's, Kenosha

Gracious God, whose servant Andrew left his nets to follow your Son Jesus and fish for people: Grant to your faithful followers at St. Andrew's Church in Kenosha wisdom to know where you are guiding them; grant them courage to follow you when you call; and give them open hearts to see you in all things and in all people; in all things, let them know you are present with them; through your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

December 13 - Grace Church, Madison

Loving God, we pray for the outreach ministry and service of Grace Episcopal Church-Madison. May they continue to share the love of Jesus Christ, provide a welcoming place for blending tradition and contemporary thought, and extend good will to their neighbors through the Grace Food Pantry. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

December 20 - Christ Church, Whitefish Bay

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, we pray for the people of Christ Church, Whitefish Bay, that God may be glorified by their worship and made known as they joyfully welcome all people; that they may

embody Christ's love in works of justice, service, and mercy; that they may continue to nurture children in the knowledge and love of God; and that they may provide a place for the people of the North Shore of Milwaukee to address today's concerns in the rich body of Christian tradition. All this we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

December 27 - St Thomas of Canterbury, Greendale

Dear Lord God, you bring together all people and nurture bonds of love; help the people of St. Thomas of Canterbury Church to see, meet and live into all our relationships around their church home, and to be good and caring neighbors to those you have put in their path. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

January 3 - Christ Church, Delavan

Almighty Father, fill with your Holy Spirit, the congregation of Christ Church, Delavan, that they may discern how you would have them reach out to their community, and in obedience make disciples. Bless them with fresh songs to enliven them for their mission, and speak to the hearts of their neighbors. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

January 10 - Holy Communion, Lake Geneva

Heavenly Father, whose blessed son is revealed to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup: Reveal your presence your parish family of Holy Communion in Lake Geneva; strengthen their leadership; grant them guidance and discernment; help them to continue to reach out in concern for others. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns in perfect unity, now and forever. Amen.

January 17 - St Paul's, Milwaukee

Almighty God, we pray for the faithful people of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Milwaukee. May they listen for God's Spirit to guide them into new places to welcome and include those who long for God's grace and presence in their lives. Help them to embrace new ways of inviting people to belong to a community of love and grace. May they continue in their ministries of hospitality, opening their space for concerts, music events, and art. May your Holy Spirit continue to guide them in creativity and invitation for all of God's people. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

January 24 - St Paul's, Beloit

Loving God, we pray for the people of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Beloit. Grant them grace and courage to fulfill their mission of following Christ's teachings, growing spiritually, and serving the needs of their neighbors. Walk with them on

every road, familiar or new. Guide, guard, and strengthen them as your people. We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

January 31 - St Anskar's, Hartland

Almighty God, by your Word and Holy Spirit you have called the people and clergy of St. Anskar's to bear witness to the glorious grace and truth made manifest in your Only-Begotten Son. Strengthen our faith in your wisdom and loving care. Teach us to hope more fully in the way of the cross and the power of the resurrection. Empower us to love you with our whole heart and mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Keep your Church from discouragement in the day of small things, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, One God for ever and ever. Amen.

February 7 - St Paul's, Watertown

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, we pray for the people of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Watertown. We pray for health and growth in their life of service: for "Mary's Room" and those whom it serves, for their ESL classes; for their growing performing arts ministry in the community; and for all the other ways they share in mission in their town and region. We pray that the town's oldest church may continue to make such an important contribution to the welfare of its people, and that they may in Common Prayer find their way to renew and sustain themselves as a continuing and vital presence in their town and Diocese, a haven of inclusivity and acceptance for all God's children. All this we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

February 14 - St. Simon the Fisherman, Port Washington

Almighty God, we pray for the faithful people of St. Simon the Fisherman Episcopal Church in Port Washington. May they live into their calling as a vital church family of all ages, and help them to care especially for the children in their midst. In the name of your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

February 21 - St Peter, West Allis

O blessed Jesus Christ, whose disciple Peter followed you to the cross and proclaimed your glory to your people: Send your blessing upon St. Peter's Church in West Allis, that they may continue to worship you in the beauty of holiness, that they may grow in true faith and godliness, and that they may be a beacon of hope to their community; may they reach out to those they know and those they do not, and follow you faithfully in all they do; this we ask through You, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

February 28 - Trinity, Wauwatosa

Almighty and everlasting God, you create families and bring people together to share, live and love in your name. Help the people of Trinity Church, Wauwatosa, to do the same with the people who come worship with them, the people in their daily lives and the people they have yet to meet. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

March 6 - Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry, Whitewater

Loving God, we pray for the Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry in Whitewater, giving thanks for the opportunities for fellowship fostered there. May those who serve grow in their own strength as they demonstrate Faith in Action by providing both nutritional and spiritual sustenance. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

March 13 - St Andrew's, Monroe

Loving God, we give thanks for the open hearts of the people of St. Andrew's Church, Monroe. May your lifegiving spirit continue to move them to acts of grace and charity in their community. Nurture and care for them even as they nurture and care for one another. Protect and strengthen them, and make them ever more your people, serving you in love. In the name of Christ, Amen.

March 20 - Trinity, Prairie du Chien

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, we pray for the people of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Prairie du Chien. Help them to grow as your disciples and be a beacon of God's love in their community. Renew their energy and resolve to love and care for each other while inviting and welcoming all who desire such a community of faith. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns in perfect unity, now and forever. Amen.

March 27 - St. Mark's, Beaver Dam

Generous God, we give you thanks for the many blessings you have given to the congregation of St. Mark's, Beaver Dam. Fill them with grateful hearts to give you praise in their worship and live reaching their hands out in love that they may bring others to know and to love you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

April 3 - Holy Cross, Wisconsin Dells

Loving God, we pray for the people of Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Wisconsin Dells. Grant them grace and courage to live into their mission of following Christ's teachings, growing spiritually, and serving the needs of their neighbors. Help them to develop and deepen partnerships and walk with them on every road,

familiar or new. Guide, guard, and strengthen them as your people. We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

April 10 - St. Luke's, Racine

O God, who called your servant Luke to be a healer and to proclaim your gospel to all people: We give you thanks for the ministry of St. Luke's parish in Racine. Send your Holy Spirit to guide them; help them to know where you are calling them to serve your people; give them grace to proclaim to the good news, both in word and deed; and raise up leaders among them to continue the mission to which you have called them. This we ask through your Son Jesus Christ, the healer of all souls. Amen.

April 17 - St. Mark's, Milwaukee

Father in heaven, who brings together new relationships, new opportunities and new challenges as a way to deepen our bond with you, bless the people of St. Mark's, Milwaukee, to enter joyfully into such experiences as they begin a new chapter in their shared life of mission and ministry. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

April 24 - Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie

Loving God, we hold before you in prayer the parish of Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie. Grant them faithfulness in living out the gospel for one another and the world, wisdom and patience as they become a multicultural faith family, grace as they seek a sustainable foundation for ministry, and a spirit of sharing their gifts with generosity and joy as they care for their community and one another. May they continue to discern together their part in your great purposes. We pray this in the name of Christ. Amen.

May 1 - St Mark's, South Milwaukee

Dear Lord, you watch over us and guide us with your love; continue to guide the people of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in South Milwaukee during this time of transitional ministry. We give thanks for their commitment to youth ministries and dedication to making life better across the local community through their outreach missions. We pray for these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

May 8 - St. John the Divine, Burlington

Almighty and loving God, we pray for the faithful people of St. John the Divine in Burlington. Grant them your strength and guidance as they continue in the ministry you have called them to do: Feeding God's People, Body, Mind, and Spirit. In the name of your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

May 15 - St Dunstan's, Madison

Almighty God, we pray for the faithful people of St. Dunstan's, Madison. May they deepen their lives of faith, growing in leadership, hospitality, care for the environment, and above all, growing ever closer to you. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.

May 22 - Trinity, Janesville

Almighty God, grant the congregation of Trinity, Janesville, the courage to wholeheartedly seek your will for their mission and purpose. By the grace and might of your Holy Spirit, help them to listen for the new ministry and work to which God calls them, and guide and equip them for that work, to the honor of your Son. Amen.

May 29 - Trinity, Mineral Point, and Trinity, Platteville **

Gracious God, we hold in prayer today the people of Trinity Church, Mineral Point, and Trinity Church, Platteville. Bless and guide them as they grow in ministry and partnership. May they continue to follow the call of the Trinity, gathering to support and promote the journey of spiritual growth and the furtherance of your kingdom. Be with them now and always, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

June 5 - St Boniface, Mequon

Gracious Father, we thank you for the congregation of St. Boniface, Mequon, and for building them into a community that knows and cares about each other. Help them to continue to grow in Christ as they live for the people beyond their walls, share the hospitality of their community, and feed the lives of those who come. Grant them the power of your Spirit to accomplish that which can only be done with your help: to increase their membership as a Body of Christ that lives, grows, and is renewed by God, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

June 12 - St Barnabas, Richland Center

Loving God, we give thanks that you have blessed the church of St. Barnabas, Richland Center, with over a century of shared song and prayer, fellowship and service. Help them continue to live into partnership with other communities of faith, bless them with a lively sense of mission, and make them a light for their community. We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

June 19 - St Alban's, Sussex

Good and gracious God, we give you thanks for the many blessings you have given your children at St. Alban's, Sussex. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon this parish so that they may grow spiritually in their relationship with you; that they may grow in their witness, hospitality, and service to the world around them; and that they may grow in their love and fellowship in the community of

faith, which you have given them at St. Alban's. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

June 26 - St Paul's, Ashippun

Almighty and Everlasting God, you govern all things in both heaven and on earth; continue to bless St. Paul's in Ashippun as they minister and care for the people in their congregation and community. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

July 3 - St John in the Wilderness, Elkhorn

Almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for the people of St. John in the Wilderness and the many ways they are the heart and hands of Jesus in Elkhorn. Holy Spirit, anoint them with Your power in their mission to preach the love of God through Christ and make Him known to the world around them in word and deed. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

July 10 - Zion Episcopal Church, Oconomowoc

Holy Father in heaven, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you have planted your churches throughout southern Wisconsin for the benefit and welfare of your people and the glory of your kingdom: Give us an abiding sense of your presence, that old wounds may be healed and new life may begin. Grow in us that we may nurture one another. Equip us to carry your Gospel to the world. Inspire us with your joy that others may be drawn through us to you. We pray in the precious name of Jesus, the Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

July 17 - St. Christopher's, River Hills

Loving God, we pray for the faithful people of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in River Hills. May they be good stewards of the many gifts you have bestowed upon them, and may they continue to serve you with generosity and gratitude. In the name of your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

July 24 - St Peter's, Fort Atkinson

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for the clergy and people of St. Peter's Church in Fort Atkinson. Holy Spirit we pray that you would draw the people of Fort Atkinson to Yourself; and anoint, inspire and equip St. Peter's for their mission to lead each person into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ, train them as disciples and make Him known to others in their community. All this we ask through Your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

July 31 - St James, Milwaukee

Heavenly Father, whose servant, blessed James, was one of the first to follow Jesus: Grant to the people of St. James' parish in Milwaukee the courage and strength to be a living presence in their city; help them to maintain their mission in times of change; keep them mindful of the needs of others; and let them know that you are with them in all that they do. This we ask in the name of your Son, who together with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and forever. Amen.

August 7 - St Matthias, Waukesha

Loving God, we thank you for forming St. Matthias, Waukesha, as an inclusive community of faith united in worship and service. Support and empower them to continue lifting the needs of the world to God in prayer, forming people of all ages into a joyful household of God, and serving their neighbors through the hospitality of Hebron House. We ask all this with confidence in Your gracious purposes. Amen.

August 14 - St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dousman

Gracious and Loving God, you made the birth of your only-begotten Son subject to the "yes" of your servant, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please continue to help us at St. Mary's Parish, Dousman, to speak our own "yes" as we seek to build up the Body of Christ on this corner of your vineyard. We ask for faith, hope and love that we may continue to embrace the mission you have given to us - to welcome all people to experience the new life promised in the gospels, to join together in worship and service, to care for and love one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

August 21 - St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee

Blessed are you, Lord God; there is none like you. The people at St. Bartholomew's give you thanks for your faithfulness and unending mercy to them. You have filled them and brought them through many things. We pray that you would continue to pour yourself into them as they pour themselves out, following your example. Lead them by your Spirit to walk where you would have them walk, and make them a light to shine forth your love in their communities, so that they may show people the way home, and feed them with the very Bread of Life. Amen.

August 28 - St Aidan's, Hartford, and St James, West Bend

Prayer for St. James, West Bend

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. We thank you for all the ministry teams working together. We pray this will continue to build relationships as they care for one another. We ask for encouragement and prayers for their new ministry team, that they will meet the needs and concerns of this parish. Grant them all things

necessary for their common life, and bring them all to be of one heart and mind within your holy church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for St. Aidan's, Hartford

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all you have given them. We ask your blessings on their ministries and all of the people doing God' work. We pray for generous spirits and discernment as they determine whether to do a capital campaign. We pray for spiritual formation and renewal of spirit. By your Spirit, fashion their lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that they may show the power of your love to all among whom they live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

September 4 - St. John Chrysostom, Delafield

O God, who has taught us that without love whatever we do is worth nothing; help the people of St. John Chrysostom Church to expand their horizons by seeing new ways to be a loving congregation with each other and in our local community. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

September 11 - Trinity, Baraboo and St John's, Portage

Dear Lord, from whom all good proceeds; be with the clergy and people of Trinity Church, Baraboo and St. John's, Portage, as they form and deepen a bond of Christian community in their region. Help them to build friendships and partnerships that bring your mission to life and spread your good news. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

September 18 - St Matthew's, Kenosha

Dear Father, as you look out over the good earth, we ask for your blessings of abundance for the Outreach Ministries of St. Matthew's - Kenosha, and for all those who are served by those ministries, from people living in rural Africa to local elementary students. May the bells of St Matthew's continue to ring joyously beyond the community of Kenosha. We pray for these things in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

September 25 - St Michael's, Racine

Loving Father, we thank you for the people of St. Michael's and their membership in the Body of Christ and our diocese. We ask for your blessing and guidance upon them in this new season of their life. Anoint them in the power of your Spirit for their common mission together. May they be steadfast in their calling to open the door to faith for those who don't yet know you. May they serve you in unity, constancy and peace to the glory of your name. All this we ask through your Son

Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

October 2 - St. Francis, Menomonee Falls

Loving God, we pray for the faithful people of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Menomonee Falls. May they continue to listen and to respond faithfully to your call, heeding especially opportunities for service and mission, and to live ever more truly as the people you have called them to be. In the name of your son Jesus Christ, Amen.

October 9 - St. Francis House, Madison

Heavenly father, who called your servant Francis to be an instrument of your peace and a true example of the Christian faith: We give you thanks for your university community of St. Francis House. We ask that you continue to guide them to reach out; bless them as they grow in leadership; and help them to be a parable of community, hope, and joy. This we ask in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God. Amen.

October 16 - St Luke's, Milwaukee

Loving God, thank you for forming the parish of St Luke's, Bay View, as a prayerful and faithful people of your message. Thank you for their long and beautiful history of listening to your Word and following your guiding hand, and the blessings they have enjoyed in all the seasons of the life together, both of plenty and of want. They listened faithfully when you told them to tend to the poor and forgotten; they listened when you told them to pray and be patient; they listened when you raised up new leadership among them. Keep them faithful and generous in service, as they share clothing, food, and prayers with the surrounding community. Continue to show them how their church, though only one thread of your great tapestry, remains relevant in an ever changing community and world. Bless them with the faith to keep listening and keep responding to your voice and your call. Amen.

October 23 - St Luke's, Madison

Gracious God, we give thanks for the parish of St. Luke's, Madison. Bless and empower them to live fully into their mission as a caring and welcoming community, growing together in faith, love, and service, and sharing God's love with neighbors near and far. Amen.

October 30 - All Saints Cathedral, Milwaukee

Gracious God, we give you thanks for All Saints Cathedral as a community of faith, historic witness to God's presence in downtown Milwaukee, and an example of faithful service. Give them grace that their worship may show forth your glory and that through their prayers the Holy Spirit may empower them and

the congregations of this Diocese to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

November 6 - St. Martin, Brown Deer

Almighty and everlasting God, you are the example of welcome and inclusion of all people; help the people and parish of St. Martin's, Brown Deer, to reach out and be such an example of hospitality to each other, to their neighbors and the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 13 - St Peter, North Lake

God of Love, we are grateful for the guidance you are providing to the community of St Peter's - North Lake as they continue to grow, learn and serve. Thank you for providing opportunities for the parishioners and visitors to experience your presence through both traditional liturgy and monthly contemporary worship. We pray that the excitement present there is sustained as they continue to live out their mission of building Christians for service. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

November 20 - St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Madison

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the community gathered at Saint Andrew's Madison, for the work they do and for the vision they share. Guide them, as they enter their second century as the Body of Christ at 1833 Regent Street, that in building in faith and growing together, they may further your dream for all of creation, sharing your light and love with the community where they live and move and have their being, through Christ our Lord. Amen.