

## **Prayers for the Parishes of the Diocese of Milwaukee**

*This is the first installment of 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](mailto:rector@stdunstans.com).*

### **November 30 - 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 7 - 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 14 - 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 21 - 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 28 - 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 4 - 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 11 - 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 18 - 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 and invitation for all of God's people. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

### **January 25 - 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.

### **February 1 - 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 8 - 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 and their part in the "Shared Community Mission Group". 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 15 - 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 22 - 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.