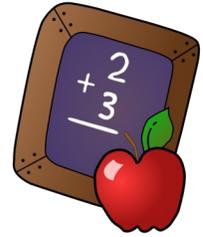


ST. MATTHEW PRAYER MINISTRY

August 2017



August's scripture verse
*"Whatever you do, do it from the heart,
as for the Lord and not for men."
~ Colossians 3:23*



Please pray for the following needs of St. Matthew Parish:

August's New Requests:

- As we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary this month, we ask for her guidance in living a life committed to Christ every day.
- As students prepare to return to school, may they enjoy a school year filled with fun, learning and faith, and may others see Christ in them through their actions and words.
- For all teachers, that they may return to a new school year refreshed and excited to share their knowledge with their students.
- For all those who are unemployed or underemployed, or have lost their job because of changing economic conditions.
- That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

Existing Requests:

- We pray for an increase in vocations to religious life. We especially pray for Father John, parish seminarian Andrew Gaffney, and David Auten as he goes through the diaconate program —may the Holy Spirit continue to lead them in their service to Christ.
- In thanksgiving for the men and women who make the commitment to protect our country, people and freedoms by joining the Armed Forces. We pray for their safety and for their loved ones who wait for their safe return home.
- We pray for peace and justice for all people in our community, our country, and throughout the world.
- We pray for all veterans; may they receive the support they need physically, emotionally and spiritually to help them heal from the tragedies of war.
- For the leaders of our country, that they may turn their hearts and minds to Christianity as they make decisions for our country.

August Prayer

Dear heavenly Father, as our children return to school we look again to your eternal faithfulness. Watch over our beloved ones. Let your Spirit go before them to prepare the way and open the doors that lead to your grace. Guide them away from harm. May your mighty Spirit defend them from any aggression or attack. Equip them with discernment and strength of character. Let them be free to live and learn as children of God. Give us, dear Lord, the wisdom and patience to know when to speak or be still as their parents and caretakers. Always remembering that they are yours from the beginning; their lives a loving gift to us from Almighty God. We trust in you, we depend upon you. Care for your children, oh heavenly Father. In Jesus name, Amen.

