



ST. MATTHEW PRAYER MINISTRY

December 2017

December's scripture verse

*"For He is our peace."
~Ephesians 2:14*



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

December's New Requests:

- We pray that we may have a heart like Mary.
- As we honor the Immaculate Conception of Mary, may it remind us of the miracle of life and that God calls us to respect this precious gift.
- That all those who are struggling financially and have to do without at this time of year may receive love and support from others in their community.
- That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

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.

December Advent Prayer

Come, long expected Jesus. Excite in me a wonder at the wisdom and power of Your Father and ours. Receive my prayer as part of my service of the Lord who enlists me in God's own work for justice. Come, long expected Jesus. Excite in me a hunger for peace; peace in the world, peace in my home, peace in myself. Come, long expected Jesus. Excite in me a joy responsive to the Father's joy. I seek His will so I can serve with gladness, singing and love. Come, long expected Jesus. Excite in me the joy and love and peace it is right to bring to the manger of my Lord. Raise in me the sober reverence for the God who acted there, hearty gratitude for the life began there, and spirited resolution to serve the Father and Son. I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, whose advent I hail. Amen.

Christmas Prayer

Lord, may I be like the Wise Men who were guided to you by the Star of Bethlehem. Give me the wisdom to seek you, a light to guide me to you, the courage and persistence to search until I find you, the graciousness to worship you and the generosity to lay my gift before you, who is my King and my God for ever and ever.

