

DAILY PRAYER at ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

As our church has entered this season of transition, there is one thing we are sure of. This is no small task and it is one that we are not qualified to do, nor should we try to do, on our own. God is calling us, as a whole community, to saturate this process, this search, in prayer. We are called to praying personally, privately, persistently, and purposefully, as well as corporately, about our church, our search committee, and our new priest.

Let us think of this season as our church's own season of "advent" – one in which we prepare and wait patiently for what is to come, what God will do in our midst. During the advent preceding Christmas, we wait eagerly for the celebration of Christ's birth. We are, however, also waiting eagerly for Christ's return, His "second" coming, with great joy and great hope! And these times of waiting are not passive, but active! So, let us be prayerful and busy with the work God has given us to do while we wait for the new priest God is calling to our parish.

Members of the search team are praying daily for St. Bartholomew's and for this search process. All are invited to partner with the search committee, by praying with us throughout this time of transition. Toward that end we have developed a "prayer wheel" to help us pray. What we'd like is for everyone to pray for those concerns listed in the center of the wheel every day. Additionally, we'd like each member of the church to choose one or two additional areas to pray for, as listed around the wheel. Please take a moment and sign your name in the area you've chosen, and then pray for those concerns along with your daily prayers for the church, the search process, and the new priest.

As an aid, we have compiled a list of prayers that you can use as a guide – something for each area around the wheel. Most of these prayers are from the Book of Common Prayer. Feel free to use these or feel free to pray using your own words. Please join us. Find a time, whatever works for you, and spend just a few minutes praying for our church.

Imagine what it would be like for our community if every member was praying every day!

Romans 8:26

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

Philippians 4:4-7

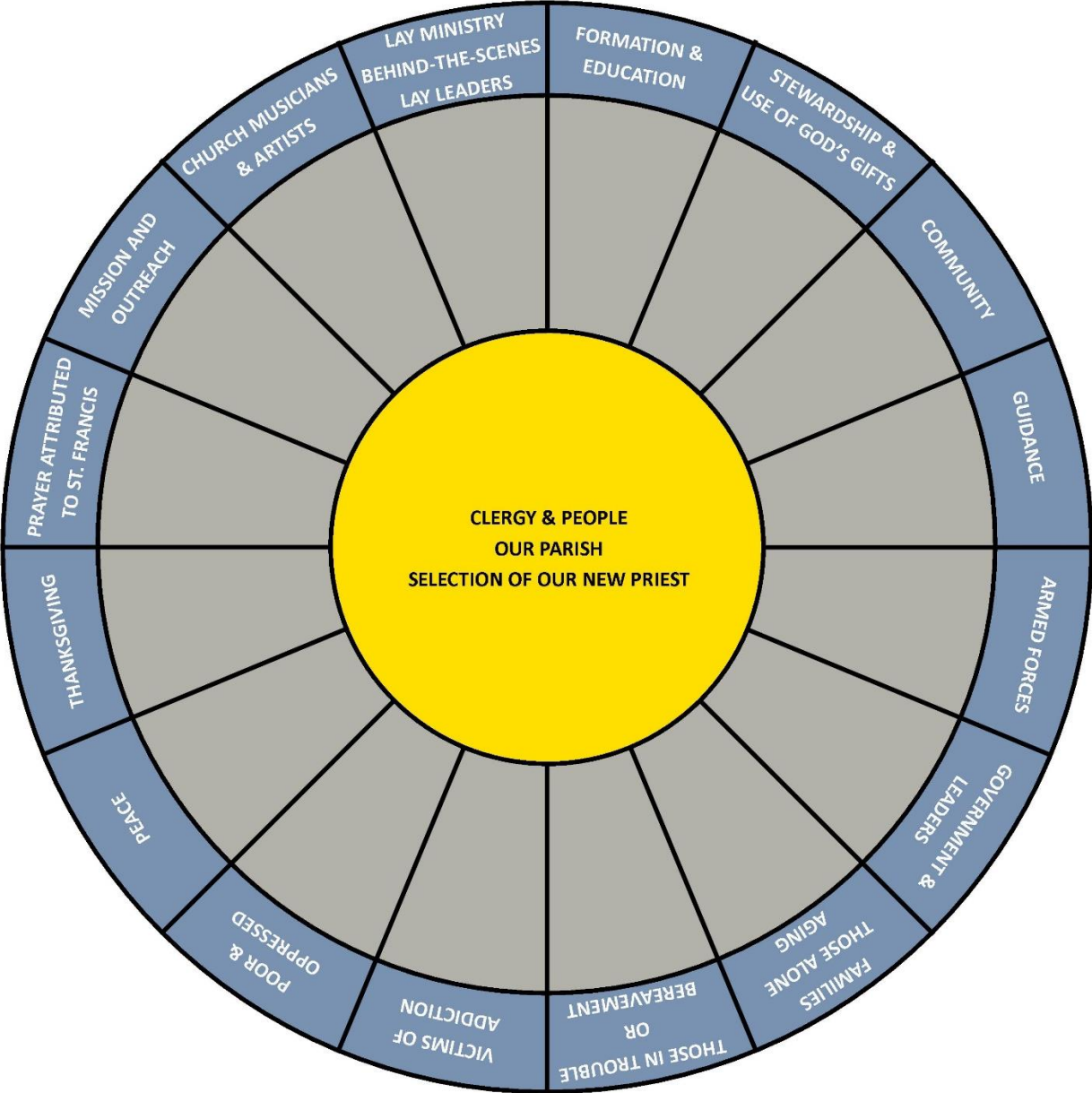
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

DAILY PRAYER

Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. *Col. 4:2*



A Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

And for Outreach

Lord, I lift up our outreach programs. Remind us to do good and share with others as a pleasing sacrifice to You. Keep us outwardly focused so we don't become self-absorbed. Help us teach one another to be faithful ministers of Your Son. Enable us to meet people wherever they have a need. Help us minister faithfully as we proclaim the gospel so that the ones we reach might become an acceptable offering to You. *Amen.*

For Church Musicians and Artists

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Lay Ministry

Lord Jesus, help us to seek you in all things to discover your grace in the ordinariness of our lives. Grant us the openness and generosity to strengthen your church on earth. May we be your faithful companions and rejoice in your presence among us. We ask this in your name Our Lord and Savior. *Amen.*

And for Behind-the-Scenes Workers

Lord, I lift up the people who work behind the scenes at our church. Thank You for every person in our church who has devoted themselves to the service of the saints. Bless them for the obedience and generosity they have displayed—may You receive praise as a result! Keep them in an attitude of humility that comes from wisdom and wholehearted service to You rather than to be noticed by others. *Amen.*

And for Lay Leaders

Lord, I lift up the lay ministry leaders to You. Help us respect and honor them as they direct the affairs of our church. May they wholeheartedly give their attention to prayer and ministry of the Word. Keep them above reproach, devoted to their families, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable and able to teach. May they be gentle and honest as they deal with people. *Amen.*

For Formation and Education

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those at our church who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For Stewardship

O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us, we beseech you, ever thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

For the Right Use of God's Gifts

Almighty God, whose loving hand has given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor you with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For community

God our Maker, we praise you for the gift of community. Thank you for the communities in which we work and live. Thank you for the community that is your Body, the Church. Fill us with Your Spirit today so that, as one, we reflect your light and love to each other and to the world. In Christ we pray, *Amen.*

For Guidance

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light rises up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in your light we may see light, and in your straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For those in the Armed Forces of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Our Government and Leaders

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations. To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served. And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society;

that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. *Amen.*

For Families

Lord Jesus, at Nazareth you shared in the life of your family. Help all families to live together with love and respect for each other. Make all homes a place of blessing, peace, and joy for everyone, to the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

For Those Who Live Alone

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Aging

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Persons in Trouble or Bereavement

O merciful Father, who has taught us in your holy Word that you do not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: Look with pity upon the sorrows of your servant for whom our prayers are offered. Remember them, O Lord, in mercy, nourish their soul with patience, comfort them with a sense of your goodness, lift up your countenance upon them, and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Victims of Addiction

O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through addiction have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove from them the fears that beset them; strengthen them in the work of their recovery; and to those who care for them, give patient understanding and persevering love. *Amen.*

For the Poor and the Neglected

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Oppressed

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Peace

Almighty God, kindle, we beseech you, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase till the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

For Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

For Peace

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We furthermore thank you for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence upon your mercies alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea. *We thank you, Lord.*

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ, *We thank you, Lord.*

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends, *We thank you, Lord.*

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve, *We thank you, Lord.*

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play, *We thank you, Lord.*

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity, *We thank you, Lord.*

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice, *We thank you, Lord.*

For the communion of saints, in all times and places, *We thank you, Lord.*

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord; *To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. *Amen.*

Clergy and People

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops (especially Steven), and other clergy (especially Jan our supply priest and our priest to be), and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of your grace: and, that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

For the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for St. Bartholomew's in Pewaukee. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the selection of our new priest

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who will seek a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*