

Intercessory Prayer: May the Circle Be Unbroken

At St. Edward, our mission is to be “an evangelizing parish, by faith, with love, in hope.” One of the many ways we fulfill this mission is our intercessory prayer ministry.

Through prayers of intercession, we spiritually “put in a good word” for another. That is, we ask God’s help for another. That makes intercessory prayer powerful, allowing us to join our love and concern with the everlasting and unbounded love of God—Father, Son, and Spirit. We cannot help but be changed when we participate with Jesus in praying in this way. We know we need each other for salvation, and prayer helps us to demonstrate our faith, hope, and love in God for one another.

We connect with our spiritual roots through praying for one another. We find models of prayer of intercession throughout the Scriptures, as early as Abraham and in the Gospels and various New Testament letters. As our *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, “The first Christian communities lived this form of fellowship intensely.” (2636)

The fruit of this ministry is felt by those involved: “Pope Francis says we are ‘an unbroken chain of witnesses,’” says one prayer chain participant. “What a privilege to grow in my own faith while praying for the needs, burdens, blessings of another. God made us not to be spectators to another’s suffering, but to enter in.”

How we pray as a Parish Community:

We are all called to be a pray-er in some way. As you go about your day, you undoubtedly hear of people’s needs. Commit a little time each day to pray for them, and let folks know you will pray for them. This is one way we share the message and person of Jesus! As mentioned, prayer has power.

To serve as a pray-er in a more formal manner, simply contact the office and we can help connect you to intercessory prayer ministry. We just ask your dedication to pray with compassion while maintaining confidentiality. Pray-ers are always needed and we can never have too many!

Mass: During the Prayer of the Faithful at each Mass, we offer General Intercessions for the needs of the Church and the world.

A **Book of Intentions** is located in the back of church, near the image of Divine Mercy. Needs can be written in this book and are included each time the community gathers.

The **Prayer Chain** is St. Edward’s perpetual intercessory prayer ministry. Needs are received through a phone line. Participants form “links” (or a prayer team) on the chain, taking turns praying for the offered needs a week at a time. Right now, each link’s turn comes about twice every three months. The captain of each link passes on the prayer intentions by a phone call, text, or email to the other members of his/her link.

Email Prayer Chain. With this prayer chain, needs are offered via the St. Edward website and then forwarded to pray-ers.

Prayers are continuously offered at the **Perpetual Adoration Chapel** at Columbus High School. An intentions book is located there, as well.

Daily Rosary and Weekly Rosary for Peace: A rosary is prayed in community before each weekday Mass, and a Rosary for Peace is prayed each Monday evening at 6:30pm.

If you seek prayers:

- Write your needs in the Intentions Book in the back of church. Prayer for these needs are assumed each time our community gathers. You can also write your needs in the intentions book at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at Columbus High School.
- Call for prayer from the Prayer Chain. Simply phone 319-233-1720, extension 5.
- Email prayers through our website. Look for “prayer requests” at www.sted.org.