

St. Matthew Parish



Website: www.stmatthewrc.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor

Fr. Frank Black

Priests

Fr. Thaddeus J. Abraham

Msgr. Pierre Andre

Pierre

Fr. Ralph Theodat

Deacon

Nickie Colon



St. Gregory the Great

224 Brooklyn Ave.

Brooklyn, NY 11213

Tel 718- 773-0100

Fax 718- 773-4198

Email: faithcommstgreg@aol.com

Mass Schedule:

First Friday 10:00am

Saturday-5pm

Sunday 11:30am

Saturday: Reconciliation-4:30 pm

Office Staff

Secretary: Rosanne Barber Ext.100

D.R.E.: Monica Flemmings

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm

St. Matthew

1123 Eastern Pkwy.,

Brooklyn, NY 11213

Tel 718- 774-6747

Fax 718- 953-4895

Email: stmatthew1123@aol.com

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday 7:30am & 9:00am

Saturday 8:00am & 8:00pm

Saturday: Reconciliation-7:30 pm
or by appointment

Sunday:

English-7:30am & 11:30am

Spanish 9:30am; Kreyol 1:30pm

Office Staff

Secretary: Sharon Andrews

D.R.E.: Charmaine Noel

Office Hours:

Monday:10:00am-4:00pm

Tuesday, Wednesday,

Thursday Friday & Saturday:

10:00am-6:00pm

Sunday: 9:00am-4:00pm

Monday - Saturday-

Closed for lunch 1-2 P.M.

Our Lady Of Charity

1669 Dean St.,

Brooklyn, NY 11213

Tel 718- 774-5100

Fax 718- 778-3335

Email: Olc1669@aol.com

Mass Schedule:

Sunday: Rosary 9:00am

9:30am-Praise & Worship

10am-Mass

Office Staff:

Secretary: Patricia Romain

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday:10am-6pm

Catholic Cemeteries-

80-01 Metropolitan Ave.

Middle Village, NY 11379

Tel:718 – 894-4888



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Teaching with Authority

It is said that the following incident took place off of Massachusetts back in the early 50's. It was a stormy night at sea and a large battleship saw a light in the distance. The light was directly on the ship's course. The captain of the ship was alerted and had a radio message sent out: "Light up ahead, bear ten degrees south." The captain received the reply, "Sir, you must bear ten degrees North." The captain grew furious and got onto the radio himself and yelled, "I am Captain James Smith, that's captain in the United States

Navy. Whoever you are, I am ordering you to bear ten degrees south. Who are you, and what is your rank?" He heard the feeble answer, "This is Seaman First Class Howard Scott, Sir, you must bear ten degrees north." The captain barked out, "I am on the bridge of the Battleship USS

New Jersey, and I am telling you to bear ten degrees south." Then he heard the reply, "But, Sir, I am in the Baker's Island Light House, and you had better bear ten degrees North."

A statement carries authority according to two aspects: who is speaking and what is being said. The captain had authority due to his rank. The seaman had authority due to what was said. Jesus had both. Jesus spoke with authority. What He said was true. He also had authority because of Who He was. He was the Son of God, the Messiah of God, and the Eternal One who became man on Christmas. He said, "Love your enemies. Be kind to one another." On the cross he called to his Father for forgiveness for those who tortured and killed him. He himself was a kind, loving person. He spoke about God's kingdom and lived as the ideal member of that kingdom. He had authority, and He has authority. We need to listen and follow.

He calls us to speak for Him. He gives us authority. For us to exercise this authority both our words to be true and we must live as committed Christians.

Many times our papers report religious scandals. Charismatic TV preachers, Roman Catholic bishops and priests, caught acting in the immoral ways. The message that they had been delivering from their pulpits for years was true.

Many people were moved to come closer to God. Many people confronted their own demons and took steps to draw closer to Christ. But then the scandal hit the papers. The message of the preacher that had moved them was still true, but now it has lost much of its impact. The one who delivered it was not true to his own words. As a result his credibility, his authority was terribly damaged if not totally destroyed.

You can certainly see how this can happen in your home. Parents have authority due to their position in the family.

God tells children to honor their mothers and fathers.

That's the Fourth Commandment. But the authority of parents is diminished or even destroyed when the parents act in ways that are not Christian. For example, all parents want their children to be kind to each other. But if their children observe Mom and Dad being nasty to each other, the children are going to learn nastiness, not kindness, as standard way of acting. When these same parents say to their children that they should be kind to each other, the children respond with their actions as though their parents no longer have authority to tell them how to behave.

That's negative. Let's look at the positive. Many of our seniors have spent years taking care of their sick spouses. Retirement was not what they expected. Instead of going and doing, their days were spent caring and cleaning, and organizing doctor appointments. But when someone makes a comment that he or she is such a good spouse, the caring spouse merely says, "I took vows." And in those few words supported with a lifetime of action, that husband or wife speaks more eloquently about marriage than any priest or preacher could possibly speak. For his or her words have authority, the authority of the One who called him to the sacrament of marriage and the authority of the spouse who lives the sacrament of marriage.

Jesus spoke with authority. He was not like the scribes and pharisees. He was not two faced. He was not hypocritical. He didn't have a dark side of his life that he kept hidden. He didn't just speak the truth, He was the Truth Incarnate. Jesus gave orders to unclean spirits, and they obeyed him. It wasn't the words that kicked the devil out, it was the person who spoke those words.

He didn't call us just to do some of the things He did, He called us to be His presence for others. We are called to destroy evil in our world. We cannot do this unless we are determined to be Christlike.

Today we pray that we might be invested in the authority of Christ, an authority that flows not just from what we say, but from who we are as Christlike people.

Msgr. Joseph Pellegrino

WEEKLY READINGS	
Sun Jan 28	Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28
Mon Jan 29	2 Sm 15:13-14,30,16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20
Tue Jan 30	2 Sm 18:9-10,14,24-25,30-19:3; Mk5:21-43
Wed Jan 31	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6
Thu Feb 1	1Kgs 2:1-4,10-12 ; Mk 6:7-13
Fri Feb 2	Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40
Sat Feb 3	1 Kgs 3: 4-13; Mk 6:30-34

OUR LADY OF CHARITY: MASS INTENTIONS

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS: Keara Storey , Wendy Rutherford , Tanisha Douglas , Dion Slocombe , Tonia Frame/ Noel , Kye Vincent , Winston Robin ,
We pray to the Lord

PARISH PRAYER: For our parish, that the three communities of St. Matthew, St. Gregory the Great and Our Lady of Charity, learn how to merge and grow together spiritually and become financially sound as three and yet one,
We pray to the Lord.

TODAY'S MASS :We pray to the Lord.

ALTAR BREAD : We pray to the Lord.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY : We pray to the Lord.

SANCTUARY CANDLE : We pray to the Lord


ST. GREGORY : MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, Jan. 27 th	5 PM Vigil Mass for Iyanna Gilkes, Birthday Blessings, Requested by The Gilkes Family
Sunday, Jan. 28 th	11:30 AM Mass for Jeannette Sultan, R.I.P., Requested by Antonio Sultan
First Friday, Feb. 2 nd	10 AM Mass & Eucharistic Adoration for Rosanne Barber, Birthday Blessings & Thanksgiving For Life
First Saturday, Feb. 3 rd	5 PM Vigil Mass for Eloise B. Dudley, R.I.P., Requested by Marjorie Lopez


ST. MATTHEW: MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday January 27	8:00pm – R.I.P. Kirk Jangoo by sister, Sharon Licorish & family
Sunday January 28 <i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	7:30am –For the people of the parish by Floe Patrick 9:30am – I.L.M. Eulio Rivera,R.I.P. by daughter, Sylvia Washington 11:30am –I.L.M. of Dorothy John & Ruby Griffith by Charmaine Noel 1:30pm –I.L.M.of Claude Edmond & Azelita Jose by Marie Carmel Jeudy
Monday January 29	7:30am –Thanksgiving to God for his many blessings 9:00am – For healing in the lives of our families & friends
Tuesday January 30	7:30am –Birthday blessings & speedy recovery for Bernard Greenidge by Joan Greenidge 9:00am –Blessings & healing for Dawn & Cedric by Evelyn Guadeloupe
Wednesday January 31	7:30am – In loving memory of Maria Sosa by Nancy Valdez 9:00am – R.I.P. John A. Gale by wife, children & grandchildren
Thursday February 1	7:30am –Thanksgiving & blessings for the priests of St. Matthew by parishioners 9:00am – B'day blessings for our mother, Yvette Desdunes by Wilhems, Irmissé & Sheena
Friday February 2	7:30am –Birthday blessings for Beatrix Boissette 9:00am – Birthday blessings for Amy Francis
Saturday February 3	8:00am –R.I.P. Erne Larcher by family


CANDLE FOR January 27– February 3

 Thanksgiving to God requested by Lucrecia Francis

BREAD & WINE FOR JANUARY

 **BREAD** - Thanksgiving to God requested by Princess Frank
WINE - In memory of my mom, Lucile & dad, Constant requested by Evelyn Barreau

BREAD & WINE FOR FEBRUARY

 Birthday blessings for Helena O'Brien

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

For the homebound, hospitalized and sick

Judith Adams, Rita Antomez, Armelle Amilcar, Loraine Quash-Antoine, Marie Augustin, Al Barnett, Monica Belfon, Marque & Yael Barber-LaFon, Melona Barber, Jason Bascom, Ruby Bowman, Silvestre Brathwaite, Ismay Brewster, Recy Brown, Patricia Burrowes, Yolande Cadet, Diana Codogan, Cathleen Charles, Catilda Charles, Delcia Charles, Marcel Charles, Maria Clouden Cecilia Clovie, Nelia Collins, Marilyn Coates, Virginia Cox, Daphne Critchlow, Theresa Cudjoe, Veronica Dale, Angela Daniels, Shirley Daniels, Joseph Drew, Stephen Duncan, Dorothy Edwards, Una Europe, Stella Emmanuel, Elardo Flemmings, Carrie Frasier, Doriel Gabriel, John Gale, Doriel Gabriel, Ryan Gee, Sybil Geoffroy, Catherine & Deacon Roy George, Bernadette Gilbert, Muriel Gomez, Trina Gonzalez, Kellon Hagley, Kelly Hagley, Gwendolyn Harding, Pat Harris, Bruno Henry, Beverly Hillyer, Pierre & Elreta Hinds, Florence Holder, Danielle Huie, Janice & Orson Hutchings, Kerlyne Hyppolite, Anasha Inniss, Carlyn Jabouin, Donna James, Nellie James, Diane John, Alsie Johnson, Nicole Johnson, Magdalena Joseph, Ian Kellman, Lucy King, Albert Kirton, Kanelle Lang, Rhoda Lewis, Sampson Lewis, Marjorie Lopez, Luis Manuel Lorenzo, Madelin Lorenzo, Vivian Boykin Lott, Norberto Lovell, Jean Lubin, Gloria Lynch, Hubert Lynch, Mamita, Barbara Manuel, Virginia Marcellin, Judith Matthew, Tom McCafferty, Laura McDonald, Mavis McDonald, Leticia McDowell, Vernita McDowell, Gemma Mejias, Isai Munoz, Marta Munoz, Nelson Munoz, Suzanne Neil, Ronald Nethersole, Claudette Norde, Mother Dolores Olf, Keena Ollivierre, Ronaldo Nano Paul, Sharon Perry, Andre Perry, Chung Peters, Mary James Peterson, Marie Pierre, Melody Pink, Sonia Prescott, Ann Primo, Val Quash, Len Quash, Dorothy Irons Reid, Catherine Richards, Melissa Richards, Elizabeth Rivera, Cornelia Robergeau, Randolph Romain, Carlos Rudas, Lidia Saunders, Pamela Smith, Pema Smith, John Spellman Sr., Lisa Scott Spencer, Delores Sykes, Kevin Maynard, Basil Suarez, Antonio Sultan, Violet Sylvester, Brenda & Javier Talango, Angela & Edris Thomas, Lyonette Tribie, Janet Throne, Amparo Torres, Malik Wellington, Hazel Williams, Karen Williams, Terrance Williams, Octavio Willis, Leandro Wilson, Reynold Williams, Christine Wright, Joan Wright, Natasha Wright, James P. Young

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR : Yvonne Lacy, Dean Jackson, Wendy Romain, Vaughn Haynes, Georgeann Campbell, Maura Chisam, Danielle Huie, Cotilda Charles, Anthony Hepburn Jr., Lawrence Latimer & family, La Mar Mc Nabb, Conrad Lord, Christine Hudson & family, Glenda Hunter, Livingston Holloway, Jaden Bell, Nathan Ford Sr. & family, Isabella Bugett, Sabrina Guess, Gwen & Helena Pugh, Golda & Daphne Critchlow, Hannah Penny, Kendall Wilson, Almarie Mc Coy, Raymond Jorsling, Judith Prosper, all families represented here today.

All students, teachers and principals, President Joseph Biden & his family, Vice President Kamala Harris & her family, our Government, prayers and petitions in our prayer basket, for the all Priest especially those who serve here at Charity, Religious Vocations, and an increase in Religious Vocations, all men and women serving our country, the elders, all who are incarcerated, and unexpressed prayers, for immigrants, a successful solution to the pandemic, the mentally sick, the unemployed and under employed, end to gun violence and for world peace,

We pray to the Lord.

WEEKLY MEETINGS - St. Matthew

St. Matthew weekly meetings have commenced. Please contact your ministry to find out the time and date of the meetings.

WEEK OF SUNDAY 01/28/2024 @ ST. GREGORY

- + **9 AM Sunday school- In Session**
- + **10:30 AM – Choir Rehearsal**
- + **11:30 AM Sunday Mass – (Live Stream)**
- + **CREDIT UNION-OPEN**

MONDAY 01/29/24

- + **7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-Church**

FIRST FRIDAY 02/02/24

- + **10AM Mass and Eucharistic Adoration**
- + **7:30 PM Bible Study via zoom**

FIRST SATURDAY 02/03/24

- + **4 PM Confession**
- + **4 PM Vigil Choir Rehearsals**
- + **4 PM Light Fest Prayer Group-In Person**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362442148?pwd=MGVNMWFFQcVdrQktXeTh0YjRadC9Mdz09>
- + **5 PM Vigil Mass - Church- (Live Stream)**

COLLECTION 01/20– 01/21/2024

ST. MATTHEW

Mass	Envelopes	Envelope Collection	Loose money	Totals
5 PM	16	605.00	—	605.00
8 PM	24	965.00	22.00	987.00
7:30 AM	42	1,907.00	210.00	2,117.00
9:30 AM	47	516.00	279.80	795.80
11:30 PM	44	1,249.00	393.75	1,642.75
1:30 PM	36	667.00	139.75	806.75
L.I.R.	24	670.00	—	670.00
Total	233	6,579.00	1,045.30	7,624.30

ST. GREGORY

Mass	Envelopes	Envelope Collection	Loose money	Totals
5 PM	13	560.00	87.00	647.00
10:00AM	34	964.00	106.46	1,070.46
Total	47	1,524.00	193.46	1,717.46

OUR LADY OF CHARITY

Mass	Envelopes	Envelope Collection	Loose money	Totals
10:00AM	32	1,156.00	—	1,156.00
Total	32	1,156.00	—	1,156.00

FAITH DIRECT:

January 1st – 23rd , 2024 **-\$1,364.00**

ST. MATTHEW EXPENSES

	<u>Apr - Jul 20</u>	<u>Apr - Jul 19</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Income			
Collections	168,288.50	344,182.28	-51.11%
Rent	199,829.29	217,167.84	-7.98%
Programs	0.00	10,369.20	-100.0%
Donations/Fundraising	1,366.00	18,115.47	-92.46%
Other	25,491.52	24,792.07	2.82%
Total Income	394,975.31	614,626.86	-35.74%
Expense			
Employee Compensation	302,582.87	291,549.37	3.78%
Maintenance	69,276.57	33,706.71	105.53%
Office Expenses	28,460.39	19,601.93	45.19%
Programs	3,351.36	6,028.70	-44.41%
Altar Supplies	6,099.33	16,602.28	-63.26%
Utilities	28,261.46	27,878.02	1.38%
Miscellaneous Expense	2,032.03	3,230.79	-37.1%
Total Expense	440,064.01	398,597.80	10.4%
Net Income	(45,088.70)	216,029.06	-120.87%

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

St. Gregory the Great **BIBLE STUDY** with Catherine Abdullah @ 7:30PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) every week on **FRI-DAYS**

Bible Study is beginning The Gospel of John

Link for Bible Study <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85498875775?pwd=Nk4zY3BVOUFmVzRUSDJodllWSDArUT09>

To Join Zoom Meeting please use Meeting ID: 854 9887 5775
Passcode: 374738

On tap mobile

Dial 929 205 6099 using Meeting ID and the passcode

Bible Study (All Are Invited) Meets on zoom every Friday from 7:30PM to 8:30PM A Book of the Bible is picked (By the Group) alternatively, from the Old Testament, followed by The New Testament.

LIGHT FEST PRAYER GROUP (ALL ARE WELCOME!)
Meet-In-Person at St. Gregory R.C. Church every FIRST SAT-URDAYS of the month in the Church's dining room. The remaining Saturdays of the month, Light Fest Prayer Group meets on zoom in the Light Fest Reading Room from 8PM to 9PM. The zoom link is

mentioned above. Please contact any member for information for telephone number and pin number to access this prayer line. (This enables us to discuss confidentiality protocols to New Participants)

UPCOMING MTGS. & EVENTS @ ST. GREGORY MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCUS GARVEY SERVICE ONCE A MONTH ON THE SECOND SUNDAY AT 2PM

St. Gregory the Great – Religious Education

Sunday school is in session. Time: 9:30am.

Registration fee: \$60 per candidate

HERITAGE COMMITTEE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY. SOLOISTS FEATURED ALONG WITHH “TEACHABLE MOMENTS” STARTING FIRST SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD THRU SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2024.

SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH MASS AT ST. GREGORY’S CHURCH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Sunday, February 11th at 11:30 AM – Children’s Day Mass

St. Gregory the Great Heritage Committee Presents

28th Annual Cultural Extravaganza

Sunday, February 18th @ 4 PM SHARP!

@ 563 Sterling Place, corner of Classon Avenue
(St. Theresa of Avila Hall)

There will be Fashion, Dance, Musical Selections and Poetry
Tickets are available for purchase at \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 12 years and under.

See any member of the Heritage Committee after Mass.

Sunday, February 25th at 11:30 AM Mass will be dedicated to the deceased members of The Heritage Committee.

SACRAMENTS & REGISTRATION

PARISH REGISTRATION:

All are welcome! Any letter concerning sponsorship for the sacraments or testimonial letters will only be issued to registered parishioners of 6+ months. Please register in the rectory.

BAPTISM:

To have your child baptized in the

Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens, you must show:

1. Proof that you live in the geographical boundaries of the Church you wish to have the baby baptized.(e.g. electric bill). If you live outside the boundaries of the Church you wish to have your baby baptized , you must get a permission letter from the Catholic church closest to where you live granting you permission to have your baby baptized outside of the geographical area .
2. Your baby is allowed one God mother and one God father, one must be Catholic, practicing their faith (letter from the Church stating this), and have their confirmation certificate. The baby can be baptized with one Catholic god parent.
3. One parent must be baptized Catholic and have their baptism certificate, First Communion or Confirmation as proof.
4. Once these requirements are fulfilled, we encourage you to call and set a date. Children 7 & under can be baptized w/o CCD classes.

RCIA

RCIA stands for RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS and is composed of a series of sessions bringing people together to experience the prayer life of the church as well as learn about its doctrines and teachings. Using the readings from the Bible which we hear daily at Mass, the Sacred Liturgy as well as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, teens and adults who have not yet done so prepare themselves to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & Holy Eucharist.

RCIA is offered in Spanish, Kreyol & English and is for people who:

- ◆ Were baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the sacrament of Confirmation, First Holy Communion or First Confession
- ◆ Were baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to join the Catholic Church
- ◆ Were never baptized & wish to fully worship in the Catholic Church
- ◆ Wants to know more about what it means to be Catholic?

The sessions begin in October. If you are interested in knowing more, please contact the rectory.

SACRAMENTS & REGISTRATION

School of Religion @ St. Matthew

After receiving First Holy Communion, It is essential for your child to continue each year in our program, until they complete their initiation with the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

For more information about registration requirements or other questions you might have, contact us: Phone: 215-576-4124; email: stmatthewreledu@stmatthew-brooklyn.org

Después de recibir la Primera Comunión, es esencial que su hijo continúe en nuestro programa cada año, hasta que complete la iniciación con la recepción del Sacramento de la Confirmación.

Para más información acerca los requisitos para registración u otras preguntas que usted pueda tener, comuníquese al Tel: 215-576-4124; email: stmatthewreledu@stmatthew-brooklyn.org

***ENSKRIPSYON YO AP FÈT KOUNYE A
BATÈM, PREMYE SENT KOMINYON AK KONFI-
MASYON.***

Pouplisenfòmasyon sou kondisyon enskripsyon ou swalòtkek-
syon ou ta genyen kontaktenounan: Phone: 215-576-4124;
email: stmatthewreledu@stmatthew-brooklyn.org

ST. MATTHEW EVENTS

GIFT SHOP

Located @ the back of the Church, selling an array of religious articles including rosaries, open on weekends before & after Mass.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration in the Church on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays** after **9:00 am Mass** until **12:00 noon**. Fridays from **7 P.M. to 9 P.M.** The Divine Mercy is recited during the reposition.

VOCATIONS

“I will raise up for them a prophet like you.” If you think that you may be set apart by the Lord to serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life’ contact the Vocation Office at 718-827-2454 or email: vocations@diobrook.org

GROUP OF HOPE

St. Matthew Group of Hope is hosting an Oildown Fest in commemoration of Grenada’s 50th Independence.

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2024

Time: 5 P.M.—10 P.M.

Price: \$15 a plate and drinks will be on sale

Place: St. Matthew Parish Center, 1345 Lincoln Place

ASH WEDNESDAY

Please bring in your palm branches from last year’s Palm Sunday. The palms will be burnt and the ashes used on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday, is February 14th and we will have Mass at 7:30 and 9 A.M. and 7:30 P.M.

FREE TAX PREPARATION

Free Tax Preparation is once again being offered. In order to qualify for this service, your yearly income cannot exceed \$73,000.

To schedule an appointment call or stop by the rectory and leave your telephone number. The tax preparer will then contact you.

OUR FATHER...*Who is found among the lowly in the world – the poor, the vulnerable, those who struggle to love, the victims of circumstance and choice, the hidden ones among us.*

Who art in heaven ...

A haven and refuge from pain, where the meek shall inherit the earth and the first shall be last, and the last shall be first.

Hallowed be thy name ...

Release us from our sinfulness that blinds us to the pain of our neighbor, that when we praise you, our hearts are filled with compassion and mercy

Thy Kingdom come ...

Teach us to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with you that we might create a world where we reach beyond our own wants and desires.

Your will be done ...

Open our eyes to let you in so that your perfect love may shine through us in all that we do.

On earth as it is in heaven ...

May the work of our hands be the work of your hands that radiates your love for all, especially the poor.

Give ...

Us peace that surpasses all understanding that we may always hold up your command:

Without cost, you have received; without cost, you are to give.

Us ...

The weak, the powerful; the rich, the poor; the neighbor, the foreigner; the sheltered, the homeless; the hungry, the well-fed ... all these holy children of God that are one Body of Christ.

This day ...

Not tomorrow, to make excuses and justify our wants when so many in the world survive on a handful of blessings.

Our daily bread ...

May each person in the world have enough to sustain a healthy life – food, clean water, clean air, shelter, health care, education and love.

And forgive us our trespasses ...

Cure our blindness, forgive us for being pre-occupied with ourselves, and teach us to see you in the faces of others.

As we forgive those ...

Teach us to be generous with our forgiveness that we may not hold back any hurt or anger towards another, but be genuine in reconciling broken relationships.

Who trespass against us ...

Fill us with your grace that dissolves bitterness, resentment and pain; and do not let us waste days on anger or hatred.

And lead us not into temptation ...

Be patient with our humanity, for we will fail many times; instead, give us more days to learn to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and visit the prisoner; trying to mend oppressive systems that render vulnerable the lowly.

But deliver us from evil ...

From the sin that keeps us comfortable and allows us to continue with our lives blind to the pain and suffering of our brothers and sisters around the world.

AMEN