

St. Matthew Parish



Website: www.stmatthewrc.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor

Fr. Frank Black

Priests

Fr. Thaddeus J. Abraham

Msr. Pierre Andre

Pierre

Fr. Ralph Theodat

Fr. Paul Afetor

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

**Exposition on Wednesdays &
Fridays after the 9 A.M. Mass
until noon**

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



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: For You, the Married

Today's readings give us an opportunity to consider what we mean by marriage in the Catholic Church.

In the Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament. A sacrament is a real presence of God, the most powerful presence of the Lord possible in this world. In the sacrament of Baptism, God is present giving the Life of the Trinity to the baptized. In Penance God is present through his Son giving his forgiveness to the penitent. In the Eucharist, the Son is present nourishing the communicant and uniting him in an intimate way to the Divine Presence as Jesus is offered to the Father for us. In the sacrament of marriage, Jesus is present uniting his love to the love of the husband and wife. Their love, when lived properly, that is sacrificially, is His Love.

More and more of our young people are enthusiastically embracing the sacrament of matrimony, rather than settling for anything less than the sacrament. Also, more and more of those who are married outside of the Church are seeking to have their marriage raised to the level of the sacrament. They do this because they want the real presence of God in their marriages just as they want the real presence of God in the Eucharist and in the Sacrament of Penance.

Those of you who are in a Catholic marriage, ask yourselves, "Why did we make this decision?" Most probably you were married in the Church because you realized that marriage was the most important decision of your lives. And you wanted Jesus to be present in the way of a sacrament not just at your wedding, but as you celebrate your marriage throughout your lives. The sacrament of marriage is not just a prayer during the wedding, it is not just a blessing of a union, it is far more than this. The sacrament of matrimony is the union of God with people establishing a new unit of his Church. The sacrament of matrimony establishes the Christian home with Christ at the center. That is why you were married in the Church.

"But there is disorder," the Pharisees say to Jesus in the Gospel reading. The Law of Moses, after all, permitted a bill of divorce.

"This was not the Father's intention," Jesus replies. Disharmony in homes, among people, results from all, good people and bad people, suffering the results of sin.

It was never in God's plan for evil to enter the world. This resulted from mankind's decision to push God, the Lord of Life, aside and to, therefore, choose death. God never meant for people to be widowed, divorced or single. In God's original plan there was no need for celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom because all would enjoy the Kingdom to its fullest in marriage. In God's original plan there would be no need for people to work so hard to establish and preserve their marriages.

We all know many wonderful people whose marriages have suffered. It may not be their fault; it may not even be their former spouse's fault. Just as children suffer sickness and death due to the effects of sin in the world; so many good people suffer the destruction of their marriage or the inability to form a sacred lasting union due to the effects of sin in the world, not necessarily in either of the individuals. Therefore, we need to have a special place in our hearts and in our charity for those who have suffered the loss of their marriages. They have been pulled away from the intention of the Creator by the forces of the world. They need our support and our love.

In the same way, there are so many wonderful people who wish they could marry but who have not found and may never find a person with whom they can make a lasting union. Perhaps they are not called to the sacrament of marriage. Perhaps, they also are innocent victims of evil in the world, victims of that evil that has destroyed their potential husbands and wives by convincing that man or woman who could have been out there and should have been out there to instead seek selfishness over sacrificial love. Many single people are denied the sacrament of marriage due to the limitation of potential partners for life by selfishness. The single also need our love and support. They will never feel alone if they are cared for as members of a loving community. And if you are single and hoping to marry, pray for that man or woman who would make a wonderful spouse. Pray that he or she are open to the mystery of sacrificial love, the mystery of the sacrament of matrimony.

Finally, a word regarding the physical aspect of married love. It is sad how evil is able to distort good. The divinely created attraction of men and women to image God has been deformed into a drive for selfish gratification. Sex is portrayed by the media as having little to do with love and mostly concerned with lust.

But people know better. People have an innate knowledge that tells them that a person cannot love and take at the same time. People know that the ideal of marriage exists. But people need more than the ideal. People need witness, your witness. They need the witness of your marriages as a union with God, imaging the Creator's Love for the Word, making real the mystery of the singular in the plural and the plural in the singular.

You, the married, how important you are to us all! We the single, we the celibate, we the separated, we the divorced, we the widowed, need you the married to embrace and to live the ideal of marriage.

We ask God's blessing today upon all who celebrate the sacrament of matrimony. May you have the courage and strength to give witness to the presence of God in the union of husband and wife.

WEEKLY READINGS	
Sun Oct 6	Gn 2:18-24; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10: 2-16 or 10: 2-12
Mon Oct 7	Gal 1: 6-12; Lk 10:25-37
Tue Oct 8	Gal 1: 13-24; Lk 10:38-42
Wed Oct 9	Gal 2: 1-2,7-14; Lk 11:1-4
Thu Oct 10	Gal 3: 1-5; Lk 11:5-13
Fri Oct 11	Gal 3: 7-14; Lk 11:15-26
Sat Oct 12	Gal 3: 22-29; Lk 11:27-28

OUR LADY OF CHARITY: MASS INTENTIONS

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS : Emillio Simon, Joann Beckles , Zaniyah Bailey, Stacy Jackson, Coleen Rojas , Clarington Gill , Kenneth Woodroffe , Jessica Mobley , Imani Busby ,Kalihah Fowlkes/ Barber , Gertrude Munro , Roseline Theodule , Angellina Heslop, Alessandra Newton, Jayden Green , Candica Bowen, Khalil Carter , Masley Williams
We pray to the Lord

TODAY'S MASS : Birthday blessings for Addison Phillip, Emillio Simon, Johnathan Duncan, Donna Crayne , asking Gods for continue guidance , protection on their lives, requested by Lisa Romain
We pray to the Lord.

ALTAR BREAD : We pray to the Lord.

SANCTUARY CANDLES : We pray to the Lord.


WEDDING ANNIVERSARY : Mr. & Mrs. Omar Torres, Mr. & Mrs. Owen Martin
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.


ST. GREGORY : MASS INTENTIONS

First Saturday, Oct. 5 th	5 PM Vigil Mass for Claudette Norde Noel, In Thanksgiving for Life
Sunday, Oct. 6 th	11:30 AM Mass for Eloise B. Dudley, Birthday In Heaven, R.I.P., Requested by Marjorie Lopez
Saturday, Oct. 12 th	5 PM Vigil Mass for Bishop Guy Sansaricq, R.I.P., Requested by The Jack and Sangster Families

ST. MATTHEW: MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday October 5	8:00pm – 11th birthday blessings for Kaidyn Austin Williams by family
Sunday October 6	7:30am – Altar Rosary Society 9:30am – a. I.L.M. of Ysabel Lopez by Milagros Gomez  B. I.L.M.of Quisquella Miguelina Lopez by Yancy Lopez C. I.L.M. of Helica & Raouta by Mary J. Cunningham 11:30am –B'day blessings in heaven Cicely Greenidge by Dawn Seales 1:30pm –Mass of deliverance in honor of all saints by Chest Rolande Jean
Monday October 7	7:30am – R.I.P. St. Clair Andrews & Reinaldo Lopez 9:00am – R.I.P. Gloria Evans by Violeta McZeno & family
Tuesday October 8	7:30am – Blessings for Lynette & Baylee Bourne by Tamara Smart 9:00am – Repose of the soul of mom, Zongo Tinga Natalie & her deceased children by Rosalie Kabore
Wednesday October 9	7:30am – Thanksgiving to God, our Father by Tamara St.Louis Smart 9:00am – Blessings for Jeffrey Zweig & Larry Maslansky by Tamara Smart
Thursday October 10	7:30am –Birthday blessings & thanksgiving for Stephanie Kebreau 9:00am – Physical, mental , spiritual & emotional healing for my children
Friday October 11	7:30am – That as a parish we will be guided by the Holy Spirit in our decision making process 9:00am – R.I.P. Keetha Howerton
Saturday October 12	8:00am – For our children & elderly parishioners

BREAD FOR OCTOBER

BREAD: R.I.P. St. Clair Andrews by family

WINE: Birthday blessings for Florence Holder & R.I.P. St. Clair Holder

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.

✂

Full Name _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

Telephone Number _____

Email Address _____

Were you registered before _____

If yes, registration # _____

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.

C'est la préparation de Ceux qui ne sont pas catholiques mais qui veulent le devenir. RCIA prépare ces personnes à recevoir le sacrement de baptême.

Es el proceso para preparar los no católicos que están interesados en pasa a ser miembros de la iglesia católica. También prepara católicos para completar el sacramento de la iniciación.

SACRAMENTS & REGISTRATION

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS/RECONCILIACION

- ◆ Saturday 7:30PM-8:00PM or anytime by appointment in the Rectory.
- ◆ Samedi 7:30PM-8:00PM ou du moins appelez du presbytère pour un rendez-vous.
- ◆ Sábados de 7:30PM-8:00PM o cualquier otra hora por cita.

MARRIAGE/MARIAGE/MATRIMONIOS

*Arrangements must be made AT LEAST six (6) months in advance

*Contacter le presbytère au moins (6) l'avance.

*Arreglos deben ser hechos por lo menos seis (6) meses por adelante.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK/LES MALADES/LOS ENFERMOS

- * Sick & Homebound can receive the sacrament of anointing from a priest and receive Holy Communion on a regular basis from our Ministers of Holy Communion. Please contact the Rectory
- * Ceux qui sont très maladies et ne peuvent pas sortir de leur maison jeun vent recevoir le sacrement d'extrême onction d'un prêtre de la paroisse, la sainte communion d'un ministre de l'eucharistie appelle au presbytère pour un rendez-vous.
- * Puede recibir el Sacramento de los enfermos por un sacerdote. En tiempos regulares puede recibir Sagrada Comunion de uno de nuestro ministros de la Comunion Favor notificar la rectoría.

BAPTISM/BAPTEME/BAUTISMO

- ◆ Registration and preparation in our baptismal class is required. Please contact the Rectory for date and time of our next class.
- ◆ Tous ceux ou celles qui voudraient recevoir le baptême doivent se faire enregistrer au presbytère pour prendre part aux cours avant la réception de ce sacrement. Pour plus d'information, composez le 718-774-6747
- ◆ Registracion y participación en nuestras clases bautismal es un requisito para el bautismo. Favor de encontrar el diacono Cruz para fijar la fecha y clases

REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

For the homebound, hospitalized and sick

Judith Adams, Carmen Allen, Rita Antomez, Armelle Amilcar, Hillary Amarosa, Loraine Quash- Antoine, Marie Augustin, Al Barnett, Monica Belfon, Marque & Yael Barber-LaFon, Melona Barber, Jason Bascom, Silvestre Brathwaite, Ismay Brewster, Jahonah Brown, Recy Brown, Isabella Bugett, Patricia Burrowes, Yolande Cadet, Evelyn Canning, Diana Codogan, Cathleen Charles, Catilda Charles, Delicia Charles, Marcel Charles, Maria Clouden, Cecilia Clovie, Mahalia Clunis, Nelia Collins, Marilyn Coates, Virginia Cox, Daphne Critchlow, Golda Critchlow, Theresa Cudjoe, Veronica Dale, Angela Daniels, Shirley Daniels, Marcella DeSandies, Joseph Drew, Stephen Duncan, Dorothy Edwards, Una Europe, Stella Emmanuel, Elardo Flemmings, Carrie Frasier, Sherwin Fung, John Gale, 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 Inmiss, Carlyn Jabouin, Donna James, Nellie James, Roberta Jennings, 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, Judith Matthew, Wilma Maynard, Tom McCafferty, Laura McDonald, Mavis McDonald, Leticia McDowell, Vernita McDowell, Gemma Mejias, Daniel David Mendez, Marcelina Morales, Grant Nelson Jr., Isai Munoz, Marta Munoz, Nelson Munoz, Suzanna Neil, Ronald Nethersole, Claudette Norde, Mother Dolores Olf, Keena Ollivierre, Margaret Otumba, Ronaldo Nano Paul, Sharonie 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, Elizabeth Rivera, Carlos Rudas, Lidia Saunders, Fr. Robert Seay, Pamela Smith, Pema Smith, Robert Smith, Lisa Scott Spencer, Delores Sykes, Kevin Maynard, Basil Suarez, Antonio Sultan, Brenda & Javier Talango, Angela & Edris Thomas, Jean Thornhill, Allison Thorpe, Lyonette Tribie, Janet Throne, Malik Wellington, Karen Williams, Terrance Williams, Octavio Willis, Leandro Wilson, Reynold Williams, Christine Wright, Joan Wright, Natasha Wright, Vilma Zuniga

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR : Yvonne Lacy, Dean Jackson, Wendy Romain, Vaughn Haynes, Georgeann Campbell, Danielle Huie, Cotilda Charles, Anthony Hepburn Jr., Lawrence Latimer & family, La Mar Mc Nabb, Lisa Colone, Christine Hudson & family, Conrad Lord, Glenda Hunter, Livingston Holloway, Jaden Bell, Nathan Ford Sr. & family, Sabrinia Guess, Daphne & Golda Critchlow, Gwen & Helena Pugh, Almarie Mc Coy, Raymond Jorsling, Kato Pollydore, Judith Prosper, Lisa Scott/ Spencer, Carla Martin, Marge Holas, Hermelene Thomas, Althea Gordon, Maureen Walter, Khalilah Saleem, Quarless family, Lisa Scott/ Spencer, Nigel & Jacinta James, 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, 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 10/06/2024 @ ST. GREGORY

- + 9:30 AM Sunday school will resume October 13th
- + 11:30 AM Mass – (Live Stream)
- + CREDIT UNION-**OPEN**

MONDAY 10/07/24

- + 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal-Church

FRIDAY 10/11/24

- + 7:15 PM Bible Study-meets via zoom
(Studying the Book of Ephesians)

SATURDAY 10/12/24

- + 4 PM Confession
- + 4 PM Vigil Choir Rehearsals
- + 4 PM Light Fest Prayer Group – via zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82362442148?pwd=MGVNMWFQcVdrQktXeTh0YjRadC9Mdz09>
- + 5 PM Vigil Mass-Church

COLLECTION 09/28– 09/29/2024

ST. MATTHEW

Mass	Envelopes	Envelope Collection	Loose money	Totals
8:00 PM	15	643.00	165.00	808.00
7:30 AM	89	3,157.00	371.00	3,528.00
9:30 AM	46	604.00	250.00	854.00
11:30 AM	46	1,499.00	575.57	2,074.57
1:30 PM	37	598.00	130.00	728.00
L.I.R.	18	458.00	—	458.00
Total	251	6,959.00	1,491.57	8,450.57

ST. GREGORY

Mass	Envelopes	Envelope Collection	Loose money	Totals
5 PM	14	995.00	95.05	1,090.05
11:30AM	26	831.00	157.00	988.00
Total	40	1,826.00	252.05	2,078.05

OUR LADY OF CHARITY

Mass	Envelopes	Envelope Collection	Loose money	Totals
10:00AM	51	2,710.00	—	2,710.00
Total	51	2,710.00	—	2,710.00

FAITH DIRECT: \$2,095.00 collected
September 2 to October 2, 2024

ST. MATTHEW EXPENSES

INCOME	Jan – June 2024	Jan-Jun 2023	CHANGE
COLLECTION	\$ 463,241	\$484,004	(20,763)
RENTAL INCOME	280,457	260,410	20,047
DONATIONS/ FUNDRAISING	58,690	30,214	28,476
OTHER	17,060	1,622	15,438
TOTAL INCOME	819,448	776,250	43,198
EXPENSES			
SALARIES	380,494	411,038	30,089
MAINTENANCE	82,778	97,198	14,419
OFFICE EXPENSE	68,823	69,626	803
PROGRAMS	2,408	6,396	3,988
ALTAR SUPPLIES	9,655	14,393	4,738
UTILITIES	127,757	93,675	(34,083)
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	192,841	181,601	(11,240)
TOTAL 3 EXPENSE	865,212	873,296	8,714
NET INCOME LOSS	(45,764)	(97,675)	51,912

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

*ALL ARE INVITED to join St. Gregory the Great **BIBLE STUDY** meets on zoom every Friday from 7:30PM to 8:30PM with Catherine Abdullah Eastern Time (US and Canada)*

Bible Study is beginning the Book of Exodus

(A Book of the Bible is picked (By the Group) alternatively, from the Old Testament, followed by The New Testament.)

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

. Dial 929-205-6099 using meeting ID 782362442148 and pass code 424370. (Please contact any member for information on book currently being read.) (ALL ARE WELCOME!)

(SEE CHANGE) LIGHT FEST PRAYER GROUP Meets In Person at St. Gregory R.C. Church every **“SECOND SATURDAY”** of the month in the Rectory’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.

UPCOMING MTGS. & EVENTS @ ST. GREGORY

St. Gregory the Great – Religious Education

Sunday school Closed. Will resume October, 2024
Parents we encourage the children to attend Mass on Saturdays or Sundays during the break, unless they are traveling. *****

St. Gregory the Great – Religious Education

Sunday school Closed. Will resume October 13th, 2024
Parents we encourage the children to attend Mass on Saturdays or Sundays during the break, unless they are traveling.

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

Heritage Committee of St. Gregory the Great Luncheon on October 19th, 2024 at St. Teresa of Avila Church located at 555 Sterling Place (Franklin & Classon Aves.) Time: 12 Noon to 5 PM Tickets Adults: \$40 and Kids: \$20. **There will be music by DJ Page, our very own Ms. Nicole Davis and the Internationally Renowned Opera and Concert Singer, Mr. Everett Suttle**

FREE SHREDDING EVENT sponsored by Crown Heights North Associated on Saturday, October 19th, 2024 from 9 AM to 12 Noon. **Hospitality immediately after the 11:30 AM Mass on the church porch.**

EL CRISTO NEGRO MASS on Sunday, October 20th, 2024 at 11:30 AM. Hospitality hosted by The Panamanian Community.

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 and
First Fridays from 7 P.M. to 9 P.M.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

ESPAÑOL: The Spanish Community will be praying the Holy Rosary during the month of October. For information about dates and times, please speak with a member of the group. In addition, they meet every Thursday in the Parish Center at 7 P.M.

Jesus Nazareno Mass will be held on Monday, **October 21st at 7.30pm starting with a procession followed by the Mass** at St. Matthew.

Bethlehem Christian families will be here to sell religious artifacts on the weekend of **October 26th and 27th after all masses**. By making a purchase you are supporting the Christian families in the Holy Land.

SIGHT N SOUND trip to Lancaster Pennsylvania to see the play "DANIEL"

DATE: Saturday, December 28th

Price: \$175 for adults and \$ 145 for children ages 3 -12.

We will have shopping, (**NOT** at Tangers outlet) Dinner at the Golden Corral and the show.

To reserve your seat you must make a deposit of \$50 immediately. Deadline for all payments is November 15th.

RAFFLE: You would've received your raffle books via mail. The tickets are \$5 each. If you sell a full book the 6th ticket is free. The prizes are:

1st prize- 2K

2nd Prize-1K

3rd Prize-750

4th Prize-500

If you need additional raffle books, please stop by the rectory. The **drawing takes place during our Christmas concert on December 15th.**

COLUMBUS DAY: The rectory will be closed on Monday, October 14th

WORDS TO LIVE BY

On Sunday at the Eucharist, we pause to savor and live more fully the faith we share. Of course, we do this at every Eucharistic celebration, but none is more vital to us than the one celebrated on Sunday. The whole community gathers on Sunday to remember the resurrection and share in commemorating the Last Supper. This very gathering, this assembly of those who believe, is the Church itself.

The Church has always gathered like this, making for us now in our own day and age, a rich connection to every generation before us. Indeed, we believe that the entire communion of saints gathered with us, which is why we pause at Mass to recall our beloved dead. Without the Eucharist, how would we be fed? How would our faith be nourished? How would our connection to the community be made stronger? How would we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread?

Prayer for Priests

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and to act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving.

We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shine through their weakness. In their afflictions, let them never be crushed; in their doubts, never despair; in temptation, never be destroyed; in persecution, never abandoned.

Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them your Spirit, and help them to praise your heavenly Father and to pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit, put your word on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the broken-hearted.

And may the gift of Mary, your Mother, to the Disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. Amen