



THE CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY OF ST. WILLIAM

Adult and Family Ministry

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Dear Ministry of Praise,

As I write this letter, we are having one of the coldest days so far this year and winter. As I get older I realize what an inconvenience snow, ice and cold can be. Before this we have had a mild winter, with many days above freezing. We should give a prayer of Thanksgiving for that, and prayers that parishioners stay healthy this winter and soon spring will be here for us to enjoy.

Speaking of cold weather and the difficulties it involves finds me asking for prayers for those without shelter. The homeless in our community are not always able to find the shelters available and therefore we pray for their safety and that our community continues to help them in their quest. The Corporal Works of Mercy tell us these people need our prayers and help.

We are in the midst of the primary elections for President of our country. May this election provide us with honest leaders who will allow our country to be grounded in faith and prosper to bring about respect for life for people of all ages. The jobless rate remains high, so say a prayer for those without work, that they find gainful employment. A prayer for our state, that our leaders allow Wisconsin to grow and provide fairness to all our citizens.

We have our war veterans returning home from Iraq. May they return to a happy family and a sense of peace. Say a prayer that our county treats them fairly for their sacrifice and that they will find fulfilling employment opportunities. For those soldiers remaining overseas, provide safety to them and guide them toward their goals.

For those who are ill, either in the hospital or at home recuperating, let us pray. For those who are suffering from ongoing, chronic conditions, let us pray for their strength to follow guidelines given by their health care providers. Let us pray for their healing and that they feel the love of those around them. We also need to pray for the caregivers, that they have strength and patience.

This month we pray that parishioners of St. William become closer to God as our celebration of Lent begins on February 22. May the staff here provide meaningful ways for our parishioners to honor and serve God.

This month we celebrate Valentine's Day. Let's pray for the happiness of those married and that they realize the importance of commitment. Also, may we *all* show our love to those around us. The following prayer I thought was a nice way to end. May you find joy each day and feel the love of others.

A PRAYER TO ST. VALENTINE

Dear Saint and glorious martyr; Teach us to love unselfishly and to find great joy in giving. Enable all true lovers to bring out the best in each other in carrying on the mission of Jesus. Amen.

Sincerely,

Amy Haas, RN, Parish Nurse