

2016 Annual Report Presented on January 29, 2017



Christ Episcopal Church
205 North Seventh Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
The Rev. J. Douglas Moyer, Rector

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CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 421-7481
Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 31, 2016

1. Call to Order / Opening Prayer
 - The Annual Parish meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer at 10:15 a.m. by Senior Warden Michele Causton.
3. The 2014 minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved with corrections to item 3 that should read 2014.
4. Senior Warden's Report - Narrative was read aloud and will be included in the printed report.
5. Junior Warden's Report – Narrative included in report. (Buz in absentia)
6. Standing Committee Reports
 - i. Evangelism – narrative included in report (Jennifer in absentia)
 - ii. Sunday School – narrative included in report. Chris thanked the parents and teachers for their support and said she will be stepping down as director at the end of the 2016 school year. She made a request for new teachers.
 - iii. Columbarium – narrative included in report, no further comments.
 - iv. Treasury – Income and Expense Statement that included the 2016 budget included in report. Howard noted that funds will be set aside on a monthly basis for the outreach programs. He further noted that we closed on the Sarah Street properties and that the income from the rentals of the parking spaces barely covers the expenses of the building. Lastly, Howard said that we have received an offer on the rectory. The inspection of the property took place on January 30th and we are waiting for the result of the inspection.
 - v. Parish Life – narrative included in report (Sharon in absentia)
 - vi. Youth Group – narrative included in report. MaryEllen Whiteley thanked our youths and the parents for their continued support. She also called our attention to the Silcox family (who they helped on the Appalachian Mission Trip in July) and told the congregation that for Christmas the only gifts the family received was from them and the church where they reside.) So our youth have decided to officially 'adopt' the Silcox family and will continue to send them gifts throughout the year.

7. Music Ministry – narrative included in report.
8. Adult Study/Prayer Team – narrative included in report.
9. Food Pantry – narrative included in report. Sue Freeman further commented that she has been in touch the Garden of Giving whose purpose is to grow fresh produce and harvest eggs, so our food pantry will now be able to offer those to our recipients in the spring, summer and fall months. Additionally, Greg Tanico and Jay Freeman have picked up a refrigerator from a donor that will be used to store the produce and eggs.
10. Election of Vestry Members – Sharon Potter has resigned from Vestry due to work schedule conflicts, and Martha Linne’s term has expired. The two nominees to fill those terms are Jay Freeman and Kevin Furst. Cynthia Leenerts moved to accept the nominees to vestry. Howard Alleger seconded the motion, there were no comments or discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
11. Election of Convention Delegates – there were no nominees from the floor, ergo Sue Freeman and Patti Alleger will attend as delegates and Michele Causton as an alternate. Motion was made from the floor, there was no further discussion, motion carried unanimously. Patti Alleger spoke about the United Thank Offering we sent to the 2014 convention in the amount of \$900. She went on to explain what the UTO does with its funding and how it helps here and internationally; and said that we will once again, offer UTO this year during Lent and in the fall just before convention.
12. Rector’s Report
13. Closing Prayer – Father Doug upon unanimous motion from the floor, closed the meeting with prayer at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise K. Bach
Clerk of Vestry

4. Senior Wardens Report

In considering what to speak about at this annual meeting, I was hesitant because I did not want to offend anyone's sensibilities. However, after much soul searching and deliberation, I decided that I needed to speak upon my reflections over the past year.

During the course of this year, I was at times disheartened by the rhetoric I saw on the news and the blatant display of demeaning and unkind behaviors. I remember as a child growing up, the mantra repeated in our household by our parents every day before we left the house for school or activities, to simply "be kind".

I wondered what had happened and when as adults did we forget these simple ideals of being kind to one another. I then thought about our world here at Christ Church and its mission statement of, "a welcoming, compassionate, and healing community in Christ." As a small congregation we can and have accomplished so much for our community. It all began because there was a need and individuals who were kind, gave of themselves. How incredible it would be, if these principles were emulated by our elected officials, the country and throughout the world.

Often we become caught up in our daily lives and the multiple projects or tasks that needs to be completed and the difficult or urgent decisions that must be made. Although crucial, it is important that we remember to be kind, which could be a simple act such as:

- Saying thank you to the clerk that checked your groceries
- Holding the door for a stranger
- Listening and comforting a friend when they truly need you and not at your earliest convenience
- A reassuring word to a child

The question we need to ask ourselves is, are we our brother's keeper? We can by being thoughtful and sympathetic, by performing a random act of kindness and being the 'ark' for a friend, a fellow parishioner or a perfect stranger, through our donations, volunteering or prayers.

- Praying or reading the scriptures with an elder person such as our outreach does
- Teaching a child to pray and be considerate of others as they learn in Sunday School
- Volunteer at the food pantry
- Providing ministry to a stranger in jail

I am most hopeful that as a Christian community we continue to uphold the values as taught by Christ in his teaching to 'love your neighbor as yourself.' (Mark 12:31)

A wise minister not too long ago told me that, "we cannot be Christians in isolation." For me, coming to the Church provides solace and continued reassurance of my faith, in both humanity and charity. I am, at times, truly overwhelmed and amazed by the sense of community I've experienced here. It is my hope, that as a congregation we can continue to build on the cornerstone of the ministries that have already been established,

by exploring the new possibilities of how we can continue to be of service to our immediate, as well as worldly communities.

“The values taught in the Bible are often the opposite of worldly values: kindness and respect for all people, instead of power; humility instead of status; honesty and generosity instead of wealth; self-control instead of self-indulgence; forgiveness instead of revenge. Christian values promote peace and good will among people in accordance with the purposes of God. We will never achieve perfection in this life, but those people who strive to obey God often find a sense of joy and peace that no worldly rewards can match”

Just think of the possibilities we can accomplish as individuals, a nation, a world, if we diligently adhere to Jesus Christ’s teachings and simply remember to “*be kind.*”

5. Junior Wardens Report

Continued with minor repairs, including:

- Hung Food Panty sign in the Narthex
- Stripped and refinished the narthex table
- Spot painted several locations around the church
- Painted upstairs class rooms
- Repaired the locking mechanism to the exterior narthex door
- Installed security hinges on the interior narthex doors
- Sought information on the water issue for repair of the window where the new stained glass window will be
- Made minor repairs to the Sarah Street property

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Evangelism Committee Report

Committee Chairperson: Jennifer Sutherland

Committee members: Cynthia Oglesby, Patricia Figueras, Cynthia Nortey, and Loretta Jones.

Goal of the Committee: Help spread the Christian message and raise the profile of Christ Episcopal Church in the community.

Monthly visits to Golden Living Center Stroud Nursing Home, continues to be on the last Saturday of each month.

119 individual room visits were made to Golden Living Center Stroud Nursing Home residents for the year 2016. Hymns were sung and prayers read. Forward Day by Day booklets were given out to each resident interested.

Crocheted hats, scarfs, & lap blankets were donated by Sue Freeman, Patricia Figueras, and Jennifer Sutherland.

The goal for 2017 will be to continue to grow in membership and reach out to the people of our community who are often ignored and forgotten.

Thank You and God Bless, Jennifer A Sutherland

ii. **Sunday School**

In response to the concerns of several parents, we revamped our Sunday School class make up. The children meet upstairs for a short story and song, then split into classes for lessons and crafts. The classes are split by grade in the following way:

Pre-school through 1st Grade with teachers Greg Tanico and Barbara Emert, with lessons provided by Mr. Greg and his hand puppets. The children are encouraged to read the lessons out loud if able, and take turns being the puppeteer.

2nd Grade through 5th Grade with teachers Barbara Cramer and Cheryl McPherson, using curriculum developed by Ms. Barbara and her mother. This is a lively class with plenty of opportunity to discuss the lessons during craft time.

6th Grade through 9th Grade with teachers Chris Nelson and Cynthia Nortey, using curriculum provided by the Episcopal Digital Network and based on the Church's Liturgical Calendar. Each class opens with an open discussion of world events and/or concerns brought up by the students, followed by the lesson of the week.

Any child attending Christ Episcopal Church is welcome to join our classes at 9:45 each Sunday morning. Parents are welcome to visit during class, and also welcome to volunteer their time teaching and/or helping with crafts. Please contact Barbara Cramer or Chris Nelson if interested, or just stop by any Sunday morning to join us.

Thank you to all the teachers for doing an excellent job with the students, and to the parents for their support (especially in teaching the children the songs for the Christmas pageant!) and for allowing us to share the teachings of the Church with their children.

iii. **Columbarium**

This year we had three internments in our columbarium, all prepaid. Three were purchased for future use.

Twenty-six remain available for purchase at \$500.00 per niche. The cost covers the niche, the container for cremains, engraving for the plaque and a page in the Memory Book.

I hope you will stop by the Columbarium at the back of the church in the chapel and consider it as your final resting place. It is a wonderful place, surrounded by the Saints of Christ Church.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me:

Patti Alleger

570-424-1423 home

570-269-1300 cell

palleger@ptd.net

Peace to All

iv. Treasurer's Report

Christ Episcopal Church

2016 Income and Expense Statement with 2017 Budget

Description	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
Income			
Contribution Income			
Unrestricted (Including Pledges)	166,162	171,950	168,200
Donor Restricted	1,495	1,650	1,450
Subtotal Contribution Income	167,657	173,600	169,650
Interest & Investment Income	7,156	11,400	7,000
Miscellaneous Income	1,268	8,400	11,227
TOTAL INCOME	176,081	193,400	187,877
Expenses			
Fixed Expenses			
Salaries & Benefits	125,536	127,985	125,830
Administrative Expenses	5,520	5,200	5,170
Building & Grounds	18,779	19,800	19,400
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	149,835	152,985	150,400
Church Ministries			
Diocese	26,093	26,093	25,727
Community/Outreach	4,300	4,200	4,200
Worship	3,713	5,672	3,650
Spiritual Nurture	785	900	800
Stewardship	560	100	100
Fellowship/Parish Life	1,265	1,500	1,200
Evangelism	0	350	200
Christian Education	1,666	1,600	1,600
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	38,382	40,415	37,477
Other Expenses	84	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	188,301	193,400	187,877
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	(12,220)	0	0

v. Youth Group

Once again, it was a great year for the Christ Church Youth Group. We sent three youths and six adults on the mission trip to Grace House on the Mountain. Along with high schoolers and adults from other parishes in our diocese, we spent a week in June fixing up a house in the Appalachian Mountains of southwestern Virginia. We made major improvements to a dwelling inhabited by a single mom and her teenage son. It was a time of hard work and great fellowship and we came away with another fulfilling experience. We plan to travel again this coming summer to Grace House to work on other projects in the depressed, coal mining district. This will be our third year. We are hoping to take even more teens this year, and we have already started raising money to fund the trip with our Christmas Ornament Sale.

In 2016 we also participated for the third year, along with the First Presbyterian Church in Stroudsburg, in the annual Relay for Life charity event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. After year-around fundraising, our team, Youth Against Cancer, took part in the 24-hour relay in the football stadium to celebrate our year of hard work. We would like to acknowledge the incredible support and financial contributions, as well as the contributions of time and talent, from the overwhelmingly generous people in our congregation.

This past Christmas, we once again made stockings for kids in the Bridges Out of Poverty program. We bought and filled 28 stockings, bringing smiles to the faces of children who might otherwise not have had as much to celebrate. The Bridges Out of Poverty Christmas dinner was a moving event that brought as much joy to our members as it did to the kids in the program. We also filled boxes with gifts for the two families in Virginia whose houses we worked on during our last two mission trips.

We are pleased with the enormous amount of work we accomplished in 2016. We have an enthusiastic, energetic, and committed group of kids who work hard, play hard, and really appreciate the support provided by the church. We look forward to the youth group contributing even more to our Church family and the wider community in the months and years ahead. We would like to thank all the members of Christ Episcopal Church for the enormous support you have given us as we explore our spirituality, build a stronger society, and discover our places in our church and in our world.

For more information about the Youth Group, please contact Fr. Doug or Michelle Causton. For information about next summer's mission trip, please contact Mary Ellen or Steve Whiteley, or Fr. Doug. And for more information and to participate in Relay for Life, please talk with Michael Shands.

Respectfully,
Mary Ellen and Steve Whiteley

7. MUSIC MINISTRY

The music programs at Christ Episcopal Church continued to grow in 2016 and inspired with praise to both our congregation and community.

Once again this year, a mixture of Sacred, Contemporary, Bell Choir, and solo numbers were enjoyed by the congregation at Sunday Worship Service. Music Minister, Susan Stillo, combined a mixture of these different genres during the weekly Offertory anthems.

The Sacred Choir has been proclaiming God's word through Music for many years at Christ Church. Long time members Barbara Cato, Andrea McQueen, Patti Alleger, Howard Alleger and in most recent years, Colleen Schufele and Debbie Tanico practice weekly to present beautiful four part harmony in their Offertory music selections. Their dedication is exemplary!

Sadly, this year we said "farewell" to two lifetime members of the CEC Choir. Gil Janes, tenor and Ella Farver, soprano have now joined the choir of angels in heaven and will be sorely missed.

After months of rehearsals, the Sacred Choir members performed with the Project One Step Community Chorus on November 5th at Stroudsburg HS under the direction of the Mary McDonald, composer and guest conductor. The Sacred Choir will share these beautiful musical works once a month during the Winter/Spring seasons of 2017.

The Contemporary Choir is in its second year of bringing more modern worship hymns to the congregation. Eight members join together with the Sacred Choir to complete the ensemble. They include adults: Michael Shands, Terry Miller, Carole Gabrielan; teens: Cassi Shands, Lena Morella, Liz McQueen, Justin McQueen, and Frank Cloke. An instrumental ensemble to accompany some of the Contemporary numbers feature Liz McQueen, piano; Justin McQueen, congo drum;

New to our Music ministry is the addition of a Youth Choir. Members must be in middle school to participate. The Youth Choir sang at Mass in November and also at the 5pm Family Worship on Christmas Eve. Members include Liz Mc Queen, assistant, Justin McQueen, Sydney Brooks, Eva Hoyt, Elena Casey, and Jerrin, Jaina & Jelena Nortey. New members are welcome at any time to our practice at 11:30 every Sunday in the choir room.

The teen Bell Choir members consisting of Cassi Shands, section leader, Noel Nelson, Pam Woisin, Alicia Laing, Liz McQueen, and Justin McQueen performed once a month during mass in the fall of 2016. They also brought Christmas cheer to the community by performing at Stroudmoor's Country Christmas and for The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints in December. In January they will be visiting Pleasant Valley Manor and playing for the residents there. They played for the Easter morning service in March and the Children's Christmas Eve 5pm service.

The String Ensemble performed a beautiful, full service mass at the 11pm Christmas Eve service. Members included Lena Morella, violin; Cassi Shands, viola; Frank Cloke, Jr. double bass accompanied by Elizabeth Mc Queen, string synthesizer.

Music is a vital part of our worship service at Christ Church. If you would like to be a part of any or all groups, please see our Music Minister following one of the weekly masses.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Stillo, Minister of Music

8. ADULT STUDY GROUP

A diverse, small group meets for Bible study at the home of Barbara Cramer on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3PM. This year we completed Beth Moore's DVD studies "Jesus, the One & Only" and Paul's letter to the Romans. Then we watched and discussed John Ortberg's DVD study "Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You." It included reflections by Dallas Willard, whose study "Hearing God" we had done a few years ago. As we approached the Presidential election, we watched the DVD series on Jeremiah by Melissa Spoelstra, subtitled "Daring to Hope in an Unstable World." During Advent we watched the Max Lucado DVD on prayer, "Before Amen." In January 2017, we began another Beth Moore DVD study on the Holy Spirit, "Breath." None of us are "experts," so we appreciate studies by others more knowledgeable than we are. All are welcome to join us. Call or e-mail Barbara at 570-424-6921 or bjcramer@ptd.net if you are interested in participating.

PRAYER PARTNERS

William Law wrote, "There is nothing that makes us love a man so much as praying for him." Our Prayer Partners show their love, even for strangers, by praying each day through a growing list of concerns. With e-mail, we can quickly communicate new requests and updates so our prayers are current. We can also send pictures, seeing how a preemie progresses from an incubator to a car seat. There is a copy of our prayers on the prie-dieu by the chapel. Anyone can use the list to pray for the concerns of our Parish. Concerns that are completely confidential are kept in prayer only by the Prayer Partners. There is also a Prayer Scrapbook with pictures to put faces to the names for whom we pray.

All are welcome to join us in the Chapel area to pray together on the first Wednesday of each month at 11AM, before the Healing Service, and the first Saturday of the month at noon, after Food Pantry distribution. It is a very moving time of prayer for us. We await the installation of the stained glass window of Jesus praying in Gethsemane to further inspire our prayers.

Coralie Corcoran and Mary Rego joined Howard & Patti Alleger, Jo Bauer, Barbara Cato, Jenny Collier, Barbara Cramer, Antonia Harewood-Harris, Trish Hughes, Cynthia Leenerts, Eileen Lindsley, Cheryl McPherson, Chris Nelson, Cynthia Nortey and Sue Stillo as Prayer Partners, as well as Bob Barker, Jessie Eisel and Gloria O'Sullivan who, though geographically distant, continue to pray with us. Cynthia Nortey's children Jerrin, Jaina and Jelena, and Barbara Cato's grandchildren Elizabeth and Justin McQueen have joined us for prayer after the Food Pantry, adding their own friends and concerns to our list. We are so thankful for all these faithful prayer warriors and their dedication to this hidden ministry. We grieve the loss of Gil Janes who so faithfully prayed with us for so many years.

If you would like to be part of our Prayer Partners or if you want us to pray for someone you know, call or e-mail Barbara Cramer at 570-424-6921 or bjcramer@ptd.net.

9. FOOD PANTRY

This is the beginning of the third year for the food pantry. This past year we have served on average 45 families a month. We purchased two freezers, and now can get frozen food from Second Harvest. Starting last December, we joined the program "Feeding America" and now get food from Aldi's twice a month, which includes frozen bakery goods and meats. We received approximately 1,000 pounds of food from the Boy Scouts and continue to receive donations from Faith United Methodist Church. With all of this food being donated plus all the donations from this parish family the food pantry is well stocked and the clients are very grateful. Thank you for all the support you have given to the food pantry this past year.

Sue Freeman

10. THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING RUTH AND NAOMI CHAPTER

On November 20, 2016 the Ruth and Naomi Chapter of the Daughters of the King were installed at Christ Episcopal Church. Ten new Daughters were admitted to the Order. They are Patti Alleger, Irene Bartz, Rose Hudson, Sharon Moorer, Barbara Cato, Antonia Harewood-Harris, Jenny Collier, Deb Tanico, Michele Causton, and Cynthia Nortey.

Service projects planned for 2017 are sewing teddy bears to give to the police officers for their vehicles for children involved in trauma, creating prayer shawls for distribution to the local nursing homes, collecting care package items for soldiers who are currently not receiving them while on deployment and for those who are struggling locally and are part of the "Street to Feet" program.

If any of these ministries are of interest to you, please contact Sue Freeman or one of the Daughters to find out how you can donate your time, talent or make a financial donation.

In the Fall 2017, we will begin another discernment group for any individual who is interested in becoming a Daughter.

The needs of our parish and community are great and varied. Please join us as we spread Christ's love into our community through prayer and outreach.

Sue Freeman
Chapter President

11. RUTH AND NAOMI FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Order of the DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
Ruth and Naomi Chapter
Christ Episcopal Church, Stroudsburg PA

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2016

INCOME

National Charter membership	\$	1,250.00
Donation	\$	26.00
Gift from sister chapter	\$	25.00

INCOME TOTAL \$ **1,301.00**

EXPENSE

Charter membership/postage	\$	(1,276.00)
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EXPENSE TOTAL \$ **(1,276.00)**

BALANCE ON HAND	\$	25.00
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12. Election of Vestry Members

13. Election of Convention Delegates

14. Rector's Report

The purpose of my report is to give you a brief overview of the past year, as well as to highlight some possible challenges and opportunities we anticipate for this year. I shall begin with the parish statistics from the past year. In 2016 there were 2 baptisms, 3 weddings, 4 funerals and 137 Saturday Evening and Sunday services, with an average weekend attendance of 104. In addition to our weekend services, we also celebrated the Eucharist an additional 48 times during weekday services and provided the Eucharist another 29 times in visitations to parishioners who were either shut-ins or hospitalized. Finally, this past year we had 7 people transfer out, 3 parishioners die and 12 new members join; for a net gain of 4 members. While these statistics, as well as all the others you have heard from the committee chairs today, give a good indication of where we are as a parish, as I have said in previous annual meetings, they are not sufficient. When I came to this parish 5 years ago, the search committee that interviewed me told me the primary concern of this parish was its financial stability. But through your generosity, through your commitment to our Lord and his church, and through the hard work of your vestry, that is no longer the case. Within two years of my coming here you erased budget deficits of \$20,000 to \$30,000 and achieved a balanced budget. And your vestry has presented a balanced budget every year since 2014; including this year. But that is **not** the good news. The good news is that you did this while simultaneously increasing your impact on the lives of many people; both here in Monroe County and beyond. Through your support and involvement in the food pantry, the Bridges Out of Poverty program, United Thank Offering, missionaries in Honduras, the poor in the coal regions of the Appalachian Mountains and the people in our sister diocese in the South Sudan – Kajo Keji; you have changed lives. You have made a difference in a world that seems to constantly tell us we cannot make a difference. But you did not listen to that voice. You listened to the voice we hear week after week in the gospels. And because you listened **and followed** that voice, you made a difference in hundreds and hundreds of lives.

Because of all your hard work and your commitment to our Lord, Christ Church now rests on a firm foundation. But as any builder will tell you, the foundation is not the end goal but is the beginning. Like any builder, we are now called to build on our foundation. This will be the next chapter in our journey together.

On Friday I went to see the movie "Hidden Figures" with my wife. It is a powerful movie and I strongly recommend it to you. But before the movie began I watched several movie trailers of upcoming features. And two trailers particularly grabbed my attention. For both were trailers of movies in which the subject was faith. Both movies focused on the role a faith in God can play in our lives. I must admit I was a little surprised to discover Hollywood is turning out more and more movies dealing with belief in God. And the same thing is happening in television programming; on both broadcast and cable networks.

I believe this is an indication that the entertainment industry has sensed people are looking for meaning in their lives; meaning they cannot find from accumulating more things. People are searching for answers to the more difficult and meaningful questions of life.

And this is where we come in. I believe it is our responsibility – yours and mine – to tell people whom we know about the difference our faith and this church community makes in our lives. This is what we can build on the firm foundation you have worked so diligently to establish these last five years. And so today I am challenging you to build on that foundation.

Now I have not forgotten we are Episcopalians; and that what I am about to suggest is not something that comes easily to us. So I am going to try to make it easier by asking all of us to do what I am convinced we can all do. In the next two years – two years – I am asking each of you to invite a friend, or a neighbor, or a co-worker, or a relative who you know does not attend a church to come to church with you one Sunday. I am asking each of you to find one person – one – in the next two years to come with you to church.

I am not asking you to convert them; or teach them about the Bible. I am not asking you to go knocking door to door. I am simply asking you to invite someone you care about to discover the difference faith can make in their lives. By simply inviting them to join you one Sunday; and leave the rest in God's hands.

You have effectively and enthusiastically answered Jesus' call to reach out to the least among us. But Jesus also asks us to make disciples. And you are far better equipped to help people find what they seek than is the entertainment industry. Hollywood may have recognized there is a hunger. But you have discovered the food that can satisfy that hunger. All Jesus asks is that we not keep it a secret. One person in the next 2 years. I know we can do this. In fact, it is far, far, less difficult to do than it is to do what you have already done these past 5 years.

15. Closing Prayer

May I have a motion to adjourn? A second.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. 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.*

Notes