

Immerse yourself in Christmas: Pray

In this week's Along the Way, I want to extend to you and your loved ones my very best wishes for a blessed and joy-filled Christmas.

As I write those words, I am well aware that those good wishes might be realized in as many different ways as there are individuals who read these reflections.

For one, the greatest blessing might be the healing of an old hurt. For another, a source of great joy could be a secure job with full benefits. A third might welcome especially the news that a loved one, who has suffered greatly, has experienced a peaceful death.

I do not know what present aspects of your life or our times bring true happiness and joy to your heart. But I do encourage you to be mindful of them during this holy season and to thank God for them when you are at worship or in prayer. Expressions of gratitude deepen both our awareness of gifts

along
the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

received and of those who lavish them on us.

If I could offer a second suggestion, it would be that you place before the Lord in confident prayer all that you judge to be broken, lacking, unreconciled or incomplete in us or in the world around us.

As I encourage you, I become aware of some of those yearnings in my own heart. Some examples: I want to recover as fully as I possibly can from the coronary problems I have experienced recently — certainly enough to return to the

full range of my former activities. I pray that we'll find ways to solve our problems — public and personal — without resorting to execution, bombing, abortion, or isolation of the materially poor.

I hope that we can address effectively the ever-widening gap between the wealthy and the poor of this world, a phenomenon that isolates the one from the other and, therefore, weakens all.

Your lists of blessings and hopes might look much different than mine. But I do ask you to think of both of them. To pray in that way is to acknowledge that the God who creates, redeems and sanctifies and cares about us, is present, loving and active in all that is truly human. In other words, so to pray is to immerse ourselves in the deepest spirit of Christmas, the heart of Emmanuel, God is with us.

Peace to all.

The *Catholic Courier* will not publish a Dec. 31 issue.

The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

Will you pray for a priest each day?

OFFERING TO THE ETERNAL FATHER
Eternal Father, we offer You the blood, the passion, and death of Jesus Christ; the sorrows of Mary most holy, and of St. Joseph, in satisfaction for our sins, in aid of the holy souls in purgatory, for the needs of holy Mother Church and for the conversion of sinners.
Amen.

MORNING OFFERING
O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my associates, and that priests may be imbued with Apostolic zeal in the Vineyard of the Master.
Glory be to the Father, etc. (three times).

Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering Sufferings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

January, 1999

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Look for the February MPRP Calendar in the Jan. 28th Courier.				Revs.	Paul A. Bonacci	Bishop Matthew H. Clark
3 Pope John Paul II	4 Sabbatical Priests	5 Joseph F. D'Aurizio	6 Walter F. Cushing	7 Edward J. Dillon	8 William Donnelly	9 Robert Downs
10 Robert M. Egan	11 James C. Enright	12 Thomas M. Erdle	13 John V. Forni	14 Jerome Machar, OCSO	15 John Healy, O. Carm.	16 P. Frederick Helfrich
17 Dennis W. Hickey, Most Rev. DD.VG.	18 Thomas D. Hoctor	19 Michael C. Hogan	20 Timothy E. Horan	21 James A. Schwartz	22 John D. Hurley	23 Callistus Juras, OFM Conv.
24 Peter Mandina	25 Leo J. Mans	26 Charles L. McCarthy	27 William J. McCurdy, SJ	28 Joseph M. McDonnell	29 Kevin E. McKenna	30 Vocations
31 Seminarians						

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