

## UNLEASHING PRAYER FOR OUR PASTOR

“No bystanders.” Unleashing the Gospel doesn’t happen if we stand by and do nothing. The Holy Spirit cannot *enkindle in our hearts the fire of His love* without our cooperation. **Prayer** is a perfect way for us to get off the sidelines and live out Christ’s call to love. We should take the initiative and help unleash the Gospel at STM by enhancing our personal prayer and intercession, in particular for our pastor. In *Unleash the Gospel* Archbishop Vigneron also calls upon “... pastors to recommit to a daily practice of personal prayer and intercession as their highest priority and to lead the parish to do the same.”

We must regularly practice **personal daily prayer** and support each other in prayer as a community. Join with others at the parish **Intercessory Prayer Service, Wednesday, October 18 at 7:00 pm**. This group is called upon in *Unleash the Gospel* to pray regularly for the mission of the parish, the intentions of parishioners, and to support the pastor. Praying together as a community is one way we give of ourselves to help extend God’s Kingdom in our parish and bring God’s mercy to others.



We should make **prayer for our pastor** part of all our prayers. Let’s especially pray for Msgr. Rice as next weekend he will celebrate 40 years as a priest in service to Jesus’ Church and to us! (Thank you, Pastor!) Help Msgr. Rice celebrate by praying for him, and making it a habit to pray for him. He shares the same needs we have for prayer. Praying for each other is a powerful way we accompany one another on our faith journeys.

*Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of Msgr. Rice.  
Through him, we experience Your presence in the Sacraments.  
Help him to be strong in his vocation.  
Set his soul on fire with love for Your people.  
Grant him the Gifts he needs to lead us in the New Evangelization.  
Inspire him with a vision of the Gospel unleashed in our parish.  
Give him the words he needs to open our hearts to Jesus.  
Allow him to experience joy in his ministry.  
Help him to be an instrument of your divine Grace, that he may shepherd us to  
a closer relationship with Your Son and to becoming His joyful disciples.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns as our Eternal  
High Priest.  
Amen.*

(Prayer adapted from *Prayer for Priests* at USCCB.org)