

The Bicentennial Book of Parish Prayers



The Diocese of Ohio
1817-2017

A Letter from the Bishop

Our savior Jesus, in teaching his first disciples to pray, encouraged them to bring before God their every need. Throughout the Diocese of Ohio's bicentennial year, we have brought together the prayers of each of our congregations, that in the months and years to come, we might offer to God with a common voice the needs and aspirations of the church in northern Ohio. In this small volume are gathered our collective hopes and dreams, along with our commitment to surrender to God's dream for us, that we might more fully become the body of Christ.

Please receive this book with gratitude to all those who faithfully penned these petitions and thanksgivings, and include these intercessions in your personal and parochial prayer disciplines.

Know that, in praying my own way through these pages, I will give thanks for each of you, with whose companionship God has so generously blessed my life and ministry.

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
11th Bishop of Ohio
November 2017

Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

O God,
who offers us each morning a new beginning
and in every moment the possibility of new and faithful life,
we look to you with confident hope
as we begin a new century as the Diocese of Ohio.
We give thanks for our forebears,
those courageously faithful women and men who,
200 years ago, established here the witness
of the Episcopal Church
as the first diocese organized beyond the thirteen colonies.
We pray that we might share both their humility
and their fidelity as we approach the challenges of our own day,
relying, as they did, not on ourselves
but on the power of your spirit of holiness.
Grant, most gracious God,
that we might embrace,
with their courage, the future that you dream for us,
to the end that we may more fully become
the very body of Christ,
our Savior and Redeemer.
Amen.

Bellwether Farm

Wakeman

God of all creation,
whose praise is sung by every creature under heaven,
accept our prayer of thanks for the bounty of the earth,
and especially for Bellwether Farm.

We thank you for all those who have worked
and given so generously in establishing it,
for those who have designed and built it,
and for all who will for generations bring it to life.

Grant that both this farm and each of us
may be a bellwether of your mercy, justice, and peace,
ever ringing out the presence of your redeeming love.

All this we ask in the name of Him
who was both lamb and shepherd,
Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Amen.

Church of Our Saviour

Akron

Oh merciful Lord,
let us go into the next bicentennial leaping on the mountains
with sure footedness like the feet of a deer.
Through the years may we continue to love you,
Lord, with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind,
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

St. Andrew's Church

Akron

Gracious and fearsome God,
we praise you now and forever.

We thank you for the power of the Holy Spirit
running through the congregation of St. Andrew's Church.

May we learn to listen to your call and to be your disciples.

Give us the strength to love one another,
the courage to continue to witness to the community around us,
and the grace to love them as our neighbors.

Help us in all we do,
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Akron

Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave the Holy Spirit to abide with your people,
the church, forever,
renew the same Spirit within us,
cleansing our hearts from evil,
and filling us with your grace and truth.
May faith, hope, and love so abound
in our lives that we will be,
in our time and place,
a radiant witness to you,
through your mercy.
Amen.

St. Philip's Church

Akron

Dear God,

We ask that your will be our energy.

We submit ourselves to your direction as you guide St. Philip's.

We pray for each other in our daily lives that there be

cheerful reconciliation amongst our members and

dutiful evangelism and action by our church members

to bring in the unchurched, inactive members,

new members, parents, and children.

Influence us to revive spiritual faith in our community.

God, please speak to us and let us be patient for your answers.

We are here to serve your mission.

Amen.

Trinity Church

Alliance

Holy and blessed Father,
you have called into being every speck of dust,
every spinning world, every hoping heart.
For love of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ,
you have called into being Christian communities
where faith, hope, and love may flourish.
May the parishes of Trinity, Alliance and Our Saviour, Salem,
flourish in these virtues through the Holy Spirit,
their witness contributing to the celebration
and advancement of the grace bequeathed
to all the people of the Diocese of Ohio
in the course of its 200 year history.
This we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

St. Matthew's Church

Ashland

Lord, bring us closer to you through daily conversation with you
in thought, word, and deed.

Make us beacons of light in witness of your word
as we commit ourselves to a new century of ministry,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

St. Peter's Church

Ashtabula

Gracious and merciful God,
you guided the hearts of the pioneer
men and women who loved you,
to relocate to the Connecticut Western Reserve,
and through them to provide
for the first Episcopal presence in Northeast Ohio,
that would be named St. Peter's Church.
Your presence sustained your beloved for 200 years:
through the harshness of hard winters,
the tragedy of several wars,
the joy of agricultural and industrial prosperity,
as well as the difficulty of economic drought.
As the benefactors of your grace shown in the past,
we offer our most hearty gratitude
and request your guidance and continued grace
as we move into the future
so that all of our deliberations
and actions will be for your glory and the witness of your love.
We offer our prayer in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

St. Andrew's Church

Barberton

Oh God,
our heavenly Father,
make the doors of our parish wide enough
to receive all who need your care,
human love, and fellowship;
and narrow enough to shut out all pride,
selfishness, and prejudice.
May all that we do be to your honor and glory
and for the extension of your kingdom
and the Christian witness of our parish.
May we continue to be yours forever
and increase daily in love and service to others
in the power of your Holy Spirit.
This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.
Amen.

St. Barnabas Church

Bay Village

Holy and gracious God,
you lead us into the paths of justice and peace.
You have always called us to be reconcilers
and to welcome the stranger and the marginalized.
Continue to empower us to celebrate differences
and to use the gifts of everyone
to bring the whole world into your kingdom.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Bellevue

Dear heavenly Father,

We thank you for your gift of this congregation
which is comprised of friends, family, and church members
who diligently work to spread your precious Word and love.

We thank you for your Spirit
which has supported and guided this congregation
for more than 160 years, in good times and in bad times.

We have felt your hand upon us and pray that your Spirit
will continue to guide this congregation.

We ask that you inspire us to look out into the community
and help those who are struggling.

May we embrace them as they deal
with overwhelming life problems.

May we, with your help, teach them
about the God of hope and forgiveness.

We ask that you guide us as we discern those gifts among us
and how they can be most useful

in supporting the mission work of this congregation
and to be a blessing to others.

We ask that you encourage us as we move forward.

May we not get discouraged
when the odds against success seem overwhelming.

We ask that you remind us to forget about numbers
but instead to focus on positive results.

May the life of St. Paul's be ever guided by the Spirit of love.

Dear Father,

Bless the clergy who help to serve our congregation
and bless our lay leadership in their roles within the church.

May we be your hands and your feet
as we continue to serve you with grateful and open hearts.

We ask these things in the
name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

St. Thomas Church

Berea

O God, who leads and guides the faithful:
Jesus, your anointed,
taught his disciple Thomas,
that his seeing you lets us see you.
Bless us and every generation with the vision to see
and follow the way, the truth, and the life into which you call us.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

St. James Church

Boardman

Gracious God, you led the founders of this parish
from eastern roots into a wild place.
It became a promised land for many, full of milk and honey.
A saint dwelt in the fields and forest.
Lives here flourished,
you gave birth to our joy.
Faith and community grew,
you watched over our lives.
In time, challenges grew up around us,
you witnessed our doubt, our anger, and our tears.
When those tears fell upon the ground you did not abandon us,
but remained with us as always,
protecting us with your wings and catching us.
Other saints gathered here.
God of our neighbors,
God of our children and grandchildren,
God of many saints,
guide us into a new frontier,
into strange places our parents and
grandparents might not recognize.
Open our hearts and eyes to see you
and your children in your Son's light.
Give our souls courage to build new connections,
new communities, and new bonds of love.
May we ever be vessels of your merciful peace
ready to pour out your life-giving presence
upon all your beloved creation,
saints keeping watch at the eastern door.
Amen.

St. John the Baptist Church

Bowling Green

Lord God Almighty,
as we embark upon the third century
of the Diocese of Ohio,
we pray for strength, wisdom,
and courage to do your will in the world.
We thank you, Lord, for our gifts,
and for all that you provide.
We ask for your guidance as we move forward
in doing your ministry.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

St. Matthew's Church

Brecksville

Holy God,

we raise our voices and hearts to you
in thanksgiving for everything you have given us,
especially your son, Jesus Christ,
who taught us how to live to further
the fulfillment of your kingdom here on earth.

Open our hearts, minds, and spirits to continually
recognize and utilize the gifts you have given us
so that we may be even more welcoming and
loving to those who enter our doors
and those we encounter in our daily life.

Help us grow closer to you
and inspire us to share our faith stories with others,
inviting them to come, see, and
experience your grace and love.

Give us the wisdom to create worship
and program experiences
to help all people grow in faith and love.

We give thanks for those who journeyed before us
who had the vision to plant St. Matthew's in Brecksville.

We ask your blessing on us as we continue to worship together
and search for ways to further grow your church.

We pray for those who will come after us
as they will be entrusted with the gift
of growing your kingdom
into the third century of the Diocese of Ohio.

We pray through Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

St. Patrick Church

Brunswick

Heavenly Father,
who resides within us and helps us in our daily life,
we come to you in prayer asking for your
continued blessings,
this year, next year, and evermore.
We, your faithful ministers
of St. Patrick Episcopal Church in Brunswick,
have felt your love, guidance,
and support in our short years of existence.
Help us continue to focus on our relationships with others,
helping them to gain a clear image of your immense love.
Help us show others what we have found
in our lives with you and in you.
Help us to show love and peace
when we interact with each other,
especially the needy, the frightened, and the empty.
Bless us to continue to share the love of Christ
in our community and world.
We will continue to thank those who serve our country
and pray that they return safely to their families.
The world is full of your children.
Grant us peace and strength in this world of turmoil
and help us to show others
how to love each other in your Name.
Amen.

St. Mark's Church

Canton

Lord, our God,
who meets us in homes and in schools,
in our families and in our world,
open us always to your light and life.
When we partner with others
for the flourishing of our community,
may we share the abundance of your grace.
As we make use of ourselves and our building,
brew up in us a thirst for knowing
and teaching the Jesus way.
In fellowship and prayer,
in worship and in building relationships,
may we be strengthened for your service.
May our education in your way be steadfast.
Most of all, enable us to love and serve you
for the sake of the world that you came to redeem.
We pray in the name of Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Canton

Oh God,
Creator of the kingdom,
who has overseen us through the ages and has brought us
through 200 years as the Diocese of Ohio:
guide the people of St. Paul's, Canton,
to a deeper spiritual relationship with you,
with each other, and with our community,
so that we may celebrate, worship, study,
enjoy friendship and feasting,
and share our many blessings with a needy world.
With the love of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

St. Martin's Church

Chagrin Falls

Lord God of Hosts,
who in the life of your servant
Saint Martin of Tours, revealed to us
the virtues of courage, compassion, and humility:
grant us the grace to follow his good example,
that we may with confidence, walk before you in love,
pursue that peace which passes all understanding,
coming at last to the habitations
of those who worship your name in beauty unveiled;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

St. Luke Church

Chardon

Gracious God,
we thank you and we love you.
This love and gratitude we experience arise
from the privilege of being placed here
by you in this time and the community we serve.
Where there was nothing,
is now your church to which
we commit our lives and our love.
We ask only for sensitive hearts and willing hands
to work the works you have prepared for us to do,
so that the mission of this diocese
may continue and ever flourish.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
unto the ages of ages.
Amen.

St. Andrew's Church

Cleveland

Gracious Lord,
good and loving guide,
we give thee great thanks for the myriad of blessings
showered upon us over the last 125 years.
We give thee great thanks for priests
who were men of spiritual vision,
had strength and compassion, and
who led and taught us through their examples.
Loving God, we humbly come before thee
to ask for your continued blessings.
You have bound us together in love.
We give thee great thanks
for we realize you have given us the gift
of loving spiritual family.
You have endowed us with clear vision for the future.
In all that we are and all that we do,
we continue to seek after you.
Those who also seek are drawn to us
as we grow in your Word.
Your strength, dear Lord,
has given us courage to face the future
even amidst hardship and loss.
We remain encouraged by your presence
and so we continually give you all the praise and the glory.
Amen.

St. John's Church

Cleveland (Ohio City)

God of resurrection,
we give thanks for your legacy of liberation
through St. John's Church.
From slaves traveling the Underground Railroad
to freedom in Canada,
to American Indians organizing for civil rights in the 1960's,
to LGBTQ+ congregations worshipping openly
and freely at St. John's in the 1980's,
you have used this place
and people to bring hope to countless numbers.
Give us the will to continue now, in our time,
along the path you have set.
Use us in your work of recreation,
building toward the promised day when all humanity
again exists in unity with each other in Christ.
Amen.

St. Luke's Church

Cleveland

Oh loving Jesus,
who taught us compassion
and opened our eyes to the suffering of others;
you came to release the captives,
restore sight to the blind, and free the oppressed.
Give us strength, wisdom,
and faith to walk in your mighty example
as we interact with people in our daily lives
and as we encounter systems
that seek to blind us to the oppression
of the poor, captive, and marginalized.
Allow us to build community
and restore a right relationship with you
through generosity and an open heart.
For you reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Trinity Cathedral

Cleveland

Gracious God,
we praise and thank you for the founders and members,
past and present, of Trinity Cathedral.
Inspire us by their vision, faith, and generosity
to discern and fulfill the earthly
and spiritual needs of the generations ahead of us.
May both children and adults
forever find Trinity to be a community
where they can worship, serve, play, and grow in faith.
Help us to continue to nurture Trinity
so that it can be a welcoming place for the faithful,
the stranger, the young, the transient,
and all those who call this place their cathedral.
Forever ignite our mission and ministry,
through your love and spirit within us,
from generation to generation.
Amen.

St. Alban's Church

Cleveland Heights

O God of the stranger, the unwelcomed,
and the one without a place to call home,
look favorably upon St. Alban's Church.
Allow it to be a place of radical welcoming,
hospitality, and prayer,
modeled after your son Jesus' life and ministry.
In difficult times, may we remember that you,
O Lord, are always making all things new.
In joyful times,
may all of our praise be directed toward you,
the creator and sustainer of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Cleveland Heights

Risen Lord,
you made yourself known
to the Apostle Paul in a flash of light,
and called him from a life of zeal to follow you
in spreading your comforting good news
to all people everywhere.
As the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
sets forth into its third century,
reveal yourself to us as a parish and as a diocese.
Convert us, direct our zeal,
and call us to be yours;
let our hearts and minds be one in love of you;
challenge us with the gifts of your Spirit
in the work of ministry;
stir up in us a willingness to leave behind whatever binds us
in order to proclaim your good news to the world;
let us be always aware of the wideness of your mercy;
and commission us in your grace,
not counting the cost,
to be vibrant witnesses of your love in our neighborhood
and throughout the world.
All this we ask for your love's sake.
Amen.

Trinity Church

Coshocton

Heavenly Father,
we pray that we may continue to pursue
the fulfillment of the mission of Trinity Church,
which is to carry the excitement
of the Word of God in Christ
to our community.

We pray also that we may always be inviting to others to worship
and participate as members of our Episcopal family,
sharing in the mission, comfort, and power of the Holy Spirit.
In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

St. John's Church

Cuyahoga Falls

Almighty and everlasting God,
hear our prayers and grant to this parish
all things necessary for its spiritual well-being:
enlighten and guide our leaders,
our clergy, wardens, and vestry;
strengthen and increase the faithful;
visit and relieve the sick;
turn and renew the hard-hearted or careless;
bring again those who have wandered;
remove from us anything that resists your grace
or hinders your purposes;
make all of us one united voice to sing your praise
and give witness to your goodness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Grace Church

Defiance

O God,
you number the stars in the heavens and
know how many grains of sand there are on a beach,
but numbers are not as important to you as faithfulness.
Help us to be a faithful remnant,
trusting that our worship and witness
will secure for us a place in your future.
May the sacrifice of the one who died on a cross
be the model for our living
for it is in His name we pray.
Amen.

St. Stephen's Church

East Liverpool

Most loving God,
we thank you for the privilege
of serving the people of East Liverpool
and the surrounding area for almost two centuries,
both in our community's good times and bad.
Your Spirit has continually given us the wisdom
to know how best to serve and the strength to do so.
As we look ahead and try to discern
how best to continue our ministry,
we ask your continued wisdom and strength so that we,
the family of St. Stephen's,
may be witnesses to your love
and care in all that we say and do.
We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus.
Amen.

St. Andrew's Church

Elyria

God,
creator of all that is, was, and will be,
your presence knits us into a glorious tapestry
of fellowship and love.
Continue to guide us in braiding new threads of acceptance,
peace, and outreach into our community and world.
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Church of the Epiphany

Euclid

Dear God,
the generations praise you in this place.
We hear their harmonies within our own hymns
as we sing your glory.
It is an epiphany to find ourselves here,
accepted as living members of one family,
wrought into being by your story;
born of one baptism,
fed with one bread.
We pray that the children we raise,
the saints we send out from this place,
will continue to echo your praises,
wherever you find them,
and remember us kindly
as those raised in your great mercy and love.
Amen.

Trinity Church

Findlay

Oh God of wind and water,
lakes and rivers, swamps and fields;
creator of all that thrive therein,
crops and creatures,
incubator of life;
founder of our settlements, towns and villages;
source of salvation,
well-spring of faith:
pour your Holy Spirit into the tiles of our hearts
so your love supports the parishes of this diocese,
and all the dioceses your faith has founded,
and inspires the work you have given us to do.
In the name of Jesus,
whose blood flowed for us.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Fremont

Blessed are you O Lord, our God,
King of the Universe, who restored the sight of St. Paul.
Give sight to your church in order that we may see
what you are doing and, with bold confidence,
come alongside of you as kingdom builders.
This we ask in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Harcourt Parish

Gambier

Almighty and ever-living God,
whose hands enclose all human history,
as we approach the beginning of our third century,
keep Harcourt Parish mindful
of the extraordinary blessings you have visited upon us.
Through the missionary spirit of Philander Chase,
you have established us upon Gambier Hill;
and through the gracious generosity
of Bishop Chase's successors
you have enabled us to conduct our worship life
in the Church of the Holy Spirit.
Keep us mindful of our extraordinary responsibilities
to be faithful stewards of these endowments
and to share them humbly
and generously with the several communities
amidst which we live
and move and have our being;
and in particular to remember
our special mission to Kenyon College and its students.
Please accept our humblest thanks,
and please keep our doors and our hearts always open.
We ask all these things in the name of
your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

St. Christopher's by the River Church

Gates Mills

Dear Lord,

We thank you for the many blessings
you have showered upon us:

for the peaceful, beautiful valley in which we live,
for home, family, friends, work, health,
and others too numerous to mention.

Help us daily to be mindful of these gifts,
and let them make us more aware of and compassionate
towards those who are not as fortunate:

the homeless, the refugee, the poor,
the disenfranchised, and the marginalized.

Guide us to move out of our comfort zone
to share the resources

you have given us with those in need;
to extend these blessings beyond this valley
to any place you may lead us,

knowing that our only true security and comfort is in you.

In a world where technology
has brought the problems of all mankind
into our living rooms, help us not to be overwhelmed
and respond with fear and isolation.

Rather, guide us to open our hearts and minds to new ideas
and to thoughts and beliefs which may be strange to us,
so that, with understanding, we can work together

to acknowledge everyone as your child,
using whatever gifts and talents we have
to spread your love throughout the world.

Amen.

Christ Church

Geneva

Heavenly Father,
in this the 200th anniversary of the founding
of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio,
help us to renew our efforts
to be living examples of your Word.
Let us not simply react to the needs of the community,
but seek out those needs and offer assistance
without asking for or expecting any recognition or praise.
Strengthen our bonds with each other and our neighbors.
Make us sensitive to the silent struggles of those around us.
Help us, Lord,
to be mindful of the sacrifices
and contributions of those who came before us
in the diocese and in our Christ Church, Geneva parish
over the past 200 years, and to honor their legacy
in all that we do this bicentennial year and in the years to come.
Be with us as we continue our mission
of offering a safe and welcoming environment
for people of all ages, races,
and persuasions to come together to worship you
and create a nurturing church community.
Lastly, hold our sometimes fragile parish
in your loving hands.
Encourage us to be the best versions of ourselves,
and remind us that we have only to ask
to receive your forgiveness when
we fall short of our expectations and goals.
In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

Christ Church

Hudson

Gracious and sustaining God:
you have brought us through the wilderness
to a place of new life and great hope.
Keep us from complacency and inertia.
Give us wisdom and grace to move into the future
you envision for us.
Grant us joy in gospel mischief
as we seek to make a gospel difference in your world.
Amen.

Christ Church

Huron

Heavenly Father,
we pray that, as the Diocese of Ohio begins its 200th year,
we at Christ Church, Huron,
and all churches in the diocese,
can reach out to all people with love and respect.
We ask that each church would work
to open dialog with other like-minded Christians
and that we, as a community,
can spread the good news of Jesus Christ.
Be present as we search out ways to reach out to those
who are seeking a deeper knowledge of your Son and you.
Help us to strengthen the hearts
of those troubled, hurt, and needy.
We ask that the next 200 years will be a beacon
to all that the Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Ohio is a welcoming, loving, and accepting
church established in the faith of Jesus Christ and you.
We ask this in his Name, whom you sent to save the world,
our Saviour and protector, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” (Isaiah 6:8)

Christ Church

Kent

Almighty God,
who always calls us to let down our nets
on the neglected side of the boat:
open our eyes to see the needs of our forgotten,
invisible, or marginalized neighbors,
that we may proclaim your love, both by word and by deed,
to a people yet unknown to us.
May we be prepared to receive them
as your blessing to us.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ,
friend of outcasts and strangers.
Amen.

St. Hubert's Church

Kirtland Hills

Dear God, heavenly Father,
We give thanks to you for the congregation that is St. Hubert's,
for the blessing of their love and caring.
Fill us with your heavenly grace,
that our actions may honor you always.
Give us the wisdom and determination
to provide for the needs of our growing parish family,
in accordance with your will.
Strengthen us and enrich our lives,
that we may be inspired to action in your service.
Bless us in all our endeavors,
that they might bear witness to our love for you
and for each other.
In Christ's name.
Amen.

Church of the Ascension

Lakewood

Good and gracious God,
we pray for all who have yet to know of your love and mercy.
May the Church of the Ascension
be so inspired by your Holy Spirit
that it may serve as a beacon of hope
and a witness to the Gospel for all people.
Grant that we may continually grow in our own knowledge
and love of you as we strive to use all that we have,
and all that we are, to follow
and imitate your beloved Son
Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

St. Peter's Church

Lakewood

Holy God,
loving creator, loyal friend, lasting spirit,
we thank you for this day and for all of your blessings every day.
We thank you for the perseverance of congregations past,
whose love and dedication built the gift
of the St. Peter's we have today.
We thank you for our loving congregation,
whose generous time, talent, and treasure
are the lifeblood of St. Peter's.
We feel your loving presence
as we worship together on Sunday mornings
and all throughout the week.
We thank you for showing us how to love each other,
our community, and the world,
welcoming everyone into our home, regardless.
We thank you for providing us with the skills and abilities
to feed the hungry and to befriend those who come for food
and fellowship at our community meal.
We thank you for all of our ministries that
grow our caring community, from fellowship to stewardship,
from facilities to finances, and everything in between.
We thank you for our youth, who are inspired to learn your ways,
and help those in need in humble service as the body of Christ.
We thank you for our childcare center,
which provides a loving home away from home.
We pray for your spirit of wisdom and
guidance to steer our parish
in ways that will give future generations
as beautiful a gift as we have been given.
Loving creator, loyal friend, lasting spirit
help us see your presence already moving in the world.
Lead us to do the work you have given us to do.
May we always show forth the love of your Son,
our Savior Jesus Christ,
to everyone we meet today and in the years to come.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Holy Trinity Church

Lisbon

Loving God,
through your word alone, you created all that is.
Through your only Son,
you reconciled us with each other and with you.
Through your Holy Spirit, you created your church.
Empower us, the people of Holy Trinity Church,
to seek your love within all whom we encounter.
And as we celebrate this 200th anniversary of our diocese,
may we continually grow in generosity
and service to your beloved world.
Amen.

Church of the Redeemer

Lorain

O merciful and gracious God,
who truly was our help in ages past
and will be our help in the age to come,
we thank you for guiding the people
of the Church of the Redeemer
to serve you by serving the lost
and the least of the City of Lorain.
May we always be humble,
seeking to see your face in our neighbors
who come to be fed in body and spirit.
Continue to inspire us in our ministry
and give us hope that we may share
that hope with others,
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
to whom be all honor and glory.
Amen.

Church of the Good Shepherd

Lyndhurst

Almighty God,
whose glory we celebrate on the
60th Anniversary of the groundbreaking
of this house of prayer:
We give you thanks for the fellowship
of those who have worshipped in this place,
and we pray that all who seek you here may find you
and be filled with your joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

St. Timothy's Church

Macedonia

Lord God,
source of all that is good,
join us in the Diocese of Ohio
and here, at St. Timothy's Church in Macedonia,
as we intentionally invite new people
into relationship with you.
Lend us a guiding hand as we welcome newcomers
into our spiritual community.
Grant us wisdom as we offer them connections
through worship, education, and fellowship
which will draw them into our shared life
and into deeper relationship with you.
All this we ask in your name.
Amen.

Grace Church

Mansfield

Loving God,
who guided our forebears,
we pray that you will deepen within each of us
a sense of gratitude
for the many sacrifices made by those
who have gone before us
in the Diocese of Ohio and at Grace Church.
May we continue to see, by faith,
the needs of those around us
and the needs of those who will come after us;
may we do all that is possible
to witness to your steadfast
and abiding love, in word and deed.
Gracious God,
as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present,
we look forward with eager eyes to the future.
Help us make Grace Church
a blessing to our neighbors
as well as our members.
In your holy Name we pray
in thanksgiving and faith.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Marion

Almighty God,
you create in us hearts to care for the world you love.
Fill us with your Spirit,
that our food ministries may be true blessings
to the people of Marion,
and that our own lives may witness to you through them.
As our diocese begins a third century of mission,
we pray we will ever increasingly join
with our sisters and brothers
across Ohio in love and service.
Amen.

St. Timothy's Church

Massillon

Faithful God,
we thank you for steadfastly guiding the people of St. Timothy's
through many generations these past 180 years.
Give us the courage to seek you in our community,
the faith to step out in boldness,
and the trust that you will never forsake us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Maumee

Gracious God,
we have been blessed in so many ways.
We are thankful for those who came before us;
they were inspired and guided by you to found our church.
We are grateful for their 200 years
of wise leadership and discerning care.
May we continue to be blessed
as we endeavor to grow and prosper,
being ever mindful of your charge not to only love you
but to love our neighbors as ourselves.
So doing, may the light of your love become a true
and brilliant beacon in the wilderness.
Amen.

St. Bartholomew's Church

Mayfield Village

Our heavenly Father,
we thank you for the privilege of being your servants
in the Diocese of Ohio for the past 200 years.
You have blessed us with the wonderful guidance
of gifted bishops and priests.
Please help us to be ever mindful of our call to be your hands
and feet to the people of northern Ohio.
We ask your grace to be with us
as we try to do what you would have us to do
for the next 200 years and ever after.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Medina

Holy God,
who sends forth missionaries enlivened with your Spirit,
we give you thanks and praise for the energy, faith,
and zeal of your servant Roger Searle,
founder of this St. Paul's Parish of Medina, Ohio.
We pray, following in his footsteps
and inspired by his example
and those of the parishioners and clergy who have preceded us
during the congregation's first two centuries, that
we, and those who come after us,
may be empowered by your love and grace
to preserve what is good and beneficial of the past
and forge a faithful and prosperous future
to the glory of your Name
and the blessing of your people;
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

St. Andrew Church

Mentor

Generous God,
thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to live in us
and to give us strength to do your beloved Son's work
in our time and place as the
community of St. Andrew, Mentor.
Thank you for making us your church
in the midst of new creation
and for grounding us in scripture, tradition, and reason,
as we travel the Episcopal way on the road to eternal love.
Help us to tread our pilgrim path lightly
and to see the way with new eyes,
clinging to the cross even as we embrace the world that is.
Inspire us to nurture your spark in one another
and in those we do not know,
until we truly understand
that you are present in this moment, eternally,
and all that you have made and all you will make is sacred space.
Forgive us our frailty and failure to see your continuous grace
at work in the world.
Help us to forgive ourselves and one another.
May we always face the future with
"gladness and singleness of heart,"
refreshed by your living water
to act as one, as you are one, and live in love.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Mount Vernon

Most merciful God,
we pray for the future of St. Paul's, Mount Vernon.
Lead us and help us to prosper now and for the next 100 years.
We ask that as we gather as a family
we are able to hear the children's voices
as clearly as we hear your word and example.
Guide us to exemplify this word and example in our mission
to reach out to the community and the world around us.
Allow us to seek your Spirit to guide us to action
for each of the next 100 years.
All this we ask in Jesus' name.
Amen.

St. John's Church

Napoleon

Heavenly Father,
we ask that you bless our families, friends, and neighbors.
We thank you for the blessings of our parish and diocese.
We pray for your guidance throughout the coming years,
that your will for us may be fulfilled.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen

Trinity Church

New Philadelphia

Oh God,

you have prepared for those who love you
such good things that surpass our understanding.

We thank you for sustaining us through past struggles
and inspiring us to make contributions
for the benefit of our community.

As we continue our journey, make us mindful of our past
and present, and our potential for the future.

Give us guidance to attract people
who become filled with the Holy Spirit,
so that we can continue to serve your creation
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

St. Luke's Church

Niles

With deep faith in the power, compassion,
and unconditional love of God,
we give thanks for the faith community of St. Luke's,
our outreach ministry to those who are poor and vulnerable,
our desire to capture the curiosity
of our young people to find out about God,
the Scriptures, and Christian ideas.

We thank God for our ability to continue our day-to-day parish
caretaking ministries which can go so easily unnoticed:
cleaning, altar guild, maintenance, continuing stewardship,
prayer for others, music, leadership, serving others,
worship, managing and serving dinners,
and so much more.

We look to the future with the same faith and trust
that the Holy Spirit has given us as a guide in our relationships,
our families, our community, and our spirituality.

We pray not only for ourselves,
but for other faith communities, the Diocese of Ohio,
our country, and our world.

God bless everyone.

Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Norwalk

Eternal God,
we give thanks for those who have come before us,
the founders and saints who have carried your flag
for the last 200 years.
We ask for your strength in our time,
to further the story of bringing about your reign in its fullness.
Forgive us as we inevitably lose focus on your means and ends.
Call us back as participants in your work of mercy in the world.
Gracious God,
help us to leave a strong foundation
for your people 200 years from now
and beyond, until the return of your Son.
Amen.

Christ Church

Oberlin

Gracious, generous,
and eternally affirming God,
we thank you for Christ Church, Oberlin
and the Diocese of Ohio,
for our history of service to the people of our area,
and for the leaders who have guided us
through difficult times and joyful ones.
We ask for the imagination to embrace your dreams for us,
for the wisdom to bring those dreams to maturity,
and for the courage and resources to carry them out.
May we always be guided by your Spirit,
and may our plans always be informed by your love.
Bless our clergy and lay leaders today,
and through the years to come,
that they may lead us with clarity of vision,
commitment to peace and justice, and hope for the future.
May we always be your hands
and heart in this community and in the world.
We ask that we may see and serve Christ in all people
and work tirelessly for the coming of your kingdom.
We ask these things in the name of the One
who has saved and loved us all.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Oregon

Dear God,
give St. Paul's, Oregon the strength
as a congregation to share your love
with one another
and our neighbors
and be welcoming to all.
Amen.

St. James Church

Painesville

Holy God,

accept our gratitude as we pray,
we give thanks to you.

For the gift of your Son, our Savior and Redeemer,
we give thanks to you.

For years of blessing our parish family,
in worship and in service to others,
we give thanks to you.

For the Holy Spirit moving among us
and speaking to us in our worship,
kindling the light of Christ within us,
we give thanks to you.

For calling us to be the heart
and hands of Christ in the world,
and for giving us the resources of grace
and the means to reach out to those in need
through our many ministries,
we give thanks to you.

Continue to walk with us,
so we may continue to do all the things
you would have us do,
and what we ought to do, with your grace,
we will do.

For His sake,
we are St. James,
who give thanks and praise to you.
Amen.

All Saints Church

Parma

Lord God,
you have given us each the precious gift of the Holy Spirit,
who distributes to us in turn so many different gifts,
and yet you are the same God at work in all of your saints.
Grant us the grace to celebrate each other's gifts and
the will to use our own gifts for your glory,
today and over the course of the coming century.
In the name of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,
who will not fail to inspire us.
Amen.

St. Timothy's Church

Perrysburg

O God,

you sent faithful missionaries along horse-back trails
to share the Gospel in the Black Swamp region.

Through the Holy Spirit's power and their valiant efforts,
our forebears in the faith grew congregations
along the Maumee River that eventually
birthed St. Timothy's Church in Perrysburg.

We pray that the Father's spirit of adventure
and the saving grace of Jesus

may be offered through the earthen vessels
of this generation's faithful,

that your Holy Name may be praised

and the Gospel continue to be shared here
in word and action.

We ask this in the holy Name of Jesus.

Amen.

St. Thomas' Church

Port Clinton

Everliving God,
in centuries past, you blessed your apostle Thomas
with a firm and certain faith
so that he would be prepared to build your church in the hearts
and minds of those who had yet to know the Gospel.
We pray you, likewise, bless us
and prepare our parish,
in this new century,
to be builders of your church in the hearts
and minds of those in Port Clinton
who have yet to hear, see,
or feel your great love for the whole world;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Put-in-Bay

Loving Lord,
creator of lake and sky,
you show us thin places between your kingdom
and our island home.
Give us the strength to share your love.
Help us to follow you by faith,
and welcome all who reach our shores.
Show us ways we can be better caretakers of our planet
so that we may continue to sustain life
with healthy food and life-giving water.
May we encourage Christian growth in each generation
as we proclaim your Word by word and deed.
As we reach out to children and adults,
may we inspire songs of praise
and a thirst for learning
and sharing your message to the world.
We pray that future generations will find peaceful ways
to solve disagreements.
Guide us as we continue our walk of faith with fervent hope
that love and peace will prevail over hate and war.
We look forward to the day of your coming.
We pray in the name of the undivided Trinity.
Amen.

Grace Church

Ravenna

Our gracious, heavenly Father,
we give you thanks on the occasion of the
bicentennial celebration of the Episcopal Church in Ohio.
We honor the brave and diligent early members
of our families of faith
who established congregations in what was wilderness;
we gratefully acknowledge the heritage
with which we have been endowed.
As we approach a new century of faith,
may we face it with equal courage and steadfastness of heart.
Give us strength to engage the wilderness
present in our own age—
hatred, bigotry, ignorance, fear, poverty,
hunger, injustice, and oppression.
Lord, strengthen us for this work.
Guide our hearts and our hands to do your will.
Help us to see Christ in all we serve.
May we know the joy of your presence
among us as we live into our faith.
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

Church of Our Saviour

Salem

Holy and blessed Father,
you have called into being every speck of dust,
every spinning world, every hoping heart.
For love of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
you have called into being Christian communities
where faith, hope, and love may flourish.
May the parishes of Trinity, Alliance and Our Saviour, Salem,
flourish in these virtues through the Holy Spirit;
their witness contributing to the celebration
and advancement of the grace bequeathed
to all the people of the Diocese of Ohio
in the course of its 200 year history.
This we ask in the name of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Grace Church

Sandusky

Holy God, holy and loving one,
we give you thanks for the ways
in which you are present in our lives,
in our companionship, in our neighbors,
and in our community.

We thank you for calling us out into your world,
to befriend others in your name,
to work in your vineyard,
and conspire with you to bring good news
to all whom we encounter.

We ask that you continue to love the people of grace
into your ways of generosity, care,
and companionship with all.

Amen.

Christ Church

Shaker Heights

Holy God, source of life and love,
you call us to be a people of praise and thanksgiving.
As we celebrate this bicentennial year of the Diocese of Ohio,
we lift our voices in gratitude for the mission,
ministry, and the proclamation of the good news
that has occurred since 1817
as we, the Episcopal Church in Ohio,
have served your people.
Open our hearts during this celebratory year to hear your voice
as you call us to new ways of being the church
for generations to come.
In all we do, let the Gospel be the plumb line in our lives
as we strive to follow Jesus,
the Holy One of God.
Pour out your Spirit on all creation,
so that our sons and daughters may
have hopeful visions of the future,
and our elders may dream dreams of your reign on earth.
May the Spirit infuse us with the desire
and strength to bring your kingdom to fruition in word and deed.
Bless Christ Church in Shaker Heights.
Continue to open our hearts and minds
so that we may ever be a place for
spiritual growth, meaningful worship, formation in the faith,
and a witness to Christ's love in the world.
We give thanks for the healing, unity, and growth
that we have experienced in our common life.
May we continue to grow as a center of faith,
culture, and the arts in the Van Aken District.
Finally, may we love one another as we have been so richly loved.
We pray these things in the name of the one who loves us,
Jesus the Christ.
Amen.

St. Mark's Church

Shelby

Heavenly Father,
we praise your name and thank you for our families,
friends, and loved ones.
We ask your forgiveness for our sins and shortcomings.
We prayerfully seek the leading of your Holy Spirit
as we share in acts of outreach
and citizenship in our community,
always treating others as we wish to be treated.
We hold our parish, diocese, and community
in our prayers as we spread God's Word to those seeking Him.
Amen.

St. Mark's Church

Sidney

Loving and gracious God,
Holy One in our midst,
you have been our protector
and sustainer since our inception in 1901.
We ask you to continue to bless, guide, and protect St. Mark's
as we continue to share your good news
for a new century with new challenges
and new opportunities to celebrate
your Gospel faithfulness at work, in us and through us,
with others in Sidney and Shelby County,
and within the Diocese of Ohio.
We pray this in the name of Jesus,
through the power of your Holy Spirit.
Amen.

St. Paul's Church

Steubenville

Heavenly Father,
as we give thanks for our diocese
and its 200 years of faithful service to you,
we also remember our church of St. Paul's in Steubenville,
one of the pioneer churches, whose history of devotion
and ministry outreach helped, in part,
towards the foundation that we celebrate this year.
May your blessing be on our diocese, bishop, clergy,
and people in our future life and ministry in your service.
Amen.

St. Stephen's Church

Steubenville

Accept our prayer of thanks, O God,
for the ministries and communicants of St. Stephen's Church,
past, present, and future.

In our bicentennial year as a diocese,
we bless you for all that has been accomplished by our parish
in service to the world you love
and all that lies ahead in the century before us.

Grant that we might ever more fully follow the example
of our patron saint, Stephen,
whose own fidelity to Christ and willingness to stand up
for the neglected and disregarded cost him his life
and doubtless encouraged the conversion of St. Paul.

Inspire in us such a sacrifice
on behalf of those in need, that we,
like Stephen, might be a worthy inspiration to others.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.

Old Trinity Church

Tiffin

Heavenly Father,
we give our thanks for your many blessings.
You have graced those touched by the soul of Old Trinity
with visioning eyes,
eyes that caress the past, embracing memories of the foundation
and the strength of this body, and bringing us to the present.
Loving eyes of the present that are wide open and welcoming:
calling to nourish, attend,
and support each other and the community.
Continual visioning eyes: striving to live
and work each day as you,
Lord, would direct us now and in the future.
Thank you, heavenly Father,
for the gift of the soul of Old Trinity.
Old Trinity is not bricks and mortar.
It is a living foundation, a strength, a purpose –
to live, toil, and grow in your mission.
Amen.

All Saints' Church

Toledo

Dear God,

First, a little wooden box.

Now, sturdy concrete blocks.

Many ancestors and fellow church members.

With love and warmth like radiant embers.

Remember them all, call their names.

From the Maumee to the River Thames.

All the places we've been and prayed.

All the souls who've left and all who've stayed.

Contributions, both quiet and loudly recognized.

Ancestors prayed over and clergy eulogized.

With God we never have been alone.

From curious children to wise elders grown,

our parents, our priests, our bishops, and our souls,
help us all reach our spiritual and everlasting goals.

From a baptism with holy water, our eternal bath.

Keeping us all directed toward a celestial path.

At this All Saints Episcopal Church:

we celebrate with children and grands and hymns and hers.

Learning and loving each year that becomes more dear.

Lord, thank you for this 200th year.

Amen.

St. Andrew's Church

Toledo

Holy God of all time and space,
the parish family of St. Andrew's in Toledo gives thanks
for the gifts you have bestowed upon us,
generation after generation:
our church heritage and traditions,
the teachers who helped us understand you,
our human relationships,
and the certainty that you will not abandon us.
In this noisy, greedy world,
please help us discern your call to seek justice,
choose kindness, and walk humbly with you.
Grant us wisdom, courage, forbearance, and faith
as we respond to the challenges that face our parish,
the Diocese of Ohio, the city of Toledo, and our world.
Fill us with your spirit as we take small steps
and bold leaps to carry the good news
into the frontiers that will unfold in the future.
As we encounter the unfamiliar, inspire us to be prayerful
and not reactive, trusting and not fearful.
Empower us as faithful stewards to feed our neighbors,
care for the earth,
and promote peace near and far;
in the name of Jesus we pray.
Amen.

St. Matthew's Church

Toledo

In the Name of Jesus,
the one and only way to heaven,
we thank you for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
and the 200 years that they have helped to spread the news
of your life, death, and resurrection to the world.
We thank you for the mission work they have done
and the new members they have brought in.
We pray that you would always bless the work of the diocese
and its members where they need blessing,
heal them where they need healing,
forgive them where they need forgiving,
and always bring them closer to you.
In your holy Name we pray.
Amen.

St. Michael's in the Hills Church

Toledo

Gracious and generous God,
sovereign of every age
and the giver of every good gift,
including the gifts of all joys
and challenges past, present, and future,
we give you thanks for the rich histories of our diocese
and our parish,
and for our greatest strength: our people,
our companions on the way.
In the 136th year of our diocese,
the mission and ministry of St. Michael's-in-the-Hills began.
In the 64 years since then,
God has blessed us and
has been present with us through times of happiness
and success, and times of tragedy and sadness.
We give thanks for God's abiding Spirit with us
in the past and present.
Like our patron saint, Michael,
may we be clothed with the armor of courage and strength
to meet the future, trusting in the Holy Spirit
and God's love to guide us and care for us
as God calls us to go forward
to love, learn, and serve in Christ's name.
Amen.

Trinity Church

Toledo

Loving God,
we thank you for drawing us together
in the community of Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo.
May we strive to practice the radical hospitality
that you first extended to us;
may we strive to stand with those in need
as you first stood with us;
and may we invite all to experience
and celebrate your living presence
as you first invited us.
Continue to guide us
so that Trinity may continue to live as a progressive, inclusive,
and creative Christian community,
now, as our diocese celebrates its bicentennial year,
and for many generations to come.
Amen.

New Life Church

Uniontown

Almighty and always loving God,
creator of the universe and all who live in it,
source of all wisdom and drafter of all good plans,
we give you thanks for your love for your creation
and the sacrifice of your Son for our salvation.

We thank you for your gracious guidance
of the Diocese of Ohio through the past 200 years,
and we humbly thank you for forgiving
us when we do not do your will.

We know that you already see
the wonderful next 100 years for New Life!

We ask that you lead the clergy
and people of New Life forward
with open minds and hearts,
working together according to your great plan for us.

We pray that you keep us always mindful of your Word
as the source of all truth and wisdom.

We pray that you bless all present
and future people of this parish
with the certainty that each
and every person in this world is your beloved child.

As we jump eagerly into the next century of our service for you,
keep us, we pray, the welcoming, loving parish we have been.
Fill us with joy and laughter and a great sense of adventure
as we seek to love you, love our neighbor, and change this world.
We give you the glory for all that will be accomplished
through your blessings,
and ask all these things in the name of your Son,
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

St. Mark's Church

Wadsworth

Almighty God,
we give you thanks for guiding us with your Spirit,
in union with the Diocese of Ohio,
as we have shared our love of you, each other,
and those outside our parish family in our community
and in the world for over 50 years.
We ask you to continue the good work you have begun in us
for years to come, through your grace and power.
Strengthen us always to do your will.
We ask this in the name of the one
who has redeemed us and all creation.
Amen.

Christ Church

Warren

Almighty and everliving God,
creator of heaven and earth,
we pray with great thanksgiving for
the parish of Christ Church in Warren, Ohio,
and members of the Jesus Movement.
Of your own, you have repeatedly blessed us
with a multitude of resources:
our original church homes, our current vast campus,
and good people to provide for and thrive in them.
We have strived to use these gifts to spread the good news
throughout our region and to reach out to our neighbors in need.
We humbly ask that you continue to bless this great parish
for the many generations who will follow.
Grant this, for the honor of the Prince of Peace
and our Mediator, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Advent Church

Westlake

Almighty God,
whose Son, Jesus Christ,
has promised to make all things new,
we thank you for calling your people at
Advent, Westlake in the Diocese of Ohio
together to be a parish in renewal.
We pray that you would continue to pour out
your Holy Spirit upon your people here,
that we would be transformed more
and more into the likeness of your Son
and be equipped to reach out with his love
in the power of the Holy Spirit to the honor
and praise of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God in glory everlasting.
Amen

Grace Church

Willoughby

Most gracious God,
giver of every good gift,
in this next century, be ever present with your
servants at Grace Church,
who through your grace and mercy
have been bound together in a common life.
Remind us always that our
works begin and end with you.
Guide us on our path
to become better stewards of our
time, talents, and treasure,
that we may use your gifts rightly
and carry on Christ's work in our own community,
loving our neighbors as ourselves.
Grant us wisdom and understanding
as we study and teach your word.
May we come to know you more
truly, humbly serve you,
and fulfill our role in your eternal purpose,
from this generation to the next;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

St. James Church

Wooster

Loving Father,
you have led the community of
St. James' Episcopal Church in Wooster
for nearly two centuries.
In this crossroads of business, agriculture,
learning, and government,
we first worshiped you in the courthouse,
the center of our community.
You led us to build a place of worship,
first in one downtown location,
then in another, just a block from the center of town.
In the heart of our community,
you shepherded us through our nation's foreign wars,
economic depressions, and civil war.
When we have become too comfortable, you have shaken us.
When we have been blind to the suffering
and needs of those around us, you have opened our eyes.
Your love for all your children, without exception,
has grown in us.
You have multiplied our witness and service
through our companionship with other downtown churches,
communities of faith around us, and those of our own diocese.
Forgive us when we fail to realize the fullness of your love.
Grounded in the Word and sacraments
of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
make us a people of hope who look for the
coming of your new creation
here in Wayne County, Ohio, and everywhere.
Help us to reach out to those around us
and to invite into our fellowship
all who would share our path of discipleship,
that we may grow in faith, in faithfulness, and in numbers.
All this we ask in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom with you
and the Holy Spirit be all praise and thanksgiving,
now and in the age to come.
Amen.

St. Augustine's Church

Youngstown

Gracious and loving God,
in whose image we are made
and to whose will we surrender our own,
we praise you for the generations of ministry
you have inspired in our parish.

As we look toward a new century in the life of our diocese,
deepen our confidence in you, that we might face the future
with an eager anticipation of whatever awaits us
as your faithful servants.

In the words of our patron, Augustine,
“grant us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may fully serve you,
whom to serve is perfect freedom.”

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

St. John's Church

Youngstown

Lord God,
you have called us to be salt and light in our community.
We are grateful for your call to be a beacon of hope,
safety, and love for all people.
Let us go forth with gusto to proclaim your Word,
serve you by serving others,
and lovingly care for your creation.
Illumine us so we love others to display your grace
and love for us.
Amen.

