



Year of Prayer

At the diocesan assembly Bishop Boyea announced a Year of Prayer for the diocese with the intention of discerning how each parish is called to form its members as missionary disciples. We know we are all called to follow the Lord and to witness to the salvation given to us in Jesus Christ. Practically speaking, what does that look like and how do we do that? Fortunately, there are hundreds of answers to those questions, but we need to find the answers that best fit us as the parish that God has made us into and the parish that we are becoming. The Year of Prayer will also be a time of discernment.

The last year of prayer we observed, as a diocese, was initiated to ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into God's response to our decreasing numbers. There was much fruit from that year which led to the bishop's pastoral letter, several diocesan assemblies and, ultimately, with the bishop formulating a mission for all of our parishes: "We exist to form communities of missionary disciples who Go Announce the Gospel of the Lord."

In this next Year of Prayer, we are asking the Holy Spirit to teach us how to form communities of missionary disciples. The prayer we will be using together at church, home and every gathering in between is to the right. We also are asking every household once a week to call upon the intercession of Mary, the patron saint of our diocese, to aid us in this petition.

Father,

You invite each of us to share in the life and ministry of your Son, Jesus.

Send your Holy Spirit to form our parish as a community of missionary disciples. Teach us how to hear Jesus, to love Jesus, and to share your gift of salvation with everyone we meet.

Through the witness and intercession of Mary, guide me to deepen my commitment as a disciple of Jesus.

Lead our parish to grow as an intentional community, committed to go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

We ask these blessings in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen