

Parish Anniversary Prayers

Gracious God we give thanks as we celebrate the *N*__th anniversary of *N*_____parish and the journey that started so many years ago – and so many plans ago – and so many dreams ago.

We celebrate all the joys that have been birthed in these *N*__ years. We celebrate all the happy times, all the accomplishments, and all the triumphs. Thank You, Lord, for blessing us.

We acknowledge that there have been, and will continue to be, struggles heartaches. Yet we have travelled together under Your protection and love. Thank You, Lord, for being with us in good times and bad.

We ask, Lord, that You would continue to protect us, guide us and sustain us as we go forth from this *N*__ th anniversary celebration. Amen

We praise You heavenly Father for the great privilege which is ours this day to humbly come before You, and lovingly praise and thank You as we reflect on the history of our parish which was established *N*__ years ago.

By Your grace, Lord, this parish and building has been established and been a place of community, fellowship, worship and preaching. Many people have come and gone from us over *N*__ years, and we are thankful for what each one has contributed to our church. We are thankful to the support we have received from our Diocese as well as local community that have allowed us to do the work of furthering God's Kingdom here in Ottawa and beyond. We continue to pray for Your gracious Spirit to work through us as we support ministries in our local area as well as those beyond our boundaries

May we be faithful in heading the Holy Spirit in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus and being a gift to our world. Amen

Loving God, who guided our forbearers, we offer unto You a prayer of thanks and ask Your blessing on all those who have served and worked in this branch of Christ's Church for *N*__ years or more. We thank You for every memory that our celebrations revives, and for the great number of witnesses who have made the *N*__ th anniversary of our church an occasion for celebration.

We pray that You will deepen within each of us a sense of gratitude for the many sacrifices made for us by those who have gone before us, and thereby find this parish a place of refreshment and strength. May we continue to see, by faith, the needs of those around us and the needs of those who shall come after us, and do all that is possible to show to them our witness in word and deed of the riches of life with Christ. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Gracious God, as we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future. We pray that You would continue to make Your love known among us. Give us a zeal for mission. Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know You. Make this church a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with strength toward what lies ahead.

Eternal and loving God, today we give thanks to You for Your goodness through all the years of worship and witness in this parish of St. Matthias. We give You thanks for Your grace in calling us to be Your people, for Your love revealed to us in Christ Your Son, for Your gift of the Spirit and the joy of salvation:

We give thanks for those who established this congregation *N*__ years ago and for their faith and vision, for their gifts and abilities:

We give thanks for all who have been members of this congregation, those who have given freely of their time and money, and for those whose wisdom guided our congregation:

We give thanks for all who have preached and taught here: for all who have confessed here that Jesus is Lord; and for all who today lead in worship, witness, and service in our parish.

Litany for a Parish Anniversary Celebration (Anglican Book of Alternative Services Pgs. 671-2)

For the Church universal, of which these buildings are a visible symbol,

We thank you, Lord.

For your presence whenever two or three have gathered in your name,

We thank you, Lord.

For this place where we may be still and know that you are God,

We thank you, Lord.

For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,

We thank you, Lord.

For our past and a vision of the future that lies ahead,

We thank you, Lord.

For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism,

We thank you, Lord.

For the pardon of our sins when we have fallen short of your glory,

We thank you, Lord.

For the holy Eucharist in which we have a foretaste of your eternal kingdom,

We thank you, Lord.

For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness,

We thank you, Lord.

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for our encouragement by their perseverance,

We thank you, Lord.

For all the benefactors of this place who have died in the peace of Christ and are at rest (especially *N*),

We thank you, Lord.

For the fellowship of all your saints, and especially for *N*, our patron,

We thank you, Lord.

O God, from living and chosen stones you prepare an everlasting dwelling place for your majesty. Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you here may always be kept within your presence. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. **Amen.**