

## ***Parish Intentions for January 2018***

During this month of January . . . on behalf of Fr. Mark and our pastoral staff, we ask that you include these intercessions as part of your personal prayer throughout the month:

### ***January Intentions . . .***

- That those who received a copy of *Perfectly Yourself* from our parish this Christmas might find it to be an invitation to live the incredible life God created them to live.
- For the success of our Alpha Program, that those who are most in need of a spiritual reawakening, or have drifted away from the Church, or are seeking God, might accept the invitation to participate in Alpha, be open to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and discover a personal encounter with Jesus .
- For our new group of RCIA inquirers, as well as for those continuing their journey to join our Catholic community at Easter, that they may be drawn to an ever closer relationship with God.
- As we begin a new year, that we may strive to be an even more welcoming community by encouraging all parishioners to see themselves as ministers of welcome & hospitality, and may all those who experienced the peace, mercy and love of God through the sacrament of reconciliation during Advent share that with their families, friends and communities.
- That our government and its leaders might be guided by the common good, Gospel values, the dignity of all human life, and a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.
- For our MSU upperclassmen who will be on retreat January 12-14, that they will be given the grace to discern their spiritual charisms & openness of heart to discover God's particular call in their life.
- As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week at the end of this month, let us pray for all of our students, teachers and administrators at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish School and at Lansing Catholic High School, that they might all be co-learners in their faith, open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.
- For our school and religious education students who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation early next month that they come to know how merciful and forgiving Our Lord is.

### ***Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January: Evangelization -- Religious Minorities in Asia***

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.

That we continue to pray for those family members & friends by name, who have fallen away from the Church:

### ***Prayer for the Return of Non-practicing Catholics***

O Good Shepherd, you never cease to seek out the lost,  
to call home the stray, to comfort the frightened,

and to bind up the wounded.

I ask you to bring \_\_\_\_\_ (pause to mention names)

back to the practice of the Faith,

and to remove all obstacles that prevent them

from receiving your abundant mercy,

which flows sacramentally through the heart of your holy Church.

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God,

their Guardian Angels, their Patron Saints and the ever-prayerful St. Monica,

may you pardon their sins and unshackle them from whatever

hinders their freedom to come Home.

For you, O Good Shepherd, have loved us to the end

and offered yourself to the Father for the salvation of all.

Amen.