



Notre Dame Morning Prayer September 23-27, 2019

+ = In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Monday, September 23, 2019 - St. Matthew the Evangelist

This past Saturday on the Church calendar was the feast day of St. Matthew the Evangelist who wrote the first Gospel, which is followed in the Bible by the Gospels of Mark, Luke, and John. Before Matthew became a follower of Jesus, he worked for the Romans collecting taxes from his fellow Jews. Many tax collectors would keep money they collected and their community viewed them as traitors. When Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, everyone was shocked that Jesus would reach out to an outcast. Jesus, however, sought out those who needed help and Matthew responded to this love of Jesus by leaving his job and becoming His disciple.

Let us pray. + God of forgiveness, help each of us recognize the times in our life when we have made mistakes. Give us the humility to see the error of our ways and the faith to turn our lives around. We know and trust in the forgiveness that You offer. May this forgiveness be a source of strength. We pray this together with the words that Jesus taught us: *Our Father*. St. Matthew the Evangelist, pray for us. + Amen.

Tuesday, September 24, 2019 - Sts. Cosmas and Damian

Tomorrow on the church calendar, we celebrate the feast day of Saints Cosmos and Damian, twin brothers who lived in the 3rd century and were martyred for their faith. Cosmos and Damian were doctors who refused to accept payment for their services and are held up as examples of selfless sacrifice to both God and others. The priest of St. Mary's Church in Carleton Place, Fr. Cosmas, is named after one of the saints.

Let us pray. + Saints Cosmos and Damian, you lived your lives for the love of God and helped those in your community, ending your lives with an open profession of your faith. You taught us to love God above all things and to love others as ourselves. May we live our lives following your example. We ask through the prayers of Mary, the Mother of God: *Hail Mary*. Saints Cosmas and Damian, pray for us. + Amen.

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 - Rowan's Law Day

Today on Rowan's Law Day, we reflect on the importance of healthy brains and the need to prevent concussions and properly treat them when they occur.

Let us pray. + Lord, we thank you that you have blessed us with minds that can learn and appreciate all the wonderful knowledge of this world. Help us to take the necessary precautions to protect our brains and avoid substances that damage them. When our brains are hurting, help us to be patient and to take the time required to heal. We ask this through the prayers of Your Mother: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Thursday, September 26, 2019 - Sts. Jean de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, Intermediate NET Retreats, and long weekend

Today on the Church calendar is the feast day of St. Jean de Brebeuf and seven other martyrs of North America who were missionaries to Indigenous people in the 17th century in what is now Quebec. St. Jean attempted to relate the message of Christianity to the local cultures and languages of the people he ministered to. Because of his importance in establishing the faith in Canada and his courage when facing a painful death, St. Jean is considered a patron saint of Canada, meaning that we believe that he, in a special way, prays for our country.

Let us pray. + Dear God, we are presented with many challenges in our lives. It is often difficult to know which direction to take, which challenges to accept and which to let go. May we listen to the voice of the Spirit so we can be more confident in our decisions. May we not let fear cause us to turn away from these challenges. May we follow the example of St. Jean de Brebeuf in knowing that by accepting some of life's most difficult obstacles, we receive some of its greatest rewards. We also ask that you will bless our Intermediate students as they participate in a NET retreat today: may they come to realize in a greater way how much You love them. Finally, please bless all our students as they enjoy a long weekend and bless our staff during their PA Day tomorrow. We ask all this through the prayer of Your Son: *Our Father*. Saint Jean de Brebeuf and the Canadian martyrs, pray for us. + Amen.

Friday, September 27, 2019 - Professional Activity Day