



do justice • love tenderly • walk humbly with God Micah 6:8

December 26, 2024

We begin all of our prayer in the presence of our loving Creator; because we are all created in the very image and likeness of God!

As a Christian community, we know this:

God is with us!

Daily reflection:

(St. Stephen's Day)

St. Stephen was one of the first deacons in the Early Church – men and women who dedicated their lives to serving those on the margins of their society. St. Stephen was also the first Christian martyr. Stephen spoke out against the society that was pushing these people to the margins. The Acts of the Apostles tells us:

“When they heard this, they were infuriated,
and they ground their teeth at him.
But he, filled with the Holy Spirit,
looked up intently to heaven
and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”

Daily decision for action...

We hear in the song, “Good King Wenceslaus”, that he went out “on the Feast of Stephen” to help a man in need trying to “gather winter fuel” to keep warm. As we bask in the glow of Christmas, let us remember those who are pushed to the margins, those who face discrimination. Let us pray for God’s justice of love.

Intercessions/ our prayer for our world:

For the Church as we celebrate Christmas, that our own joy will show God’s love to the world.

For all nations in the world, for peace and respect among all people.

For expectant mothers, that they will safely deliver their child and be filled with the joy of motherhood.

For all of us, that we will spread the joy of the Incarnation to everyone we meet.

Blessing: *(the prayer of Aaron upon the people: Num. 6:23b–26)*

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

May the Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!

And we say together with all of the people of God:

Amen!