

**Here is a sampling of prayers that may help you as you pray for our Bishop Elect, Stephen London on the eve and morning of his consecration as Bishop, September 17 and 18, 2021:**

Creator God, we are moved by the honest and rich faith of your servant, Stephen. Keep ablaze in him the special gift of ministry that he received when hands were first laid on him as a deacon and priest, and your people prayed over him. Continue to lead and guide him in his new episcopal ministry so that he will not be shy with your gifts but will use them boldly and wisely and with love. **Amen.**

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, God all of mercies and comfort, dwelling on high but having regard for the lowly, knowing all things before they come to pass: We give you thanks that from the beginning you called, gathered, and prepared individuals to be heirs of the covenant of Abraham, and have raised up prophets, kings, and priests, never leaving your temple untended. Therefore, we praise you that you graciously accept the ministry of those whom you choose. Father, as we prepare to welcome Stephen as our new bishop in your Holy Church, give to him the power of your generous Spirit, that same Spirit you bestowed upon your beloved Son Jesus Christ, that same Spirit with whom He gifted the apostles, and that same Spirit upon whom your Church is built up in every place. **Amen.**

Almighty God, as the leaders of your church prepare to lay hands on your chosen servant, Stephen, our prayer is that you will fill him afresh with your Spirit. Fill him with power, not least when he preaches your word; fill him with love, not least when he has to deal with difficult situations; and at all times may his life be controlled and directed by your Holy Spirit. We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, by your Holy Spirit you have appointed various orders of ministry in the Church: look with mercy on your servant, Stephen now called to be a bishop; maintain him in truth and renew him in holiness, that by word and good example he may faithfully serve you to the glory of your name and the benefit of your

Church; through the merits of our Saviour Jesus Christ who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Even as Bishop Elect Stephen London has answered God's call, we must remind ourselves that we are all called to serve, and therefore in the words of the prayer by St Ignatius Loyola:** Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward — except our knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A more contemporary prayer for the ministry of all Christian people:** Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A sampling of scriptures that may assist you in your meditations and prayers on behalf of and for our Bishop Elect:**

**2 Timothy 2:15** - Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

**John 15:16** - You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

**Ephesians 4:1-32** - I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called

to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' (When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love...

**Acts 14:23** - And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

**1 Timothy 1:12** - I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service,