

Parish Staff

Pastor

Father Stephen Karani
fr.stephen.karani@dor.org

Parochial Vicar

Father Michael Brown
fr.michael.brown@dor.org

Deacon John Tomandl

john.tomandl@dor.org

Parish & Finance Office

Mailing Address

90 Melrose Rd.
Auburn, NY 13021
Parish Office 315-252-7271
Finance Office 315-252-7111

Nancy Kavanagh

Administrative Assistant
nancy.kavanagh@dor.org
Monday-Thursday
8:00am-4:30pm
Friday
8:00am-11:00am

Shawn Gillen-Caryl

Regional Finance Director
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Ana Haff

Director of Faith Formation
ana.haff@dor.org

Tom Techman

Funeral Ministry
thomas.techman@dor.org

Richard White

Parish Ministries
Coordinator
richard.white@dor.org

Reconciliation

Sacred Heart:
Saturday 3:00pm
St. Alphonsus:
Saturday 3:30pm

Sacraments

Baptism, Marriage,
Ministry of the Sick:
Please Call Parish Office

Holy Family Church

85 North St.

Sacred Heart Church

90 Melrose Rd

St. Alphonsus Church

85 E. Genesee St.

St. Ann Church

4890 Twelve Corners Rd.

The Catholic Community of Holy Family * Sacred Heart * St. Alphonsus * St. Ann

www.sacredheartauburn.org facebook.com/sacredheartauburn



GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

January 11, 2026
The Baptism of the Lord
Matthew 3:13-17

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called “Behind the Mac – Greatness.” It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, “There’s a certain kind of person who doesn’t wait for greatness. They make it.” It’s a compelling message. There’s beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can’t anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today’s Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn’t preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: **“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”** It’s not a reward for success. It’s not earned. Before he does anything “great,” Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: “You are my beloved.” That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you.

— Father John Muir

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Calendar of Events Week of January 12, 2026

Sunday, January 11, 2026

10:00am(SH) Faith Formation
3:00pm(SH) Year 1 Confirmation
5:00pm(SH) Year 2 Confirmation

Monday, Sunday, January 12, 2026

Tuesday, Sunday, January 13, 2026

10:30am(SH) Consortium Meeting-Deacon Dennis

Wednesday, Sunday, January 14, 2026

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Friday, January 16, 2026

8:00am-8:00pm(SA) Adoration

Saturday, January 17, 2026

7:30am(SH) Blood Drive

Sunday, January 18, 2026

10:00am(SH) Faith Formation
3:00pm(SH) Year 1 Confirmation
5:00pm(SH) Year 2 Confirmation

The “**Pack the Pantry**” item for the week of January 10/11-**Boxes of Granola or Cereal Bars**
January 17/18-**Boxes of Macaroni & Cheese**

Please bring these items to church and place them in our “**Pack the Pantry**” baskets or they can be brought to the:

**ST. ALPHONSUS FOOD PANTRY
(PHYSICAL LOCATION)**
1579 CLARK ST. RD. FINGERLAKES MALL

Monday-Saturday
9:00 am-11:30 am
315-252-0710

PLEASE NOTE: Soup, Pasta Sauce, Coffee, Tea, Juice, Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, Tissues and Hand Soap are always needed and appreciated

All Correspondence should be addressed to:
St. Alphonsus Food Pantry
90 Melrose Rd.
Auburn, NY 13021

Thank you for your continued generosity!

Thank you to everyone who voted for our tree at the 2025 Festival of Trees at the Ward W. O’Hara Agricultural Museum. We are happy to share that we won Second Place for best Non-Profit and also received an Honorable mention in the Church Group category. If you didn’t get a chance to see the trees they will all be up until the end of January, during regular hours 10:00am to 4:00pm every day. Thank you to all for those who voted and all your support!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP FOR 12/28/25

Sacred Heart Church

Regular Collection \$4576.00

St. Alphonsus Church

Regular Collection \$3809.00

St. Ann’s Church

Regular Collection \$1028.00

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP FOR 01/04/26

Sacred Heart Church

Regular Collection \$4836.00

St. Alphonsus Church

Regular Collection \$3174.00

St. Ann’s Church

Regular Collection \$2094.00

Thank you for your continued generosity!

GIVING STATEMENTS

2025 Annual Giving Statements will be mailed before January 31st. If you have not received a statement by the second week of February, please call Nancy at the parish office or if you have any questions regarding your statement, please contact the Regional Finance Office at 315-252-7111. Thank you for your continued generosity.

St. Alphonsus Food Pantry extends a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated time, talent, and treasure to our Christmas Giveaway, which provided 330 holiday baskets to neighbors in need. We are deeply grateful to the foundations and service organizations whose funding secured the turkeys and essential supplies, and we offer a special thank you to our tireless volunteers whose dedication made this mission possible. May God bless you with good health in the New Year.

With the winter season upon us, we want to inform you if we have any snow cancellations for Mass and/or Faith Formation classes we will post them on facebook.com/sacredheartauburn and on these TV stations and their websites: WSTM-3, WTVH-5, WSYR-9, auburnpub.com and SPECTRUM News. Thank you!

The 2026 Daily Mass Record Book is open. Please call the Parish Office at 315-252-7271 to schedule a Mass Intention or Tabernacle Candle. When requesting a candle and a Mass at the same time, please write two separate checks as they are deposited into two separate accounts.

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

"Just as you can not be exposed to the sun without receiving its rays, neither can you come to Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament without receiving the divine rays of His grace, His love, His peace." — Pope Paul VI

As Catholics, we believe that at each mass, during the consecration, the priest speaks these words "this is my body which will be given up for you" and at that instant the miracle of transubstantiation occurs. The bread and wine which we offer become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. It is His true presence in the form of bread and wine. It is Christ! Adoration is when a consecrated host is placed in a monstrance (from the Latin monstrare, to show or view) for adoration (for us to adore Him).

Adoration is a silent time for you to have some time alone with Jesus to recite your favorite prayers, read the bible, contemplate acts of faith, hope, charity, thanksgiving or reparation, or do whatever type of prayerful devotion that suits you before our Lord. You can sit quietly and say nothing, just keeping Him company like you would with a dear friend.

Eucharistic Adoration is every Friday at St. Alphonsus Church beginning with the 7:30am morning Mass and concluding with Eucharistic Benediction at 8:00pm. Stay for one minute or for an hour. Feel His love and His peace! *"Be still and know that I am God."* — Psalm 46

All are welcome to spend quiet time with the Lord.



Reminder our next Parish Life meeting will be on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 6:00 PM. All are invited. We are looking for new ideas for fundraisers, social gatherings or any other ideas you may have for Parish Life.

Our next First Friday Mass and Luncheon in the Hall at Sacred Heart is on February 6, 2026. We will not have first Friday Masses during Lent but will start back up in May.

NEW CATALOGS!!! RADA Catalogs for Parish Life Fundraising are available in the vestibule of each of the Churches with instructions on the front for ordering online. If you have difficulty ordering or have any questions, please contact Karen Mahoney at 315-515-3151 or Missy Deyneka at 315-246-8945 for assistance. **\$5.00 Coupons** are now attached to the front of the RADA Catalogs for the Parish Life Fundraising that are available in the vestibule of each of our Churches!! Feel free to take advantage of this savings and know that you are helping our Fellowship events like the Picnic for free!! Thank you!

The 2025-2026 Catholic Ministry Appeal has begun. Please prayerfully consider donating to this years CMA and help us reach our goals. Please make checks payable to:

Catholic Ministries Appeal (not to your parish). They can be put in an envelope either in the collection basket or mailed to:

Catholic Ministries Appeal,
PO Box 6841
Ithaca, NY 14851

01/05/26	Donors	Pledged	Goal	%
ANN	18	\$7,790	\$10,000	77%
SH	120	\$29,713	\$47,000	63%
SA	88	\$17,235	\$37,000	46%

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL is offering a prize of \$5,000 to the parish who has the greatest increase of donors. So, if you have never made a pledge to the CMA, please do so now, even if it is only ten or fifteen dollars. In most parishes, only about 35% of parishioners support the CMA. Let's bring that percentage to 50% in our parish!

The Catholic Community of Holy Family, Sacred Heart, St. Alphonsus and St. Ann invite you to our Wine Tasting Social on Friday, January 23rd, 2026, at Sacred Heart Parish Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm. \$5.00 per person. Bring an appetizer and your favorite bottle of wine to share! We look forward to seeing you there.

Intentions of the Holy Father Pope Leo January For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

We would like to thank
White Chapel Funeral Home Inc.
315-258-9101
For Sponsoring an Ad
In Our Weekly Bulletin

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 11, 2026

Saturday, January 10, 2026

4:00pm Sacred Heart

+William Fulton by Joanne Charles

+Special Intention by Darlene & Terry Lattimore

4:30 pm St. Alphonsus

+Joe Chindamo by Joe & Susan Rusinko

Sunday, January 11, 2026

8:30 am Sacred Heart

+Linda May Davidson by Chuck Healy

9:00am St. Ann

+Laurence Winum by Carlton & Shirley West

10:30 am St. Alphonsus

+Ruth Schell by Estate

+Jared Giannone by Mom

11:00 am Sacred Heart

+Joseph Chindamo by Deacon John & Carole

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus

+For the People of St. Alphonsus Parish

Monday, January 12, 2026

8:30 am Sacred Heart

+Angelina Giancola by Edward & Marilyn Giancola

+Edna Cruz by Rolando Cruz

12:15 pm St. Alphonsus

+Genevieve Zanowick by Family

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

8:30 am-Sacred Heart

+Nancy Longway by Bill & Joyce

12:15 pm St. Alphonsus

+For Richard Kenyon's Healing by Dr. & Mrs. Gioia

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

12:15 pm St. Alphonsus

+Sister Lucy Walawender by Marie Brennan

+Ronald James Faulk by Mother & Children

Thursday, January 15, 2026

5:15 pm St. Alphonsus

+Terry Clifford by West End Friends

Friday, January 16, 2026

7:30 am St. Alphonsus

+Sam & Yolanda DeRosa by Family

8:30 am Sacred Heart

+Stanley Krawczyk by Virginia

Saturday, January 17, 2026

4:00 pm Sacred Heart

+William Foster by Family

+Phil Dello Stritto by Natalie Edmunds

4:30 pm St. Alphonsus

+Sheila Chayka by Michael & Barbara Walsh & Family

Sunday, January 18, 2026

8:30 am Sacred Heart)

+Phil Gauthier by Matt & Nancy Casler

9:00 am St. Ann

+Michael & Valerie Usowski by Family

10:30 am St. Alphonsus

+Suzanne Hutton by Terri & David Holmes

11:00 am Sacred Heart

+William Fulton by Joanne & Lizzie Szot

+Charles Penafeather by Family

5:00 pm St. Alphonsus

+Paul A. & Dorothy M. Riester & the Deceased

Members of the Riester & Donovan Families

The Memorial Candles
Week of
January 11, 2026

Sacred Heart Church
Tabernacle Candle
For Prayers Answered

St. Alphonsus Church
Tabernacle Candle
Stella Chalanick
by
Friend

St. Alphonsus Church
Our Lady Of
Perpetual Help Candle
Ronald James Faulk
by
Mother & Children

For Those Who Have Recently Died

Gertrude Colbert

Elizabeth Badran

Jessie Gagliano

Josephine Silliman

Lillian Sperduti

Eternal rest grant
unto them,
O Lord;

and let perpetual
light shine upon them

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord
January 11, 2026

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is a liturgical bridge that connects the Christmas season to Ordinary Time. During the Christmas season we pondered the Incarnation, Nativity, Presentation in the Temple, and Epiphany. Today, we see Jesus manifesting Himself to the world as He began His three years of public ministry.

Jesus begins His ministry through an act of deep solidarity with the fallen human race. John the Baptist had been preaching in the desert and offering a baptism of repentance. John's baptism was not the same as our baptism today. Instead, it was only a sign of one's willingness to turn away from sin and turn toward God. Jesus, of course, had nothing to repent of. He was sinless in every way. But that didn't stop Him from freely choosing to receive the baptism of repentance. Why would He do that?

Simply put, Jesus chose to unite Himself with fallen humanity, taking upon Himself our own sins and suffering their consequences. He humbly allowed Himself to be identified as a sinner in need of repentance. This was done out of love for us and out of His longing to become one with us so that we could become one with Him.

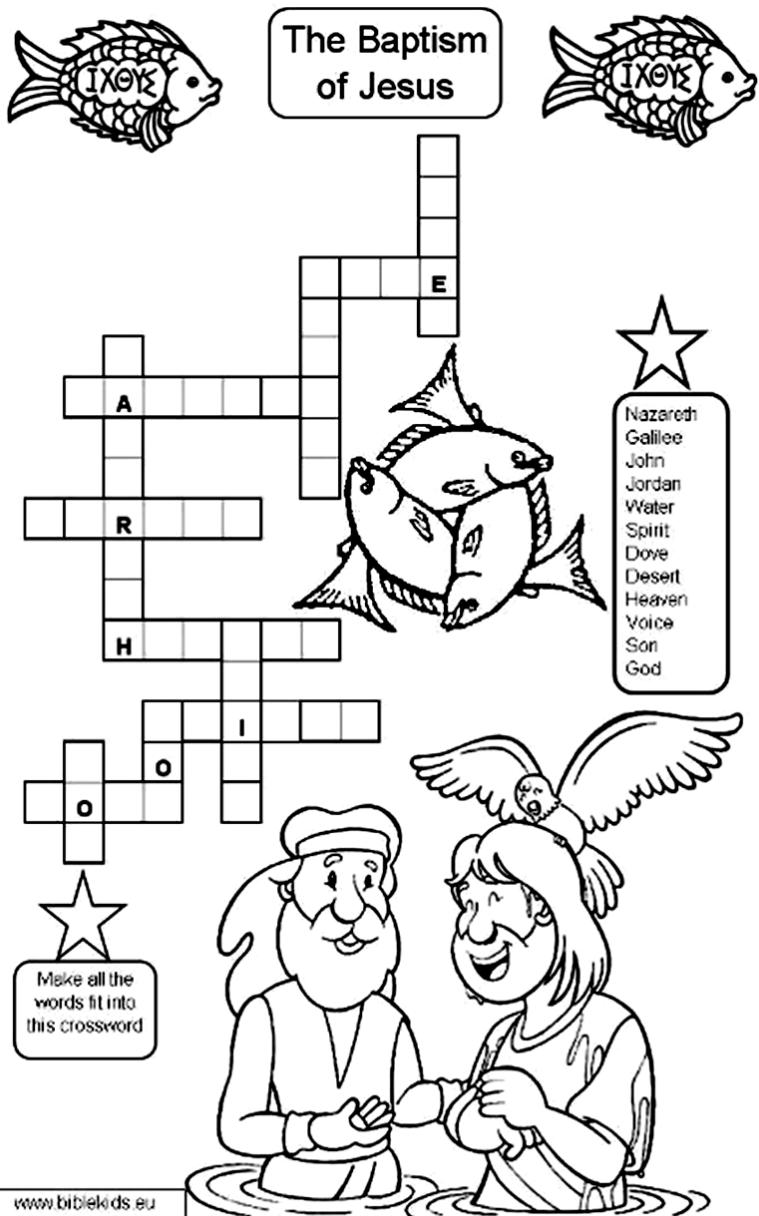
By bowing His sacred head to receive the baptism of repentance, Jesus united Himself and His divinity to everyone who had already chosen to repent. And He gave power to every forthcoming act of repentance others would make, even until today. When we repent today, we meet Jesus in that same water of repentance.

It was not only the Eternal Son Who was present at that baptism of repentance, but the Father and the Holy Spirit as well. The Spirit descended upon

Jesus in the form of a dove, and the Father's Voice spoke to acknowledge His oneness with His Son. Therefore, every time we make a humble act of repentance, such as when we combine the crucifixion, the Trinity, and holy water upon entering a church and blessing ourselves, we not only meet our Lord but also receive the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and share more fully in our adoption as sons and daughters of the Father in Heaven.

As we commemorate Jesus' baptism liturgically, we celebrate the fact that our Christian baptism was the beginning of this new unity with the Holy Trinity. But we also celebrate our oneness with God, which is renewed every time we make an interior act of repentance for our sins. If we fully understood what happens every time we acknowledge our sins and repent of them, we would never grow tired of repenting. Every time we acknowledge and repent of our sin, we meet Christ anew, receive a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and affirm and deepen our adoption by the Father in Heaven.

In His Service,
Ana Haff
Director of Faith Formation
ana.haff@dor.org



Sunday, Jan 11, 2026 Make the connection In his birth (Christmas), his adoration by the Magi (Epiphany), and the coming of the Spirit upon him (Baptism of the Lord) Jesus is revealed to be the Son of God. These significant events in Jesus' life are so closely tied that the Eastern Orthodox Church observes the coming of the Magi and the Lord's Baptism on the same day. In the same way, our own births and Baptism signal that we are children of God and followers of Christ. As a new year begins, find ways to reconnect with your family of faith and make daily choices that reveal your divine heritage. **FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD** Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17 (21). "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Monday, Jan 12, 2026 Listen up The tech industry would have us believe that the most important connections we make are virtual. While it's true that tech devices are useful in today's world, there remains the crucial connection with that still, small voice within our own hearts that no computer or phone can reach. That voice, which is God's, can only be heard in stillness: in the bare branches of trees against a winter sky, the quiet of new-fallen snow, the starry brilliance in a winter night sky, our breathing in and breathing out. What is God calling you to do now? Spend some time today just listening. 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20 (305). "Jesus said to them, 'Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.'"

Tuesday, Jan 13, 2026 "I was a stranger" Of all the lessons Jesus tried to teach us, the one that is perhaps hardest to believe—and therefore easiest to forget—is that we are alone. Jesus reminded us of this truth a number of times, most notably when he declared, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40). Take a few minutes today to reflect on what life would be like if you knew, with as much certainty as you know your own name, that there are no strangers among us; we are alone, united through Christ. What would be different? How would you act toward yourself? Toward others? 1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28 (306). "What is this? A new teaching with authority."

Wednesday, Jan 14, 2026 Now appearing You don't have to look very hard into Catholic tradition to find stories of supernatural appearances of Jesus, the saints, and especially Mary to believers through the centuries. These kinds of occurrences really go back to biblical times. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit "appeared" in the form of a dove at Jesus' Baptism, Jesus himself appeared to his disciples after his Resurrection, and the risen Christ made a decisive personal intervention in the life of Saint Paul, to name a few examples.

Most of us will never have such an experience, but we can indeed learn to make ourselves aware of the presence and guidance of God. 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Mark 1:29-39 (307). "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Thursday, Jan 15, 2026 Wanted: Good leaders The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were the trusted priests of the ancient temple in Shiloh. But they were stealing from the temple and committing immoral acts. As a result, the army of Israel was cursed and got hammered by the Philistines. Hophni and Phinehas were slain and the Philistines took the ark of God captive. It is a cautionary tale about the faithful's need for good leaders. Pray for vocations, and very specifically for men and women to serve the Lord in truth and integrity. 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45 (308). "The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were among the dead."

Friday, Jan 16, 2026 Move on There's a lot in life that can get us down. Sometimes they are things of our own making, and sometimes, well, it's life. It's not always easy to know what to do. We can stand still and try to figure it out, or we can backtrack to see what happened. At some point, however, it is time to move forward—to step out of what happened and to imagine something new. "Begin now," says Saint Jerome, "to be what you will be hereafter." 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mark 2:1-12 (309). "Rise, pick up your mat and walk."

Saturday, Jan 17, 2026 Alone with the truth Few of us would take aloneness to the extent of Saint Anthony of the Desert, who spent much of his 105 years in solitude. Stories of Anthony say he was besieged by all kinds of temptations in the desert night. At some level we know that silence forces us to confront the reality of who we are before God. But, as Saint Anthony explains, it is a worthy pursuit: "One who knows oneself, knows God . . . Therefore, my beloveds in the Lord, know yourselves." Opening up at such depth is indeed terrifying, but Jesus "gets" the weakness of being human. He calls each of us not for condemnation but friendship. **MEMORIAL OF ANTHONY, ABBOT** 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17 (310). "Jesus said to him, 'Follow me.'"



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time © 2026 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Noncommercial

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Remember our Sick:

Kevin Jessie, Kathryn Lane, Eleanor Hudo, Patricia Ricci, Anthony Alberici, Evelyn Gagliano, Sue, Carl Jr. & Cheryl Moore Festa, Tim Grazsko, Jamie Mazza, Pat, Jim Podolak, Mary Manuel, Olivia, Kathleen, Bruce, Marilyn Castiglione, Allyza, John Salva, Stacy, Danielle, Lucy Pagano, Kevin & Maryanne Festa Leonard, Cortney Fedyshyn, Briana Dewitt, Joyce Blowers, John Clark, Cheryl Bellnier, Colleen Pinckney, Pat Gallagher, Gloria Cuddy, Tim Daly, Sue Daly, Carol Aldrich, Thomas Didio, Dave, Don & Joan Zeleznik, Mary Campbell, Mark Cole, Jonathan Arrowsmith, Lucas Mallory, Joe Schubach, Mary Warter, Gina DelPiano, Caleb Jones, Michael Fronzek, Carter Hergert, Joan Komanecy, Elizabeth Lane, Frances Lane, Siobhan Phillippe, Donna Romano, David Festa, and those listed in our Book of Petitions.

"We pray for all those who are sick, especially those on our parish prayer list, those in nursing homes, assisted living, the hospital or the homebound. May they receive comfort, healing, and strength from God's grace."

Please call Nancy at 315-252-7271 to have names added or removed. Thank you!


We pray for the men and women of our Armed Forces serving U.S. and abroad:

LCpl Brian Baxter USMC, Capt. Gregory Baxter USMC, Capt. DJ Benzing USAF, Lt. Col Joseph E. Brooks USAF, SSgt Tom Ellis Sr. USA, SSgt Angel Gonzalez USA, Col Eddie Gonzalez USMC, Pvt Zachary Gonzalez USMC, CWO4 Roger Graf USA, 1SGT Zachary Howell USA, SSgt James Johnson USMC, SFC Jason Mero USA, Pvt Justin Miller USA, E3 David Mirales US Navy, Lt Jg Richard Nelson IV, USN, E4 Adam H. Brooks, Airman Sarah Pasternak, USAF, Lt. Jack Hogan, USN, Airman Alex Gonnella, USAF., Major William Griffin USMC

"We pray for the protection and safety of all military personnel, including police, fire, and corrections serving both at home and abroad, especially those deployed in dangerous situations."