

It's Labor Day weekend. For many of us, this signals an unofficial end to summer as school resumes and the daily routines of the year begin to pick up their pace again. I hope that summer was good for everyone, that we had a chance to enjoy the God-given moments that are given to us and spend quality time with family and friends. We take one last pause here to celebrate the work we have done and send our appreciation to the workers who made it possible. May we be inspired to re-engage in our daily labors, knowing that there is a great dignity to work, and that it allows us as individuals and as a community to accomplish great things together. Praise be to God - many blessings to all of our workers and to our school communities as they embark on a new academic year!

This weekend is our Family of Parishes official launch of our partnership with Hallow, the #1 Catholic Prayer App, which features various audio prayers, music, bible studies, content for mental health, and more. Throughout the year, on our Niagara Frontier Catholic Community page we'll unlock what are called prayer challenges for our parishioners. You can pray from wherever and connect with others in the parish through the discussion questions posted each day. I personally love that You can post prayer requests and even pray for other people in our parish community. Each time you pray for someone, they will be notified and encouraged by your prayers! We encourage you to create your own routines and learn the different ways to customize your prayer experience and even pray with others. And joining the community page on Hallow is free!

I will admit that I was first skeptical about the idea of conflating prayer and using my phone and so I had been putting off using this app for a few years. Yet I felt like there are times, after doing all the leading, that I need to be led in prayer too. I felt like I could use more discipline and routine in prayer, which this app helps me to do. I've seen families sit down and pray together, using this app to guide them in a reflection about a particular saint, virtue, and how God's grace moved that day before sending the kids off to bed. I've received prayer requests from people in the parish and was able to connect with them in their need. At Masses this weekend, you will hear how some of our parishioners already utilize this to help them and their families pray together, and how much they love it. I do believe that this will help us grow and expand our prayer experience as individuals and as a community of faith and help us build a better prayer life and relationship with the Lord.

I really encourage you simply go to a web browser and visit the page [hallow.com/parish](https://hallow.com/parish) or check out the QR code in the bulletin as one of many ways to join. Share this news with your family and friends and let's all get praying and praying for and with one another.

Peace,

~Fr. Luke