



Being the Church -
Praying for Revival Winter 2024-2025
January 18 - January 26
Humility

During the Spring of 2024 our members chose the mission statement: **Loving God and All People**. This Fall and into 2025 St. Mark Prayer team called our congregation to continue to embrace our first vision statement to **pray**.¹ Through the gift of prayer, God has given His people (us) the ability to shape the very future of the nation.

During Fall of 2024 the “Illinois Family Institute (IFI)¹ encouraged all Christians and all Illinois Churches to join together throughout the state to humbly seek God in prayer, beseeching His forgiveness for our national (and state) sins and ask for:

- a revival of faith near and far,
- healing our nation,
- restoration of historic authentic Christian churches.
- God’s continual protection and flourishing of Israel.

In this **Winter Call** to being the Church the St. Mark Prayer Team is focusing on **Revival**. What are revivals? “Concentrated periods of time of intense and often widespread ministry by the Holy Spirit.”¹ They have occurred throughout history; different forms and various reasons. Usually in two categories.

- Movements of spiritual renewal and reformation among God’s people;
- An outpouring of conviction among unbelievers, leading to repentance from sin and the conversions of many.

A vital role is played by praying Christians called “intercessors.” We are asking you to be a key player in the ignition and spread of flickering sparks of a national revival today. We are in the midst of a critical time. “Outpourings of spiritual renewal have come to Asbury University² and

have spread from there to numerous other colleges and universities.”¹ God seeks intercessors who are willing to travail in prayer. Is He calling you?

We pray:

- Revival will be protected from distractions and distortions once it does come.
- St. Mark Church will offer up individuals whose prayers are focused, burdened, pressing, and striven - engaging in “travailing prayer” for revival. Galatians 4:19 ¹⁹ my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

Prayer Focus for Revival - Humility

1. Humility

“The realization that we are very limited and have sinned against God by trying to go it alone and doing what is right in our own eyes leads us to humble ourselves. Humility is a precursor to seeking His forgiveness and restoration. It implies an admission of guilt and a confession of sin in holy fear of the chastisement we deserve. Humility also means intentional dependence on God and obedience to His precepts and purposes for us. It is the heart condition necessary to pray and seek His face with a pure heart and the right motive.

Prayer Points:

- Consider the heart conditions in **Jeremiah 17:7-10** and ask the Lord to reveal any trace of pride, rebellion, and disobedience in your heart.
- Pray through **John 16:8** for the Holy Spirit to visit St. Mark Church, being His Church, and our nation with conviction of sin.
- Pray in the spirit of **James 4:6** for that conviction to bring us to humility before God and to the realization that we have offended Him, that we need Him, and that we must embrace and submit to His design for our lives.
- Pray that, according to **2 Corinthians 10:5**, the barriers of pride and self-sufficiency and the false notions of success would be destroyed.”²

¹ Our first Vision statement: We are a people who are about prayer. As Paul writes in

1 Thessalonians 5:17 *pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit.*

We pray in all circumstances! Prayer is about communication with God through talking and listening. Prayer is an integral part of everything we do, both at church with the people of God and with and for the world.

Matthew 9 *reminds us we are to be out in the world, praying that God’s kingdom would come to its fullness and we would be out in the world doing God’s work.*

²*Fanning the Flames of Revival, Participating in the Continues Activity of God, an IFA Prayer Guide.* IFAPray.org.

³ Ava Kline was blessed with the healing of her back issue following a healing prayer request by her fellow classmate and friend at Asbury University during a spiritual renewal in February, 2023. She presented a Temple Talk here at St. Mark later that Spring sharing her experience.