

Before Serving

*O God, you accept our ministry and allow us to serve at your Altar;
grant that while serving you we follow the example of our Patron, St. Stephen, the first martyr, and that we may, like him come to see Jesus standing at your right hand in the kingdom of heaven.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son.
Amen*

After Serving

*We give you thanks Lord, for calling us to serve you. Strengthen our loyalty and keep us faithful to you, so that we may enjoy your friendship for ever.
Amen*



Before Serving

*Father in Heaven, free us from all wrong and distracting thoughts;
help us understand what we are about to do, and make us always eager to give of ourselves, that we may come worthily to your Holy Altar.
Amen*

After Serving

*O Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the privilege of having served at your Altar.*

*Now, as we leave the church, we ask that we may continue to be aware of your presence.
Amen*



**Prayer before serving**

*Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*V: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.*

*R: And you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O, God, to whom every heart is open, every desire known and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the help of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, faithfully serve you, and worthily praise your Holy Name. We ask this though Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*



**Prayer for vocations**

*Lord Jesus Christ, grant the grace of a priestly and religious vocation to many.*

*Inspire young people to dedicate, their love, strength and work to you.*

*Bless all those who by their generous prayers and sacrifices help God's future priests and religious.*

*Amen*



**Prayer to St Stephen**

*Help us, we pray you Lord, to imitate St Stephen, your deacon, whom we venerate as the patron of our Guild.*

*May we serve the Church with the same dedication and learn to love our enemies just as he prayed for those who persecuted him.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*