

# Speak, Lord

your servant is listening...

Pastoral Reflections for the Family



Andrew Zettel  
Chaplain

"You are the light  
of the world.  
A city built on a hill  
cannot be hid..  
...let your light  
shine before others,  
so that they may see  
your good works and  
give glory to your  
Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

Gospel  
reading for  
this week

## Allow me to introduce myself...

My name is Andrew Zettel and I'm thrilled to be joining the St. David's school community as our new chaplain!

I'm a small town boy at heart, having grown up in Bruce County (just outside of Walkerton), yet I'm also a proud graduate of the University of Waterloo & St. Jerome's. I've previously worked here in Waterloo Catholic as an elementary chaplain - leading retreats at Mount Mary - and as outreach coordinator for St. Mary's church, helping with projects like Tiny Home Takeout. I've also been a residence manager for post-secondary student housing in Montreal & Scarborough.

I think chaplaincy is all about making connections, building community, and helping young people discover Truth, Beauty & Goodness through our Catholic faith tradition.

Already this week, I've been amazed by the thoughtfulness & creativity of the students coming to introduce themselves to me - the kind "hello's", the positive feedback on my morning prayers, and the great conversations during Friday's 'Bread & Bible' activity. I'm equally grateful for the warm welcome of the staff team, especially our administrators, Heather, Garry & Christine.

I humbly ask you to pray for the success of our ministry at St. David's, and for the spiritual growth of all the brilliant, kind-hearted students & staff of our school community.

May these weekly reflections be a helpful resource and a blessing to you & your family as we walk together on the journey of faith!

Sincerely,

Andrew Zettel



# 'Listen to Understand' Pastoral Prayer

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us.  
We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

**R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.**

Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.

**R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.**

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.

**R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.**

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.

**R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.**

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.  
We make ourselves still.  
We listen to understand.  
Amen.**

