

## Weekly Prayer

SS. John and Paul Parish encourages a “whole community” approach to catechesis, and, where possible, a focus on the Sunday readings. In line with this, any parish group that meets during the week is invited to use the “Weekly Prayer” for that week. The core of the prayer is a Scripture reading for the upcoming Sunday, usually the gospel. In that way all who meet as parish groups during the week have already had a chance to think and pray in light of the Sunday reading.

You will find the parish’s weekly prayer on one of the pages below. Please look at the bottom of the page for the proper week’s prayer. Usually we use the prayer that focuses on the upcoming Sunday reading.

To use the prayer, simply print out the appropriate page below and then copy for others. If you want the parish office to do this for you, please call 586.781.9010 and let us know how many copies you need and when you will pick them up. If you talk to our director of music, he can let you know what hymns will be used on Sunday and you could include that in your prayer as well, if you choose. Thank you.

## **Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Call to Prayer**

Let us open our hearts to the Lord's presence in our world by reflecting on the words of the responsorial psalm for Sunday: "If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts." (*Moment of silence*)



### **Opening Prayer**

Lord God, we live in a secular society. Christian values and prayerfulness often take second place to profit and pleasure. Creator God, show us your presence in all of creation. Jesus Messiah, strengthen us as we try to live out your teachings. Wisdom Spirit, make us mindful of the Trinity dwelling at the core of our being, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Reading: Colossians 3:1-5,9-11**

Reflection: This New Testament reading challenges us to look at our goals and values. The first reading for this Sunday contains the famous line, "Vanity of vanities. All is vanity." It is as if Paul is responding to that reading here by challenging the community to stay away from that which only promises emptiness. Paul's list of offensive behaviors and passions describes things that can consume all of a person's energies and resources. We should instead put on a "new self" that is rooted in Christ's image.

*Adult: What behaviors leave you feeling empty? What habits frustrate you?*

*Child: What attributes would someone possess if they were "clothed" in Christ?*

### **Our Father**

Let us now pray to the Father as we were taught...Our Father, ...

### **Closing Prayer**

Thank you, Lord, for being present with us. Let us carry your love to our families and communities.

Thank you, Lord, for the example and teachings of your Son Jesus. Strengthen us to set our minds on your kingdom which is both here in our midst and in heaven.

Thank you, Lord, for the magnificence of creation. Teach us to use your gifts wisely and to live in your peace now and for ever. Amen.

### **Blessing**

May God bless us, Father, Son, and Spirit;

may we always love and serve, filled with God's peace. Amen.

For week of July 26; for Sunday readings on August 1, 2010.

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## Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

### Call to Prayer

We approach harvest time in this ordinary season of the liturgical year. We anticipate reaping the rewards of our labors, being concerned about forces like the weather which we can do nothing about, and feeling a certain sense of satisfaction over our hard work. This cycle—sowing, nurturing, reaping—repeats itself year after year, not only in agriculture but in all our life's work. As we reflect on these seasonal gifts, let us praise God. (*Moment of silence*)



### Opening Prayer

How wise of you, O Creator, to establish the rhythm of our lives! How generous of you to ennoble our work with the belief that all we do in your name is good! How kind of you to give us special moments and times to look forward to which helps us through the mundane and gives purpose to the ordinary! Bless the work we will accomplish this week in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9

Reflection: Foreshadowing the gospel reading in which Jesus stresses the importance of preparedness, this passage from Wisdom refers to preparing for the Exodus event, when the angel of death passed over the homes of the Israelites, sparing their firstborn while slaying the firstborn of the Egyptians. The Israelites knew beforehand the promises God made to deliver those who put their faith in that same merciful God. God's people did not wait blindly for their salvation, but prepared in secret for the moment of deliverance. The Book of Wisdom is written so that it gives the Jewish tradition to anyone willing to listen. God's promises are for all.

*Adult: How do you prepare yourself to trust and accept God's promises?*

*Child: Why is it important to know about the past? How does it help you for the present?*

### Our Father

Let us now pray to the Father as we were taught...Our Father, ...

### Closing Prayer

Glorious God, you give us what we need. You balance our lives with dark clouds and rainbows, even though there are times when we feel there's too much of one and not enough of the other. Help us to see the larger plan, the long range goal, the big picture. Help us to apply the wisdom of the scriptures to our week ahead, secure in the knowledge that all things work for good to those who believe. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Blessing

May God bless us, Father, Son, and Spirit;

may we always love and serve, filled with God's peace. Amen.

For week of August 2; for Sunday readings on August 8, 2010.

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## The Assumption of the Virgin Mary

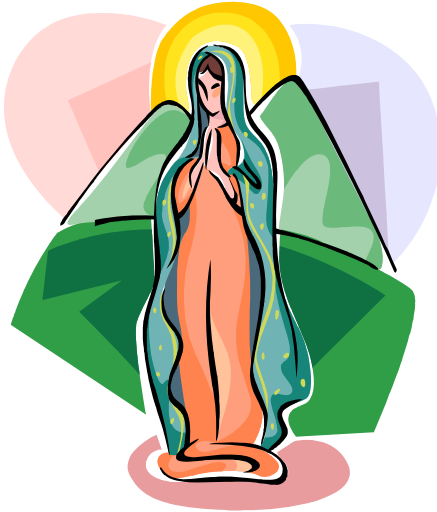
### Call to Prayer

Let us reflect on the following antiphon and the way in which Mary's Assumption gives all hope for eternal salvation:

"All honor to you, Mary! Today you were raised above the choirs of angels to lasting glory with Christ." (*Moment of silence*)

### Opening Prayer

Loving and faithful God, inspire each of us to know the urgency of your call. Give us the courage and fortitude to respond to you whatever your will for us may be. We pray this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



### Reading: Luke 1:39-56

Reflection: Mary runs to Elizabeth, anxious to tell her cousin the news that Mary is pregnant with God's child. Elizabeth recognizes God at work in Mary by experiencing the Holy Spirit move her own baby within. Elizabeth proclaims the good news, and Mary responds in a prayer we now call the *Magnificat*. Mary alludes to the Hebrew Scriptures and gives thanks to God for God's actions in Israel's history, as well as thanking God for God's providence towards her.

*Adult: How does God act on behalf of the world's lowly? Through whom does God act?*

*Child: What about Mary makes her a good role model for us?*

### Our Father

Let us now pray to the Father as we were taught...Our Father, ...

### Closing Prayer

Nurturing God, you take care of us all. Send the Holy Spirit to open our hearts so that we may respond to your call as Mary did. Make us a grateful people, praising and thanking you for the providence you bestow upon us. Guide us as disciples of Christ, that we may all carry Him in our hearts. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord and brother. Amen.

### Blessing

May God bless us, Father, Son, and Spirit;  
may we always love and serve, filled with God's peace. Amen.

For week of August 9; for Sunday readings on August 15, 2010.

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