

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.

Third Sunday of Lent

Call to Prayer

Heavenly Father, we seek to be a caring and understanding people. Breathe the Spirit of your nearness into all we do this week. Through your grace, help us to carry out our responsibilities in reconciling and understanding ways.

Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. Lord, come into our hearts.

All: And make them your own.

Leader: Lord, we ask for guidance.

All: May our actions be wise and just.



Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

Reflection: This reading is a call to repentance and a warning of the consequences of the failure to repent. Although Paul speaks like a parent wagging his finger at an errant child, his compassion shows through. He exhorts the people of Corinth to learn from the mistakes of their ancestors: “If you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.” The Israelites, Paul says, “all ate the same spiritual food. All drank the same spiritual drink.” Paul wants the people of Corinth to remember the people of the Exodus. Control your desires and do not grumble. Do not be self-congratulatory. Do not be so smug. Christians are called to a different way of behaving—one of gratefulness for the privilege of God’s care.

Adult: Where in our lives do we have to control our self-righteousness?

Child: Think of some advantages for which you are grateful to God.

Our Father

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

Closing Prayer

Heavenly God, you love us so much that you sacrificed your only Son. Lord Jesus, you accepted death to atone for our sins. Holy Spirit, you guide us on the path to greater holiness. Help us to further your kingdom and be aware of your will for us. 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 March 1; for Sunday readings on March 7, 2010.

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Fourth Sunday of Lent

Call to Prayer

We recognize our human weaknesses and the effects of original sin. But we claim our baptismal birthright as God's sons and daughters, whose inheritance was won for us by the blood of Jesus, our brother. With joy, we proclaim our trust in God's fidelity and assistance in all our earthly tasks.

Opening Prayer

God in heaven, we are an Easter people. Buoyed by the hope of redemption we endure our desert journey through Lent. Jesus, our brother, we thank you for humbling yourself to take our nature and teach us how to live. Gentle Spirit, we ask for wisdom as we go about our duties and responsibilities. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Reflection: Joy characterizes the readings this week, from the celebration of the first Passover in the Promised Land to the father's initiative in forgiving the prodigal son. Paul celebrates the same initiative as he announces our new creation in Christ. He calls us to rejoice because God has reconciled himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. We are called to forgive others as God forgives us. Forgiveness is an act of the will; it often takes our emotions a while to catch up with our spirit of forgiveness. Reconciliation implies a mending of the relationship that requires a change of heart by the offender. If there is no change of heart, there might not be reconciliation but there can still be forgiveness.

Adult: With whom do you need to be reconciled? How will you go about it?

Child: How does knowing God forgives us help us to forgive others?

Our Father

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

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, help us learn to forgive others as you forgive us. Send the Holy Spirit to guide us as we act as ambassadors for Christ, with compassion and understanding in our interactions with others. Strengthen us so that we can be reconciled with God and others. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 March 8; for Sunday readings on March 14, 2010.

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Fifth Sunday of Lent

Call to Prayer

As we near Easter and the coming spring, we are surrounded by lingering signs of winter's death, yet we already anticipate with joy spring's new life! May all our words and actions lead to renewed life for ourselves, our family, and our community.



Opening Prayer

Lord God, fill us with a spirit of honesty and openness. Let us be honest and true, admitting that you are our strength. We praise you for opening our eyes and hearts to the needs of people around us, and for challenging us to accept them and help them without making rash judgments about them. Bless our interactions with others today and always. Amen.

Reading: John 8:1-11

Reflection: It is clear from Jesus' words that he believed the woman had the power within her to change her sinful ways. His final words of forgiveness and healing cut off the woman from her past, propelling her into a future where God is doing something new. We, too, have the power within us to change and open our hearts so that God can do something new with us. This reading also challenges us to look at our intolerance. We are to confront injustice, forgive others, and to see all people as brothers and sisters.

Adult: What sin do you need to seek forgiveness for? What will you do to avoid this sin from now on?

Child: Who in your life is God asking you to look at in a new way?

Our Father

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

Closing Prayer

Ever faithful God, we implore you to open our eyes to see each other's viewpoints. Guide us to be more tolerable of people who are different from us. Send the Holy Spirit to inspire us to stand up against injustice. We make our prayer in Jesus' name. 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 March 15; for Sunday readings on March 21, 2010.

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