

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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Call to Prayer

Our days, too, like Job's, are "swifter than a weaver's shuttle" (Job 7:6) and we need God's guidance and vision to make sense of them. We ask God to be present to us this week.

Opening Prayer

God, our Creator, you care for us with the love of a father and a mother. You know our weakness, and you challenge us to grow. During the coming season of Lent, help us to see your sustaining presence everywhere. Teach us to love and forgive one another with patience and good will. Make us worthy to be called your children. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our brother. Amen.



Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23

Reflection: Not many of us have Paul's strong sense of responsibility to share the good news: "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" We tend to take faith for granted and overlook possibilities for evangelization. Yet everywhere, people struggle with faith issues. As Christians, we are called to proclaim the gospel.

Reflection questions

Adult: How can we learn what people in our community need for spiritual development?

Child: How are we preaching the gospel by the way we interact with one another?

Our Father

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

Closing Prayer

God of mercy and love, may the discipline of Lent strengthen us to say yes to the hard choices that lead to life. May we always have the courage to preach the Gospel with our lives and may we be blessed with your peace. 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 January 30: Sunday reading on February 5, 2012.

(Adapted with permission from *Weekly Prayer Services for Parish Meeting, Year B, 1996 Catholic Herald*, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Twenty-Third Publications, P. O. Box 180, Mystic, CT 06355, 800-321-0411)

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Call to Prayer

As we enter into this prayer, let us reflect on our own brokenness and need for healing. (*silent reflection*)

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, we invite your presence as we go about our duties this week. We pray that you will empower us to be people of compassion and understanding, and that through your grace and mercy we may be instruments of healing for those we encounter. We place our trust in your holy name, now and forever. Amen.



Reading: Mark 1:40-45

Reflection: Compassion is one of the identifying marks of a Christian, yet it often seems as though we have lost sight of this virtue in our society. In this passage from Mark's gospel, and in other scripture passages, the compassion of Jesus as he healed the sick, suffering, and oppressed, is vividly described. We are called to imitate Jesus, to bring his compassion to those in great need of it today.

Reflection questions

Adult: What blocks our exercising the compassion of Jesus?

Child: Can you name a situation that needs healing in our communities, states, countries, or world?

Our Father

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

Closing Prayer

God of Wisdom, fill us with compassion so that we might reach out to others and be instruments of your healing love. Open our eyes so that we can see the needs around us. Send the Holy Spirit to strengthen us so that we may work tirelessly to repair injustice and suffering. We pray this through Jesus, our compassionate Lord. Amen.

Blessing

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

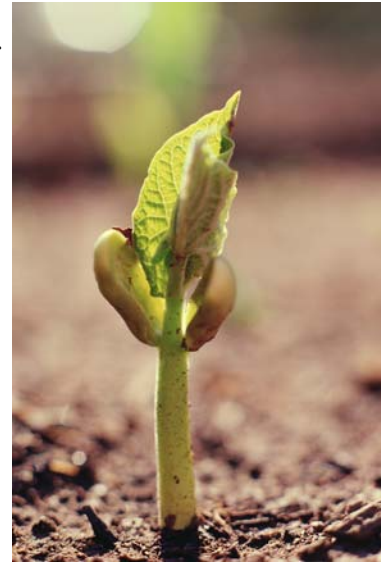
For week of February 6: Sunday reading on February 12, 2012.

(Adapted with permission from *Weekly Prayer Services for Parish Meeting, Year B, 1996 Catholic Herald*, Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Twenty-Third Publications, P. O. Box 180, Mystic, CT 06355, 800-321-0411)

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Call to Prayer

Jesus Christ...was not alternately “yes” and “no”; he was never anything but “yes.” As we go about our week, we ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds that we may always say yes to God’s plan.



Opening Prayer

Lord God, you have caused all things to be made new through your grace. Help us to keep our witness to faith bright and untarnished. May we always serve with vision and humility. Amen.

Reading: Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25

Reflection: For most of us, life goes along in fairly predictable patterns, and we become rather content with those patterns.

They become comfortable, though perhaps not life-giving. Moreover, we may not see a pattern of sinfulness that needs to be examined. Perhaps in our reluctance to embrace anything new, we have settled for a communal life that does not allow God’s “newness” to break in, and that may even mean we settle for a sterile experience of church, in which we are blocked from responding to God’s “yes.”

Adult: How can we “shake up” our predictable patterns of being and doing and allow God to do something new in our lives?

Child: What happens when we try something new, how does it help us grow?

Our Father

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

Closing Prayer

God of new beginnings, quiet our fears and instill in us a sense of newness that gives us a fresh perspective on our lives. Help us to acknowledge the patterns of sinfulness that prevent us from responding with generosity and joy to your call to mission and ministry. 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 February 13; for Sunday readings on February 19, 2012.

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First Sunday of Lent

Call to Prayer

We are a people called together to serve and be served. We are accountable to one another. Let us spend some time reflecting on our call and covenant to serve each other.



Opening Prayer

Lord, give us the wisdom to acknowledge that we are a people in need of your guidance. We pray that we may be open to your word and to each other as we look honestly at our lives as Christians. We ask this in the name of your Son and with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Reflection: In a covenant relationship, each party makes a promise to be faithful to certain requirements for the sake of mutual growth in love. Marriage is such a relationship. In this reading, God promises to be a tender and faithful Father to all humankind. The rainbow is a sign of this promise. We, too, are recipients of God's covenant promise, and are strengthened for our tasks of evangelization and service. Our prayerful reflection may reveal to us signs of God's promise in our own lives.

Adult: *How does God continue to remain in covenant with people today? Do you see any signs of this covenant?*

Child: *Why is it important to keep promises? What happens when we fail to keep a promise?*

Our Father

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

Closing Prayer

We are grateful, O Lord, to be called your people. We seek always to live in covenant with you. Send the Holy Spirit to guide us in our call to love and respect one another. We ask this through Jesus Christ, 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 February 20; for Sunday readings on February 26, 2012.

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