

**A FAMILY PRAYER SERVICE AT HOME**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

*Decide what time and where in your home, you will bring your family together to pray. Choose who will serve in what roles, and make a rule to put aside all phones, tablets and/or electronic devices. This time is sacred; you are the domestic Church.*

*When all are present, quiet down and call to mind the God's presence by beginning:*

All: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Leader: As we enter this time of prayer, let us reflect on our sins, and ask for the Lord's forgiveness:

All: I confess to almighty God  
And to you my brothers and sisters,  
That I have sinned,  
In my thoughts and in my words,  
In what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
Through my fault, through my fault,  
Through my most grievous fault;  
Therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever Virgin,  
All the Angels and Saints,  
And you my brothers and sisters,  
To pray for me to the Lord our God.  
Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,  
Who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving  
Have shown us a remedy for sin,  
Look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,  
That we, who are bowed down by our conscience,  
May always be lifted up by your mercy.  
We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

**Reader A: Old Testament Reading**

A Reading from the book of Exodus

In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses,  
Saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst  
With our children and our livestock?"  
So Moses cried out to the LORD,

“What shall I do with this people? A little more and they will stone me!”  
The LORD answered Moses, “Go over there in front of the people,  
Along with some of the elders of Israel, holding in your hand, as you go,  
The staff with which you struck the river.  
I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb.  
Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink.”  
This Moses did, in the presence of the elders of Israel.  
The place was called Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled there  
And tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD in our midst or not?”  
The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

### **Reader B: Responsorial Psalm**

***R. IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.***

Come; let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
Let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
Let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

***R. IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.***

Come; let us bow down in worship;  
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

***R. IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.***

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
As in the day of Massah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tempted me;  
They tested me though they had seen my works.”

***R. IF TODAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS.***

### **Reader C: New Testament Reading**

A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:  
Since we have been justified by faith,  
We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Through whom we have gained access by faith  
To this grace in which we stand,  
And we boast in hope of the glory of God.

And hope does not disappoint,  
Because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts  
Through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.  
For Christ, while we were still helpless,  
Died at the appointed time for the ungodly.  
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,  
Though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.  
But God proves his love for us  
In that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.  
The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

### **Reader D: Gospel**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar,  
Near the plot of land, that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.  
Jacob's well was there.  
Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well.  
It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water.  
Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."  
His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.  
The Samaritan woman said to him,  
"How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?"  
—For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.—  
Jesus answered and said to her,  
"If you knew the gift of God  
And who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink, '  
You would have asked him  
And he would have given you living water."  
The woman said to him,  
"Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep;  
Where then can you get this living water?  
Are you greater than our father Jacob,  
Who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself  
With his children and his flocks?"  
Jesus answered and said to her,

“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again;  
But whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst;  
The water I shall give will become in him  
A spring of water welling up to eternal life.”  
The woman said to him,  
“Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty  
Or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her,  
“Go call your husband and come back.”  
The woman answered and said to him,  
“I do not have a husband.”  
Jesus answered her,  
“You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’  
For you have had five husbands,  
And the one you have now is not your husband.  
What you have said is true.”  
The woman said to him,  
“Sir, I can see that you are a prophet.  
Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain;  
But you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem.”

Jesus said to her,  
“Believe me, woman, the hour is coming  
When you will worship the Father  
Neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.  
You people worship what you do not understand;  
We worship what we understand,  
Because salvation is from the Jews.  
But the hour is coming, and is now here,  
When true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth;  
And indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him.  
God is Spirit, and those who worship him  
Must worship in Spirit and truth.”  
The woman said to him,  
“I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ;  
When he comes, he will tell us everything.”  
Jesus said to her,  
“I am he, the one speaking with you.”

At that moment his disciples returned,  
And were amazed that he was talking with a woman,  
Still no one said, “What are you looking for?”  
Or “Why are you talking with her?”  
The woman left her water jar

And went into the town and said to the people,  
“Come see a man who told me everything I have done.  
Could he possibly be the Christ?”  
They went out of the town and came to him.  
Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat.”  
But he said to them,  
“I have food to eat of which you do not know.”  
So the disciples said to one another,  
“Could someone have brought him something to eat?”  
Jesus said to them,  
“My food is to do the will of the one who sent me  
And to finish his work.  
Do you not say, ‘In four months the harvest will be here’?  
I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest.  
The reaper is already receiving payment  
And gathering crops for eternal life,  
So that the sower and reaper can rejoice together.  
For here, the saying is verified that ‘One sows and another reaps.’  
I sent you to reap what you have not worked for;  
others have done the work,  
And you are sharing the fruits of their work.”

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him  
Because of the word of the woman who testified,  
“He told me everything I have done.”  
When the Samaritans came to him,  
They invited him to stay with them;  
And he stayed there two days.  
Many more began to believe in him because of his word,  
And they said to the woman,  
“We no longer believe because of your word;  
For we have heard for ourselves,  
And we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”  
The Gospel of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

All: Glory, and Praise to You O God.

Leader: Let us listen to a reflection from Bishop Brennan

“Jesus knows us better than we know ourselves. Isn’t that the case in the rather long dialogue we were just privileged to witness? Jesus can see deep into the heart of the woman who comes to the well in the heat of the day to avoid the gossiping crowds. No doubt, she herself is the subject of much gossip and ridicule. But here she meets Jesus of Nazareth who surprises her even by speaking to her. And how surprising that the apparent stranger tells her everything about herself!

Jesus' tones are not judgmental or dismissive. Rather he speaks with tender mercy. He offers her living water, true worship, an encounter with the living God who is Spirit and Truth. Heading deeper into our pilgrimage of Lent, Jesus speaks to us deep in our hearts. He knows us well, yes, better than we know ourselves. He loves us. He knows our weakness and sin, but he knows the love within, our best efforts, our greatest hope. And in this season offering His tender mercy he calls forth the best of who we are.

This year's pilgrimage of Lent has taken some unusual and unexpected turns. Thank you for your sacrifices, patience and understanding. I have been saying that these days call for "extreme charity", a deep and genuine concern for one another, especially for those who are most vulnerable and those whose health is compromised. As with the woman at the well, Jesus meets us in our time of need.

*"He looks upon a wounded humanity with eyes that gaze into the heart of each person. That gaze is not one of indifference; rather, it embraces people in their entirety, each person in his or her health condition, discarding no one, but rather inviting everyone to share in his life and to experience his tender love. Why does Jesus have these feelings? Because he himself became frail, endured human suffering and received comfort from his Father. Indeed, only those who personally experience suffering are then able to comfort others."* (Pope Francis, Message for the World Day of the Sick, February 11, 2020.)

Jesus invites us to turn our hearts to him and hear his tender mercy. Then he asks us to listen deeply to one another, to be a little extra concerned.

All: I believe in one God,  
The Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
Of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
The Only Begotten Son of God,  
Born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
True God from true God,  
Begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
Through him, all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven,

And by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
And became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
He suffered death and was buried,

And rose again on the third day  
In accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
And is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
To judge the living and the dead  
And his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
Who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
And I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Leader:

Trusting always in the never failing love of our almighty God, we place our prayers before Him.

**Reader A:**

The response is "Lord, hear our prayer."

- That those affected by illness throughout the world may experience healing and consolation through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord...
- That the members of the Church, the mystical Body of Christ, may be brought closer to God and strengthened in their faith, even in the most turbulent times, we pray to the Lord...
- For all who are affected by the Coronavirus, may they be brought physical healing and swift recovery, we pray to the Lord...
- May civil leaders, scientists, and responsible citizens around the world be enlightened by the light of wisdom of God to pursue prudent, loving, and effective tactics in their response to COVID-19, we pray to the Lord...
- For all the faithful departed, especially those who have died because of the Coronavirus and other flus, may God welcome them into everlasting life, we pray to the Lord...

**Leader:**

Lord, all good and all merciful, we thank you for your many gifts and blessings. We ask that you protect us always, draw us closer to you, and, if it is your will, answer our prayers. We ask this through Your Son, Christ, Our Lord.

**All:**

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe  
That you are one God in three divine Persons,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
I believe that your divine Son became man  
And died for our sins and that he will come  
To judge the living and the dead.  
I believe these and all the truths  
Which the Holy Catholic Church teaches  
Because you have revealed them  
Who are eternal truth and wisdom,  
Who can neither deceive nor be deceived.  
In this faith I intend to live and die.  
Amen.

Act of Hope

O Lord God,  
I hope by your grace for the pardon  
Of all my sins  
And after life here to gain eternal happiness  
Because you have promised it  
Who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind,  
And merciful.  
In this hope, I intend to live and die.  
Amen.

Act of Love

O Lord God, I love you above all things  
And I love my neighbor for your sake  
Because you are the highest, infinite and perfect  
Good, worthy of all my love.  
In this love, I intend to live and die.  
Amen.

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy Will be done,  
On earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil. Amen.

### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
Are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
And I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
Receive You sacramentally,  
Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

### Doxology

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen.

Leader: Let us praise the Lord,

All: And give Him thanks. Amen.

Fr. Cyrus Haddad  
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, 2020