

Sunday Prayer at Home

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020

*For use by St. Mary's Parishioners
Immaculate Conception Church, Alton, IL*

Explanation

This booklet of readings and prayers is designed to help your family keep the Lord's day holy, even when you cannot go to church. This is not a Mass, and it does not substitute for Mass, except in our current situation when the bishop has decreed that public Masses are not to be offered.

It is most fitting for the father of the house to lead these prayers, encouraging the participation of as many members of the family as possible in the various readings and intercessions.

In place of the Eucharist, pray an Act of Spiritual Communion (included). Desire to receive the living presence of God into your souls. This may be done many times each day without limit.

The Vatican has decreed special conditions for receiving plenary indulgences during this time (<https://bit.ly/2xj6pAw>). The prayer service outlined in this booklet satisfies the conditions, together with a firm desire to receive the Eucharist and sacramental absolution in confession as soon as possible. A plenary indulgence is the full pardon of temporal punishment due to our sins in this life (a "get out of purgatory free" card). The decree mentions many other actions that are granted an indulgence during the time of pandemic.

The place and attire: it would be nice for everyone to dress as for Sunday Mass, to arrange the room to be reasonably free of distractions, to light a candle or two, to bring the statues of the saints or place the bible in a dignified place. It may also help to sit and stand at the similar times of the Mass, standing at the beginning, the Gospel, the Creed, Intercessions, and Our Father, and to ask the Lord's blessing at the end.

Order of Prayer

Explanation.....	2
Introduction.....	4
Liturgy of the Word.....	5
First Reading (I Samuel 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A).....	5
Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 23: 1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6).....	6
Second Reading (Ephesians 5:8-14).....	7
Verse Before The Gospel (John 8:12).....	7
Gospel (John 9:1-41).....	8
Reflection.....	11
Creed.....	12
Intercessions.....	13
Spiritual Communion.....	14
The Lord's Prayer.....	14
Act of Spiritual Communion.....	14
Silent Thanksgiving.....	14
Conclusion.....	15
Dismissal.....	15
Prayer to St. Michael.....	15
St. Mary's Streaming Schedule.....	16

Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us call to mind our sins and ask the Lord for his merciful forgiveness.

All: I confess to Almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly 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.

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray. (*pause in silence*)

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself
in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (I Samuel 16:1B, 6-7, 10-13A)

The LORD said to Samuel:

“Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way.

I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem,
for I have chosen my king from among his sons.”

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice,

Samuel looked at Eliab and thought,

“Surely the LORD’s anointed is here before him.”

But the LORD said to Samuel:

“Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature,
because I have rejected him.

Not as man sees does God see,

because man sees the appearance

but the LORD looks into the heart.”

In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel,
but Samuel said to Jesse,

“The LORD has not chosen any one of these.”

Then Samuel asked Jesse,

“Are these all the sons you have?”

Jesse replied,

“There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said to Jesse,

“Send for him;

we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.”

Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them.

He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold

and making a splendid appearance.

The LORD said,
 “There—anooint him, for this is the one!”
 Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand,
 anoointed David in the presence of his brothers;
 and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 23: 1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6)

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**
 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
 beside restful waters he leads me;
 he refreshes my soul.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**
 He guides me in right paths
 for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley
 I fear no evil; for you are at my side
 With your rod and your staff
 that give me courage.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**
 You spread the table before me
 in the sight of my foes;
 you anooint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**
 Only goodness and kindness follow me
 all the days of my life;
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
 for years to come.

R. **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Second Reading ([Ephesians 5:8-14](#))

Brothers and sisters:

You were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.

Live as children of light,
for light produces every kind of goodness
and righteousness and truth.

Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness;
rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention
the things done by them in secret;

but everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore, it says:

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”

Verse Before The Gospel ([John 8:12](#))

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

Gospel ([John 9:1-41](#))

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.

His disciples asked him,

“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents,
that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered,

“Neither he nor his parents sinned;

it is so that the works of God might be made visible
through him.

We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is
day. Night is coming when no one can work.

While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

When he had said this, he spat on the ground

and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes,
and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” —which
means Sent—.

So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar
said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?”

Some said, “It is,”

but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”

He said, “I am.”

So they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?”

He replied,

“The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes
and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’

So I went there and washed and was able to see.”

And they said to him, “Where is he?”

He said, “I don’t know.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them,

“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.” So some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath.”

But others said,

“How can a sinful man do such signs?”

And there was a division among them.

So they said to the blind man again,

“What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?”

He said, “He is a prophet.”

Now the Jews did not believe

that he had been blind and gained his sight

until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight.

They asked them,

“Is this your son, who you say was born blind?

How does he now see?”

His parents answered and said,

“We know that this is our son and that he was born blind.

We do not know how he sees now,

nor do we know who opened his eyes.

Ask him, he is of age;

he can speak for himself.”

His parents said this because they were afraid

of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed

that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ,

he would be expelled from the synagogue.

For this reason his parents said,
“He is of age; question him.”

So a second time they called the man who had been blind
and said to him, “Give God the praise!
We know that this man is a sinner.”

He replied,

“If he is a sinner, I do not know.

One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see.”

So they said to him,

“What did he do to you?

How did he open your eyes?”

He answered them,

“I told you already and you did not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again?

Do you want to become his disciples, too?”

They ridiculed him and said,

“You are that man’s disciple;

we are disciples of Moses!

We know that God spoke to Moses,

but we do not know where this one is from.”

The man answered and said to them,

“This is what is so amazing,

that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes.

We know that God does not listen to sinners,

but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him.

It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person
born blind.

If this man were not from God,

he would not be able to do anything.”

They answered and said to him,

“You were born totally in sin,
and are you trying to teach us?”
Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,
he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

He answered and said,

“Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”

Jesus said to him,

“You have seen him,
the one speaking with you is he.”

He said,

“I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

Then Jesus said,

“I came into this world for judgment,
so that those who do not see might see,
and those who do see might become blind.”

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this
and said to him, “Surely we are not also blind, are we?”

Jesus said to them,

“If you were blind, you would have no sin;
but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains.

Reflection

Pause for silent reflection. Members of the family may share what inspired them, or what they are praying for on this day. This is not a time for open discussion, but for speaking from the heart while the others listen. Someone may read aloud from a printed reflection or homily written by someone else on the readings and circumstances of the day.

Creed

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,
(*bow*) 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.

Intercessions

Celebrant: As we continue our Lenten journey, let us not
grow weary of begging the Lord for all our needs.

Lector:

1. That our Holy Father and all bishops may be given light and strength to carry out their vocation as successors of the apostles, we pray to the Lord...
2. That government leaders may work untiringly for that justice which is the foundation for peace, we pray to the Lord...
3. For those afflicted by the Coronavirus and for the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, may they obtain the grace of healing and the trust in Your protection, we pray to the Lord...
4. For our Catholic community of faith and those seeking to become one with us through the process of Christian Initiation, we pray to the Lord...
5. That more young people seeking to deepen their baptismal consecration would give themselves generously in religious life and priesthood, we pray to the Lord...
6. For those who pray before abortion clinics, who march for life, or who witness to the rights of all human beings, that God may strengthen them and guide them, we pray to the Lord...

7. That those who are ill may be comforted, and those who have died, especially Jeanne Schwegel, William Kemp, and Robert Rolwes, may be welcomed into eternal joy, we pray to the Lord...

8. For all the intentions we hold in our hearts
(*pause for a few seconds*), we pray to the Lord...

Spiritual Communion

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father ...

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.

Silent Thanksgiving

Here, a moment of silence may be observed to thank Jesus for coming into our hearts, and to ask Him personally for all that we need.

Conclusion

May the Lord bless us, † protect us from evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Dismissal

Leader: Let us go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our protection

against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;

and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,

by the Power of God,

cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits

who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

St. Mary's Streaming Schedule

On <https://www.facebook.com/stmarysalton> (no account/login)

- Daily: 9am Mass and 5:30pm Rosary
- Fridays: 3pm Stations of the Cross

Please visit our homepage at <https://www.stmarysalton.com> for the most current directives.

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