

Sunday Prayer at Home

**Twenty-fifth Sunday
of Ordinary Time**

September 20, 2020

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

Explanation

We have resumed public Mass at St. Mary's, abiding by social distancing requirements. The dispensation from Sunday Mass remains in effect. This booklet of readings and prayers is designed to help your family keep the Lord's day holy, even if you do not go to church.

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. Holy Communion is distributed on Sunday on 4th Street from 11:45am-12:30pm, one car at a time. Those at higher risk should continue to shelter at home.

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 with candles or statues of saints or a bible in a prominent place. It may also help to sit and stand together like we do at Mass.

Order of Prayer

Explanation.....	2
Introduction.....	4
Liturgy of the Word.....	5
First Reading (Isaiah 55:6–9).....	5
Responsorial Psalm (145:2–3, 8–9, 17–18).....	6
Second Reading (Philippians 1:20c–24, 27a).....	7
Alleluia.....	7
Gospel (Matthew 20:1–16a).....	8
Reflection.....	9
Creed.....	10
Intercessions.....	12
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
Copyright Notice.....	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 founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

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 ([Isaiah 55:6–9](#))

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.

Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm (145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18)

R. (18a) The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD and highly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Second Reading ([Philippians 1:20c–24, 27a](#))

Brothers and sisters:

Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

If I go on living in the flesh,
that means fruitful labor for me.

And I do not know which I shall choose.

I am caught between the two.

I long to depart this life and be with Christ,
for that is far better.

Yet that I remain in the flesh
is more necessary for your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

R. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gospel (Matthew 20:1–16a)

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’

So they went off.

And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise.

Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’

They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’

He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman,

‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’

When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage.

So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more,

but each of them also got the usual wage.

And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying,

‘These last ones worked only one hour,

and you have made them equal to us,
who bore the day's burden and the heat.'
He said to one of them in reply,
'My friend, I am not cheating you.
Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?
Take what is yours and go.
What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?
Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?
Are you envious because I am generous?'
Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Leader: We know that God is near to all who call upon him.
We turn now to our generous God with our prayers
and needs.

Reader:

1. That the pope, bishops, priests and deacons will be signs of God's living presence among us as they preach the Gospel, we pray to the Lord...
2. For all governing officials, that they may work with humility and ensure the rights of all, we pray to the Lord...
3. That we may look upon the poor, the vulnerable, the less fortunate, and the unborn with the unconditional love portrayed by the Gospel, we pray to the Lord...
4. For all those who welcome the call of the Lord to serve Him as priests deacons, sisters and brothers, that they will be strengthened in their vocations, we pray to the Lord...
5. For all essential workers, that God will protect their health as they continually put themselves at risk in service to others, we pray to the Lord ...
6. That those who have died, especially Eugene Tutoky, and those who grieve them may find comfort in Christ, we pray to the Lord...
7. For all the intentions we hold in our hearts
(*pause for a few seconds*), we pray to the Lord...

Leader: God, listen to the prayers of your people,
and make us generous stewards
of the abundant gifts you have given us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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

Leader: 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)

- Monday-Friday, 5:30pm Rosary
- The regular Mass schedule has resumed in the church, with social distancing, facemasks recommended
Monday-Saturday 6:30am and 8am (also streaming)
Fridays 8:15am during school year, still streaming
Full Sunday Mass schedule:
 - Saturday 5:15pm,
 - Sunday 6:30am,
8am (also streaming; facemasks required),
9:30am, 11am, 6pm

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

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