

# **Sunday Prayer at Home**

**Twenty-sixth Sunday  
of Ordinary Time**

**September 27, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## 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 manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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 ([Ezekiel 18:25–28](#))**

Thus says the LORD:

You say, “The LORD’s way is not fair!”

Hear now, house of Israel:

Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?

When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies,

it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die.

But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed,

he does what is right and just,

he shall preserve his life;

since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed,

he shall surely live, he shall not die.

**Responsorial Psalm (25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9)**

**R. (6a) Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.

**R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,  
and your love are from of old.  
The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not;  
in your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O LORD.

**R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
and teaches the humble his way.

**R. Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

## **Second Reading ([Philippians 2:1-11](#))**

Brothers and sisters:

If there is any encouragement in Christ,  
any solace in love,  
any participation in the Spirit,  
any compassion and mercy,  
complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same  
love,  
united in heart, thinking one thing.

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory;  
rather, humbly regard others as more important than  
yourselves,  
each looking out not for his own interests,  
but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude  
that is also in Christ Jesus,  
Who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
something to be grasped.  
Rather, he emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
coming in human likeness;  
and found human in appearance,  
he humbled himself,  
becoming obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name  
which is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **Alleluia**

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord;  
I know them, and they follow me.

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## **Gospel ([Matthew 21:28–32](#))**

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion?

A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said,

'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

He said in reply, 'I will not, '

but afterwards changed his mind and went.

The man came to the other son and gave the same order.

He said in reply, 'Yes, sir, 'but did not go.

Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you,

tax collectors and prostitutes

are entering the kingdom of God before you.

When John came to you in the way of righteousness,

you did not believe him;

but tax collectors and prostitutes did.

Yet even when you saw that,

you did not later change your minds and believe him."

## **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:** With faith we come before our God offering these prayers for all those who are in need.

**Reader:**

1. That the Holy Spirit would sustain the Holy Father as he leads the Church with courage and conviction in the midst of our troubled world, we pray to the Lord...
2. That world leaders will work to bring justice and peace to the poor and oppressed, we pray to the Lord...
3. That the Church's call to repentance and promise of mercy may reach and comfort all those who suffer because of a past abortion, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those most susceptible to the Coronavirus, that God will protect them from illness and surround them with the peace of knowing that they are loved and cared for beyond measure, we pray to the Lord...
5. That many men and women will generously accept the call to serve Christ in his Church as priests, deacons, and religious, we pray to the Lord ...
6. For the faithful departed, especially Virginia Stilwell and Angela Hausman, that they may join the angels and saints in the glory of heaven, 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 of love, we present these prayers  
mindful of your care for us.  
Make your presence known to all who are in need.  
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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