

# **Sunday Prayer at Home**

## **Feast of Epiphany**

**January 3, 2021**

*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 on this day  
revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star,  
grant in your mercy  
that we, who know you already by faith,  
may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory.  
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 60:1–6](#))**

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth,  
and thick clouds cover the peoples;  
but upon you the LORD shines,  
and over you appears his glory.

Nations shall walk by your light,  
and kings by your shining radiance.

Raise your eyes and look about;  
they all gather and come to you:  
your sons come from afar,  
and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see,  
your heart shall throb and overflow,  
for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you,  
the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.

Caravans of camels shall fill you,  
dromedaries from Midian and Ephah;  
all from Sheba shall come  
bearing gold and frankincense,  
and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

## **Responsorial Psalm**

**(72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13)**

**R.(cf. 11) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

O God, with your judgment endow the king,  
and with your justice, the king's son;

He shall govern your people with justice  
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

Justice shall flower in his days,  
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.

May he rule from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

The kings of Tarshish and the Isles shall offer gifts;  
the kings of Arabia and Seba shall bring tribute.

All kings shall pay him homage,  
all nations shall serve him.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

For he shall rescue the poor when he cries out,  
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;  
the lives of the poor he shall save.

**R. Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

## **Second Reading ([Ephesians 3:2–3a, 5–6](#))**

Brothers and sisters:

You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace  
that was given to me for your benefit,  
namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation.  
It was not made known to people in other generations  
as it has now been revealed  
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:  
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body,  
and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus  
through the gospel.

## **Alleluia**

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage.

**R. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## Gospel ([Matthew 2:1–12](#))

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,  
in the days of King Herod,  
behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,  
"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?  
We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage."  
When King Herod heard this,  
he was greatly troubled,  
and all Jerusalem with him.  
Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people,  
He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.  
They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea,  
for thus it has been written through the prophet:  
*And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
since from you shall come a ruler,  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"  
Then Herod called the magi secretly  
and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance.  
He sent them to Bethlehem and said,  
"Go and search diligently for the child.  
When you have found him, bring me word,  
that I too may go and do him homage."  
After their audience with the king they set out.  
And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded  
them,  
until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.  
They were overjoyed at seeing the star,  
and on entering the house

they saw the child with Mary his mother.  
They prostrated themselves and did him homage.  
Then they opened their treasures  
and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.  
And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod,  
they departed for their country by another way.

## 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:** The whole world is called to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. Grateful for our faith, we now bring the Lord our petitions.

**Reader:**

1. That the Church may tirelessly reveal the glory of Christ to all nations and peoples who do not yet know him, we pray to the Lord...
2. That the Manifestation of the glory of Christ will enable all nations to also recognize the sanctity of each and every human life, we pray to the Lord...
3. That missionaries may find new strength through today's Feast, and may enjoy the support of the Christian people, we pray to the Lord...
4. That our young people will learn to open the treasure of their unique vocation through prayer and adore Christ the King by their faithfulness to His call, we pray to the Lord...
5. That the sick may discover in their sufferings a manifestation of the Passion of Christ, we pray to the Lord ...
6. That those who have died, especially Kathie Henderson, may share eternal glory, 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:** Father, we trust in your loving care.  
Show us your glory, deepen our faith,  
and grant us your peace.  
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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