

Intercessions

For what or for whom should we pray?

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,
present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.
Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples
who follow Him with enthusiasm and joy.
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit
in our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.
Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses,
to radiate Christ in all we do,
so that all people might know, love, and follow your Son
through this life and into the next. Amen.



April 2021

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

(Pause for silent prayer)

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that your Church may always remain that holy people,
formed as one by the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
which manifest to the world
the Sacrament of your holiness and unity
and leads it to the perfection of your charity.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

Reading from Sacred Scripture

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke. (Third Sunday of Easter)

The two disciples recounted what had taken place on the way,
and how Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

While they were still speaking about this,
he stood in their midst and said to them,
“Peace be with you.”

But they were startled and terrified
and thought that they were seeing a ghost.
Then he said to them, “Why are you troubled?
And why do questions arise in your hearts?
Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself.
Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones
as you can see I have.”

And as he said this,
he showed them his hands and his feet.
While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed,
he asked them, “Have you anything here to eat?”
They gave him a piece of baked fish;
he took it and ate it in front of them.

He said to them,
“These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you,
that everything written about me in the law of Moses
and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled.”

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.
And he said to them,
“Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer
and rise from the dead on the third day
and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins,
would be preached in his name
to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things.”

Lk 24:35-48

From *Radiate Christ* by Archbishop Dennis Schnurr

True life, the fullness of life, is that which radiates the peace and joy which come from a relationship with Jesus Christ who alone can restore our worldly humanity to the divine perfection which God planned for it in the beginning. When we accept God’s invitation to abide in Him and so possess His joy, we become His witnesses to the world.

This is my hope: that each of us, within our unique and personal circumstances and situations, becomes a more joyful witness of the goodness of a life lived in relationship with Jesus Christ. As Pope Saint Paul VI said, “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41). This remains very, very true today. The world in which we live is not the world as God intended it to be. It is hurting; it needs hope. Let us more fully open ourselves to Jesus. Let us welcome Him into our lives so that He can work through our lives. Let us be witnesses. Let us radiate Christ.

Questions for Reflection and Sharing

What connections or new insights did you gain from the readings?

What words or phrases spoke to you most powerfully in light of the call to form our parish as a beacon of light?

How might the readings influence our planning for the future?