

ST. MARY'S CHURCH & ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH  
Prayer Gathering for Week of October 25

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Creator of all life,  
your Word reveals you as Living Love, and love is the reason you made us.  
Engage our hearts, minds and souls in love for you;  
and help us to love others and ourselves each day, as you have commanded us.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

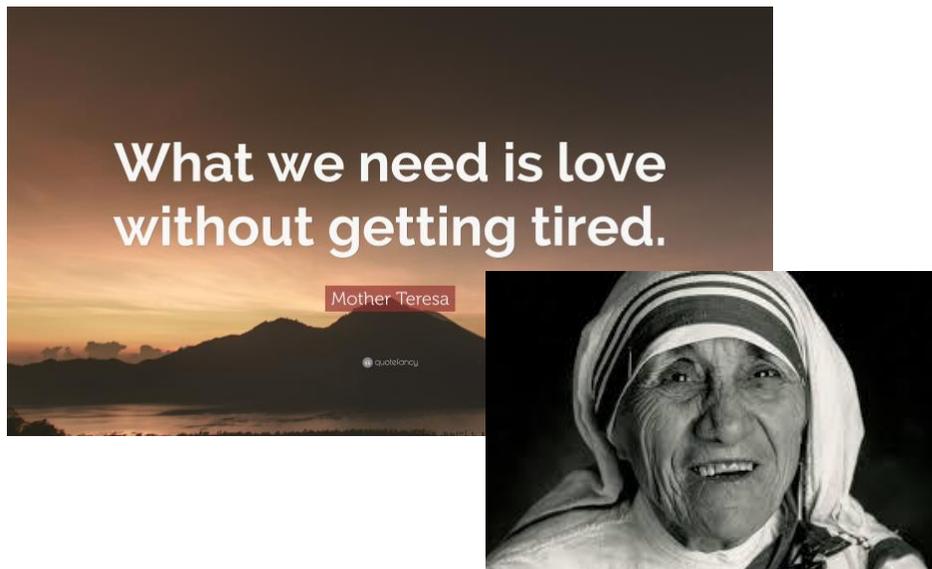
GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*"You shall not oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt."*  
**What is the link between compassion and remembering?  
How does forgetting our past make it harder for us to love others?**

*"If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry."*  
**Does this Scripture make you feel comforted or is it threatening? How so?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."*  
**When in your life did you feel the most flooded with love for God?**

**When has loving God been harder for you?**

*"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."*  
**Which is harder for you: loving your neighbor or loving yourself? Why?**

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church will serve as a bridge for the love of God to stream into the heart of every person alive on the earth; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That our country will overcome the political division that is wounding our communities, families and friendships; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That we will find some time in each day to be with God and nourish our most important relationship in life; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That we will learn to see God's image and likeness in the face of each person we encounter; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That we will learn to see God's image and likeness looking back at us through our reflection in the mirror; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That each person we encounter will be able to sense the great respect we have for them, and want to offer that same feeling for others; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

For the poor, for those out of work, for all whose income is not able to cover their bills, for those worried for their children; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That all who work in schools and the students they serve may be safe and find ways to stay engaged and excited about learning; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That God may ease the suffering of all those who are sick and renew their health and vitality; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died... *pause....* ....; we pray... **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

## OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now 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.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

## READING 1

A reading from the book of Exodus:

Thus says the LORD:

*"You shall not molest or oppress an alien,  
for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.  
You shall not wrong any widow or orphan.*

*If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me,  
I will surely hear their cry.*

*My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword;  
then your own wives will be widows,  
and your children orphans.*

*"If you lend money  
to one of your poor neighbors among my people,  
you shall not act like an extortioner toward him  
by demanding interest from him.*

*If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge,  
you shall return it to him before sunset;  
for this cloak of his  
is the only covering he has for his body.  
What else has he to sleep in?*

*If he cries out to me, I will hear him;  
for I am compassionate."*

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

When the Pharisees heard  
that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees,  
they gathered together, and one of them,  
a scholar of the law tested him by asking,  
*"Teacher, which commandment in the law  
is the greatest?"*

He said to him,  
*"'You shall love the Lord, your God,  
with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
and with all your mind.'*  
*This is the greatest and the first commandment.*

*The second is like it:  
'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'  
The whole law and the prophets depend on these two  
commandments."*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*