

ST. MARY'S CHURCH & ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
Prayer Gathering for Week of January 17

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**O God, who makes each of us for a unique purpose,
may your call reach our ears, move our hearts
and strengthen us to respond with courage to the mission you hand-pick for us.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep.

When have you failed to recognize at first that an incident in your life was actually the work of God? How did you later realize it?

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?"

If Jesus appeared to you and asked: "What are you looking for?"

...how would you answer?

POSTED RECENTLY

6 Benefits: (Click each one to view)

- 1 Religion encourages good behavior.
- 2 Religion explains the purpose of life.
- 3 Religion teaches self control.
- 4 Religion makes you strong even at sad times.
- 5 Religion cures human selfishness.
- 6 Religion creates inner peace & appreciation.



Religion balances our physical and spiritual health to help us succeed in life.

(From a college student's class presentation)

DISCUSSION

The list above offers six generic reasons why religion is beneficial. If you were asked to make that list from scratch without seeing this one, what would be on it?

What beyond this list makes answering God's call rewarding?

How does answering God's call at times make life harder instead of easier? If so, is it still worth it?

LITANY OF GOD'S CALL

I need someone to receive my love.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to hear my Word.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to feed my Lambs.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to share their faith.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to offer hope.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to mend what's torn.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to refuse to hate.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to love others when it's hard.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to disagree but still care.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to accompany the sick.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone to honor the dead.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.
I need someone who grieves and hurts, but still lives and loves and still believes and hopes and shares and unites.	Your call has reached me. Here I Am.

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 first book of Samuel

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD
where the ark of God was.

The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, *"Here I am."*
Samuel ran to Eli and said,
"Here I am. You called me."

"I did not call you," Eli said. *"Go back to sleep."*
So he went back to sleep.
Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli.

"Here I am," he said. *"You called me." ...*
...Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth.
So he said to Samuel,
"Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply:
'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

When Samuel went to sleep in his place,
the LORD came and revealed his presence,
calling out as before, *"Samuel, Samuel!"*
Samuel answered, *"Speak, for your servant is listening."*

Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him,
not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

John was standing with two of his disciples,
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God.”

The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.
Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,
“What are you looking for?”

They said to him, *“Rabbi”* (which translated means Teacher),
“Where are you staying?”
He said to them, *“Come, and you will see.”*

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying,
and they stayed with him that day.
It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter,
was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.
He first found his own brother Simon and told him,
“We have found the Messiah”
Then he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said,
*“You are Simon the son of John;
you will be called Cephas”* (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord *Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*