

ST. MARY'S CHURCH & ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH  
Prayer Gathering for May 9

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of everything ever created,  
from the beginning of time you have been writing a love letter to the world  
and sent your Son to deliver your message in a way we could all understand.  
As you made us the "pencils" who continue sharing the love story of Jesus Christ,  
we ask you to sharpen us so your love can be legible for those who read our lives.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

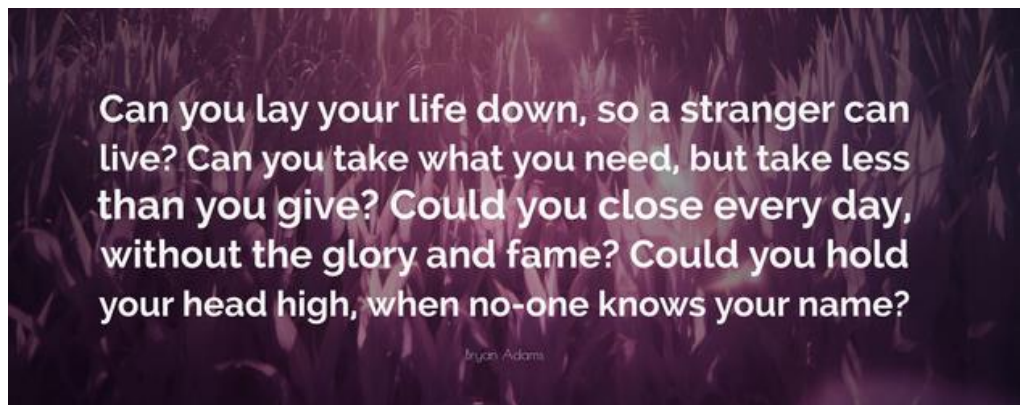
*"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God."*

**Who in your life has been someone so filled with love, when you think of them you find yourself reminded of God's love?**

*"As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love."*

**Jesus says his love for us is of the same nature and intensity as the Father's love for him. Have you ever considered that before? What does that mean for you?  
For all us human beings?**

POSTED RECENTLY



Lyrics to the song [Never Let Go by Bryan Adams](#) (*click to listen*)

DISCUSSION

*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends...*

**Not all of us will die for another person, but all of us are called to "lay down our lives" for others in some meaningful ways. What comes to mind as the ways you have laid down your life over the years? Who has laid down their life for you? How so?**

**Who are we being called to lay our life down for at this time in our lives?**

**Does anyone from the list of people who have hurt us or may not be deserving come to mind? (As this may be a sensitive topic, feel free to share as much or as little as you wish.)**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

May we love those who are struggling to see God's face but tend to give up too soon; we pray...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we love all members of the Church, including those who approach faith differently than we do; we pray...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we love our pope, bishops, leaders, and elected officials, whether we would have chosen them for their posts or not; we pray...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we love all young people, including those who fail to live up to our dreams and expectations for them; we pray...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we love our elderly, who may at times make demands on our time and attention that burden us; we pray...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we love all those workers who serve others: in restaurants and gas stations, in retail jobs and hotels, in hospitals and nursing homes; we pray...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we love our mothers, living or dead – no matter how good they have been at loving and nurturing us in the way we need; we pray...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we love the poor, who Jesus promised would always be with us and who can help us love You better because of them; we pray...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we love the sick... and pray for them... and care for them... and keep them close to our hearts; we pray...  
**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we love all who have died, including those we remember now... .. we pray...  
**Lord, 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 here, 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 letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another,  
because love is of God;

everyone who loves  
is begotten by God and knows God.  
Whoever is without love does not know God,  
for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:  
God sent his only Son into the world  
so that we might have life through him.

In this is love:  
not that we have loved God,  
but that he loved us  
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

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The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“As the Father loves me, so I also love you.  
Remain in my love.*

*If you keep my commandments,  
you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments  
and remain in his love.*

*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you  
and your joy might be complete.*

*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.*

*No one has greater love than this,  
to lay down one’s life for one’s friends...*

*It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you  
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,  
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name  
he may give you.*

*This I command you: love one another.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*John, chapter 15*