

ST. MARY'S CHURCH & ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
Prayer Gathering for June 13

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

O God of the Universe, Maker of All...

As high as the heavens are above us, so high are your ways above ours.

Please give us a hunger above all else for your will to prevail,

and give us the strength to cooperate with your will being done in 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

"I, the LORD, bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, wither up the green tree and make the withered tree bloom."

So often things happen in life that seem bad to us or don't make sense at the time, but in retrospect, we later see were for the highest good in the end.

What is an example of that in your life?

"This is how it is with the kingdom of God... it is as if [a farmer] were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how."

The more we think about how nature operates with or without human help, the more clearly we see miracles even in the ordinary things of life.

What is something that was accomplished in your life that, looking back, you realize you have no idea how it came about?

POSTED RECENTLY

A.A. Step 11

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out."

DISCUSSION

When have you prayed for what you "wanted" without asking for God's will?

When have you prayed for God's will to prevail in your life, even if it were different than the outcome you would have chosen? How did each of those work out?

What is something you have seen someone do that you could imagine made God smile and say "attagirl!" or "attaboy!"?

PRAYER TO ALIGN WITH GOD'S WILL

You have no creator, alone you made all that is...	Thy will be done, O God.
You breathed over the chaos and infused it with life...	Thy will be done, O God.
You created a universe with a Bang and a flash...	Thy will be done, O God.
You filled canyons with oceans and with shells and with fish...	Thy will be done, O God.
You brought forth the day and shined stars in the night...	Thy will be done, O God.
You made mountains and deserts and glaciers and geysers...	Thy will be done, O God.
You hand-picked the souls who would people your Earth...	Thy will be done, O God.
So when the time comes that I have an outcome I want...	Thy will be done, O God.
When my preference is one thing but another thing wins...	Thy will be done, O God.
When I wish I could stay but it's clear I should go...	Thy will be done, O God.
When I seek an answer but don't understand the reply...	Thy will be done, O God.
Father, let the cup of struggle pass from me; yet, not my will...	Thy will be done, O God.

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 letter to Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD:

*I, too, will take from the crest of the cedar,
from its topmost branches tear off a tender shoot,
and plant it on a high and lofty mountain;
on the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it.*

*It shall put forth branches and bear fruit,
and become a majestic cedar.
Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it,
every winged thing in the shade of its boughs.*

*And all the trees of the field shall know
that I, the LORD,
bring low the high tree,
lift high the lowly tree,
wither up the green tree,
and make the withered tree bloom.*

As I, the LORD, have spoken, so will I do.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to the crowds:

*“This is how it is with the kingdom of God...
it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land
and would sleep and rise night and day
and through it all the seed would sprout and grow,
he knows not how.*

*Of its own accord the land yields fruit,
first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.
And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once,
for the harvest has come.”*

He said,

*“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God,
or what parable can we use for it?*

*It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground,
is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.
But once it is sown, it springs up
and becomes the largest of plants
and puts forth large branches,
so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”*

With many such parables
he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.
Without parables he did not speak to them,
but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Mark, chapter 4