

Prayer Gathering for the 17th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God, the demands on our time and attention overwhelm us,
and at times, the fullness of life swallows us up.
Bring our focus to what matters most, what is essential
and allow everything else to fade into its proper, lesser place.
We ask this, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

God said to Solomon: “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.”
If God offered to grant you anything you wanted, what would you ask for? Why?

“When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.”
**In your life, what is the “pearl of great price” you always work to protect or keep?
What is your biggest challenge in keeping that as your central priority?**

POSTED RECENTLY

**YOU ALWAYS
HAVE TIME FOR
THE THINGS
YOU PUT
FIRST.**

**I PUT SECOND THINGS
FIRST, AND THEN WORRY
ABOUT FIRST THINGS**

MASON COOLEY

DISCUSSION

What is the hardest “letting go” you’ve ever had to do?

What has letting go taught you? What value does it have?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church may be wise and holy; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our leaders may be just, caring and sincere; we pray ... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That medical researchers may be led to the answers we need to stay healthy in mind and body;
we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That all people may grow in mutual appreciation of one another and the many cultures and
backgrounds of our ancestors; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That the poor will find food and medical care and the lonely will find friendship; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer

That all suffering with heartbreak, illness, anxiety, depression, addiction or despair will feel
God's healing hand upon them; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

For all our beloved dead... ... and for everyone grieving a loss...
We pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

For all those needs we pause now to bring to God in silence... ...
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 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 Kings

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night.
God said,

“Ask something of me and I will give it to you.”

Solomon answered:

*“O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king
to succeed my father David;
but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act.
I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen,
a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted.
Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart
to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong...”*

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request.
So God said to him:

*“Because you have asked for this—
not for a long life for yourself,
nor for riches,
nor for the life of your enemies,
but for understanding so that you may know what is right—
I do as you requested.
I give you a heart so wise and understanding
that there has never been anyone like you up to now,
and after you there will come no one to equal you.”*

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“The kingdom of heaven
is like a treasure buried in a field,
which a person finds and hides again,
and out of joy goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field.*

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant
searching for fine pearls.*

*When he finds a pearl of great price,
he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 13