

Prayer Gathering for 18th Week in Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God, you pour gifts on us night and day...
no moment of our lives escapes your abundant giving.
Make our hearts generous like yours,
and give us the grace to never remind ourselves or others of the cost of our giving.
We ask this, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

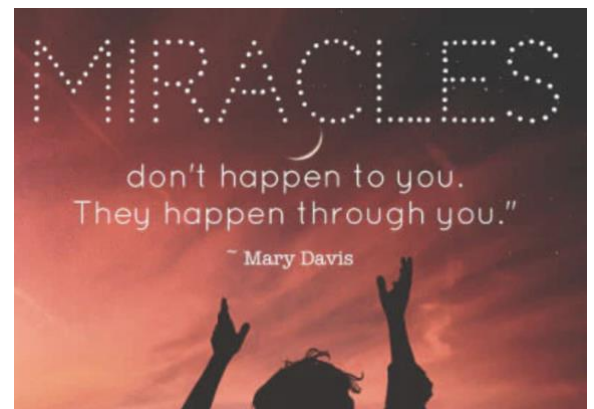
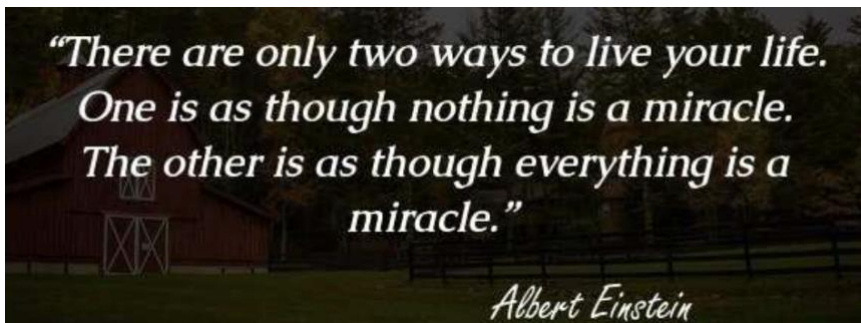
SHARING QUESTIONS

"Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!"
**God's best gifts always come with no strings attached. Why?
What does that tell us about God?**

*Jesus: "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves."
Disciples: "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."*

**We don't have the power to miraculously multiply loaves and fishes, but how ARE
we called to participate in these kind of miracles?
What from your life does this story make you think of?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

When you think of a miracle in your life, what first comes to mind?

How did the experience of a miracle affect your faith?

When have you asked for a miracle and not gotten it? How did you recover from that?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church may find new ways to spread God's grace to more and more people; we pray...
Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

That our nation and our political leaders may remember the wisdom of the teaching "united we stand and divided we fall;" we pray...
Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

That doctors and nurses will be given the strength they need for their healing work; we pray...
Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

That summer may give children space and time for healthy renewal and enrichment; we pray...
Lord, Hear Our Prayer.

That the poor will be fed by God through us... without receiving a bill; 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 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 Isaiah

Thus says the LORD:

*All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!
You who have no money,
come, receive grain and eat;
Come, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!*

*Why spend your money for what is not bread;
your wages for what fails to satisfy?*

*Heed me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.
Come to me heedfully,
listen, that you may have life.*

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

[Jesus's] heart was moved with pity for [the crowd],
and he cured their sick.

When it was evening,
the disciples approached him and said,
*“This is a deserted place and it is already late;
dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages
and buy food for themselves.”*

Jesus said to them,
*“There is no need for them to go away;
give them some food yourselves.”*

But they said to him,
“Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.”

Then he said, *“Bring them here to me, ”*
and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish,
and looking up to heaven,
he said the blessing, broke the loaves,
and gave them to the disciples,
who in turn gave them to [the 5,000 men,
not counting women and children].

They all ate and were satisfied,
and they picked up the fragments left over—
twelve wicker baskets full.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 14