

Prayer Gathering for 27th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God,
the uncertainty of tomorrow fills our hearts with fear,
turning us away from the path you've laid before our feet.
Help us to walk forward with courage,
and to feel your love beside us always.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*"Have no anxiety at all...
Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me."*
What about your life or your faith are you good at remembering when times are good, but soon flies out the window when you are anxious?

*"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable... just, pure, lovely, gracious,
if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."*
Who or what in your life comes to mind when you consider this Scripture?

Why do we tend to focus so much more on what is wrong that what is right?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

Who in your life do you criticize the most? Who criticizes you the most?

How might you be able to improve an important relationship in your life that has been harmed by excessive criticism?

LITANY

For all the things we cannot change...	Grant us serenity, Lord.
For all the people we cannot change...	Grant us serenity, Lord.
For all our faults we have not yet mastered...	Grant us serenity, Lord.
For the apology we wait to receive...	Grant us serenity, Lord.
For the wars we are powerless to stop...	Grant us serenity, Lord.
For the willingness to change the things we can...	Grant us <u>courage</u>, Lord.
For the desire to heal a wounded relationship...	Grant us courage, Lord.
For the awareness that we can think differently...	Grant us courage, Lord.
For strength to speak truth in love...	Grant us courage, Lord.
For the wisdom to know the difference...	Grant us <u>wisdom</u>, Lord.
For the grace to return to what you've taught us...	Grant us wisdom, Lord.
For keeping from our past what is good...	Grant us wisdom, Lord.
For letting go what no longer serves us...	Grant us wisdom, Lord.
For the grace to see as you do...	Grant us wisdom, Lord.

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 letter of Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

"Hear another parable.

*There was a landowner who planted a vineyard,
put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower.
Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.*

*When vintage time drew near,
he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.
But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat,
another they killed, and a third they stoned...*

*Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.'
But when the tenants saw the son...
They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.*

*What will the owner of the vineyard
do to those tenants when he comes?"*

*They answered him,
"He will put those wretched men to a wretched death
and lease his vineyard to other tenants
who will give him the produce at the proper times."...*

*...Therefore, I say to you,
the kingdom of God will be taken away from you
and given to a people that will produce its fruit."*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 21