Prayer Gathering for 30th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

Creator of all life,
your word reveals you as living love, and love is the reason you made us.
Engage our hearts, minds and souls in love for you;
and help us to love others and ourselves each day, as you have commanded us.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

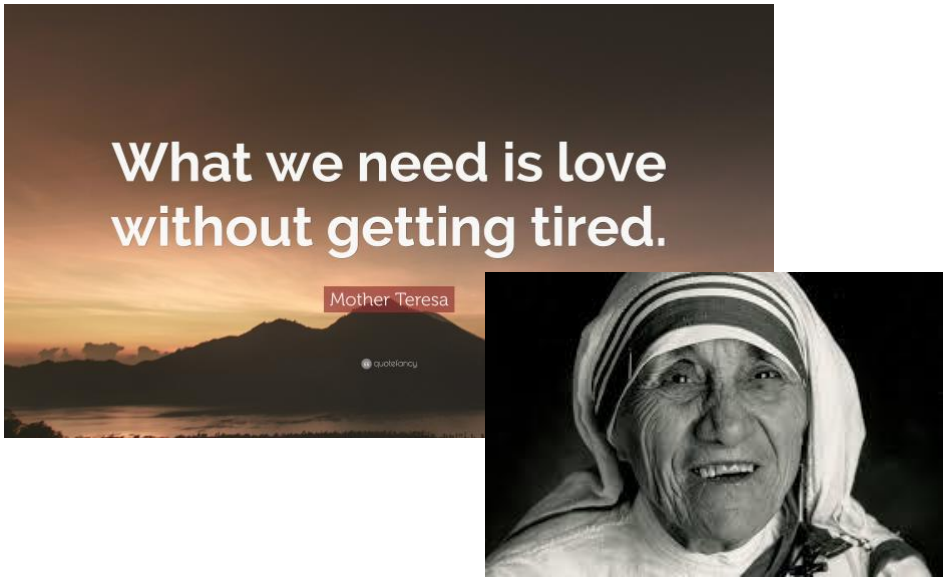
GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

"You shall not oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt."
What is the link between compassion and remembering?
How does forgetting our past make it harder for us to love others?

"If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry."
Does this Scripture make you feel comforted or is it threatening? How so?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."
When in your life did you feel the most flooded with love for God?

When has loving God been harder for you?

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."
Which is harder for you: loving your neighbor or loving yourself? Why?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church will serve as a bridge for the love of God to stream into the heart of every person alive on the earth; we pray… **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That our country will overcome the political division that is wounding our communities, families and friendships; we pray… **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That we will find some time in each day to be with God and nourish our most important relationship in life; we pray… **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That we will learn to see God's image and likeness in the face of each person we encounter; we pray… **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That we will learn to see God's image and likeness looking back at us through our reflection in the mirror; we pray… **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That each person we encounter will be able to sense the great respect we have for them, and want to offer that same feeling for others; we pray… **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

For the poor, for those out of work, for all whose income is not able to cover their bills, for those worried for their children; we pray… **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That all who work in schools and the students they serve may be safe and find ways to stay engaged and excited about learning; we pray… **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

That God may ease the suffering of all those who are sick and renew their health and vitality; we pray… **Lord, our God, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died… *pause*.... ….we pray… **Lord, our God, 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 book of Exodus:

Thus says the LORD:

"You shall not molest or oppress an alien,
for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.
You shall not wrong any widow or orphan.

If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me,
I will surely hear their cry.

My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword;
then your own wives will be widows,
and your children orphans.

"If you lend money
to one of your poor neighbors among my people,
you shall not act like an extortioner toward him
by demanding interest from him.

If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge,
you shall return it to him before sunset;
for this cloak of his
is the only covering he has for his body.
What else has he to sleep in?

If he cries out to me, I will hear him;
for I am compassionate."

The Word of the Lord *Thanks be to God.*

Exodus, chapter 22

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

When the Pharisees heard
that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees,
they gathered together, and one of them,
a scholar of the law tested him by asking,

"Teacher, which commandment in the law
is the greatest?"

He said to him,

"'You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your mind.'
This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it:
'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
The whole law and the prophets depend on these two
commandments."

The Gospel of the Lord *Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

Matthew, chapter 22