

## Prayer Gathering for 10<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Mercy**

**you know the willingness of our spirits and the weakness of our flesh.**

**Give us a spirit of perseverance to keep moving forward**

**and forgive us for our flaws, our defects and our sins.**

**We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“Then [God] asked, ‘Who told you that you were naked?*

*You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!’”*

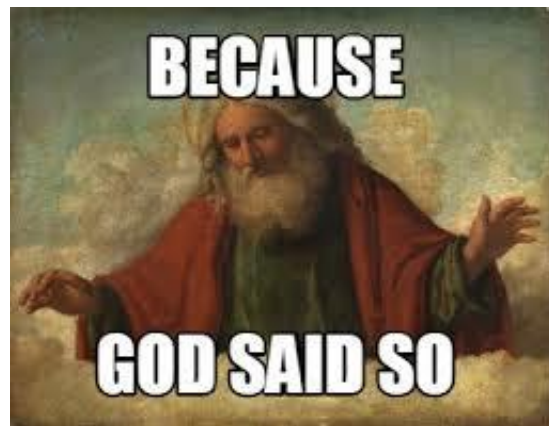
**Have you ever been successful for a whole day in choosing to do the right thing and completely avoiding sinning? What do you make of our human propensity to sin?**

*“Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them.”*

**Jesus says that not just some sins, but all sins – and blasphemies – will be forgiven.**

**Are there any sins that you feel God *shouldn't* forgive? Please explain.**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*“But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin.”*

**This is an often quoted and pondered line of Scripture.**

**What were you taught it means? How do you interpret it now?**

**What should a Christian do when something Jesus says is hard to understand?**

LITANY

- May we do your will, O Lord...** ...and forgive those who have wronged us.
- May we do your will, O Lord...** ...and hold our opinions more loosely.
- May we do your will, O Lord...** ...and make our word to others impeccable.
- May we do your will, O Lord...** ...and share what we have with generosity.
- May we do your will, O Lord...** ...and demonstrate discipline and self-restraint.
- May we do your will, O Lord...** ...and make gentleness our signature trait.
- May we do your will, O Lord...** ...and be willing to act bravely for just causes.
- May we do your will, O Lord...** ...and trust in your love and forgiveness alone.

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 Genesis

After the man, Adam, had eaten of the tree,  
the LORD God called to the man and asked him, "*Where are you?*"

He answered,

*"I heard you in the garden;  
but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."*

Then [God] asked,

*"Who told you that you were naked?  
You have eaten, then,  
from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!"*

The man replied,

*"The woman whom you put here with me—  
she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it."*

The LORD God then asked the woman: "*Why did you do such a thing?*"

The woman answered: "*The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it.*"

Then the LORD God said to the serpent:

*"Because you have done this, you shall be banned  
from all the animals and from all the wild creatures;  
on your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat  
all the days of your life.*

*I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will strike at your head,  
while you strike at his heel."*

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus came home with his disciples.

Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat.

When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him,  
for they said, "*He is out of his mind.*"

The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said,

*"He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons."*

Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables,

*"How can Satan drive out Satan?*

*If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.*

*And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.*

*And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand;  
that is the end of him.*

*But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property  
unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder the house.*

*Amen, I say to you,*

*all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them.*

*But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness,  
but is guilty of an everlasting sin."*

For they had said, "*He has an unclean spirit.*"

His mother and his brothers arrived.

Standing outside they sent word to him and called him.

A crowd seated around him told him,

*"Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you."*

But he said to them in reply, "*Who are my mother and my brothers?*"

And looking around at those seated in the circle he said,

*"Here are my mother and my brothers.*

*For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Mark, chapter 3*