

Prayer Gathering for 14th Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God, our maker,
you endow all of us, your children, with the inalienable right of freedom.
Help us use our freedom to align our lives with the design you gave us,
And never let fear keep us from choosing to walk the path to which you call us.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“Three times I begged that it might leave me, but [the Lord] said to me,
‘My grace is sufficient for you...’”*

What is a weakness in your life that you have wished God would take away?

**Why might it be better to endure the weakness, with the help of God’s grace,
than to simply have the weakness removed?**

POSTED RECENTLY

Freedom is not the ability to do whatever you want. Freedom is the strength of character to do what is good, true, noble, and right.

Matthew Kelly

DISCUSSION

In what area of your life would you like more freedom?

“They said, ‘Where did this man get all this?’ ...And they took offense at him.”

Jesus did not gain the approval of the people in his hometown.

What can we learn from this about the value of people’s approval?

How are you learning this lesson about other people’s approval in your own life?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we all will use the freedom God gives us to say “no” to whatever tries to divert us from the path God has laid for us; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our leaders will live up to their sacred duty to nurture the life, liberty and the flourishing of all citizens by their sacrifices and service; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That all who are plagued by addiction may find healing... and that their families may recover as well; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That we will always value life more than money, and love more than power; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our weaknesses may teach us humility and inspire us to develop our strengths; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our young people may look for the faith of their parents and elders to inspire them and find what they are looking for; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That the poor may have enough to eat today and hope that tomorrow will be better because of our efforts on their behalf; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our homes may be places of refuge and nurturing, and that abuse in all its forms may cease; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the sick... those in hospitals, nursing homes and care facilities... for those who are homebound; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

For all those we have loved that have died... ; 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 here, 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 second letter from Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

That I, Paul, might not become too elated,
because of the abundance of the revelations,
a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan,
to beat me, to keep me from being too elated.

Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me,
but he said to me,

*“My grace is sufficient for you,
for power is made perfect in weakness.”*

I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses,
in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me.

Therefore, I am content with
weaknesses,
insults,
hardships,
persecutions,
and constraints,
for the sake of Christ;

for when I am weak, then I am strong.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples.

When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished.

They said,

*“Where did this man get all this?
What kind of wisdom has been given him?
What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!
Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary,
and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon?
And are not his sisters here with us?”*

And they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them,

*“A prophet is not without honor except in his native place
and among his own kin and in his own house.”*

So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.

He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Mark, chapter 6