

## Prayer Gathering for 33<sup>rd</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of our past and of our future,  
headlines and soundbites in the news can paralyze us with fear,  
and the hidden trials we face in each of our lives can make us feel that we will crumble.  
Help us to know the full reach of your power and love  
and soothe our troubled hearts when we waver and dread.  
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

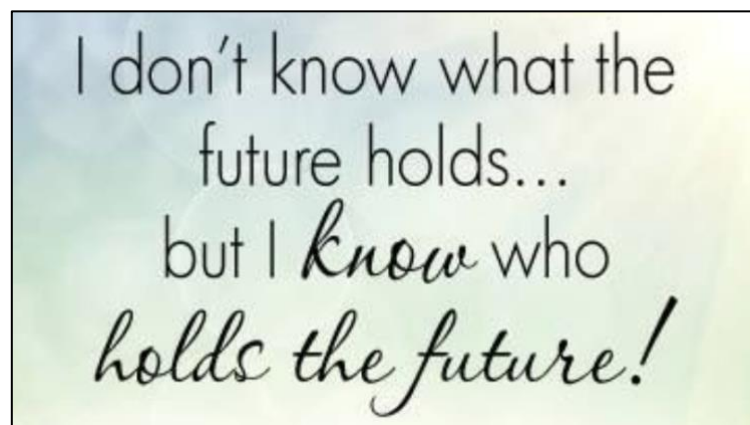
GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*"It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress...  
At that time there shall arise Michael, the great prince, guardian of your people..."*  
**The Archangel Michael has been a protector of our people throughout our history.  
Who else in life has provided protection for you? Who comes to mind as a guardian?**

*"But the wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament,  
and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."*  
**This line from scripture is the inspiration of Catholic school educators who seek to  
impart to students not just knowledge but wisdom.  
What is wisdom? What differentiates it from knowledge?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*"In those days after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened... the moon will not give its  
light... the stars will be falling from the sky... the powers in the heavens will be shaken."*  
**All of us deal with fears about the unknowns of the future.  
How do you cope with your moments of greatest anxiety about the future?  
What gives you assurance that you will be able to withstand whatever may come?**

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church may convict us with the awareness that God is bigger than any trial we could ever face; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That our leaders and elected officials may recognize the unique privilege they have to guide society as God would; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all who are overwhelmed by anxiety and depression may taste peace and serenity; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That those living in poverty may experience God's miracles in their lives through our desire to share what we have with them; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all young people will avoid the trap of cynicism and continue yearning for a future of justice and peace; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That all those who have been betrayed will find the strength to forgive and move forward with living; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the joy and fellowship we share at our parish may become the worst-kept secret in town and draw new sisters and brothers to God's house; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who have died... ..and for all who are burdened with grief... .. we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all the prayers we can only share in silence with God... ..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 book of the prophet Daniel

In those days, I Daniel, heard this word of the Lord:

*"At that time there shall arise  
Michael, the great prince,  
guardian of your people;  
it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress  
since nations began until that time.*

*At that time your people shall escape,  
everyone who is found written in the book.*

*Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth  
shall awake...*

*But the wise shall shine brightly  
like the splendor of the firmament,  
and those who lead the many to justice  
shall be like the stars forever."*

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples:

*"In those days after that tribulation  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from the sky,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.  
And then they will see  
'the Son of Man coming in the clouds'  
with great power and glory,  
and then he will send out the angels  
and gather his elect from the four winds,  
from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.*

*Learn a lesson from the fig tree.  
When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves,  
you know that summer is near.  
In the same way, when you see these things happening,  
know that he is near, at the gates.*

*Amen, I say to you,  
this generation will not pass away  
until all these things have taken place.  
Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but my words will not pass away.*

*But of that day or hour, no one knows,  
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son,  
but only the Father."*

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*Mark, chapter 13*