

Prayer Gathering for Third Week of Lent

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Second Chances,
you alone are whole... only you are perfect.
We, your children, struggle at times to stay true even to ourselves.
Help us to be patient with life as it unfolds according to your divine will;
and help us be patient with ourselves as we face our weaknesses and flaws.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am."
God said, "...I am the God of your fathers... I have witnessed the affliction of my people
Therefore I have come down to rescue them."*

Moses understood immediately that he was the one God was choosing to lead the people out of slavery. What is the biggest responsibility God has ever assigned to you? How have you managed it?

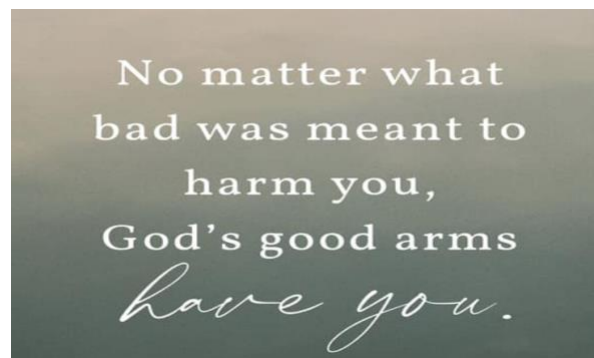
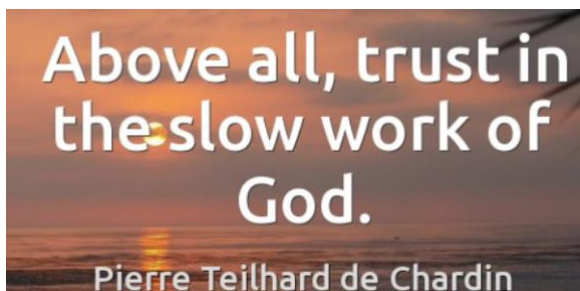
*"For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none."
"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it."*

When has someone given you a second chance when you needed it?

When have you been the one to give someone else a second chance?

What does the beauty of "second chance" stories teach you about God?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*"For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none."
"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it;
it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down."*

God's timing is different than ours. It often feels to us like God is too slow in responding. When have you come to appreciate the slow work of God in your life?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That we may grow in patience as we learn to trust in the slow work of God; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all leaders will pause to remember the sovereignty of God and humbly place themselves in God's plan; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all who are experiencing slavery to fear... anxiety... anger... or sadness... will soon taste freedom; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are addicted to alcohol, drugs, food, pornography or shopping...

for all who are in chains... and for all who love them; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For everyone who needs courage to be able to respond faithfully to God's call in their lives; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For everyone who is ashamed over hearing God's call at an earlier time in life but choosing not to answer it; for the grace of second chances; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the poor, the hungry, the homeless and the formerly incarcerated; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick and all who live with chronic pain. And for all those who care for them; we pray...

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the tragedy of war... and for all our beloved dead... ..
... 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 Exodus:

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed.

So Moses decided,

*“I must go over to look at this remarkable sight,
and see why the bush is not burned.”*

When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, *“Moses! Moses!”* He answered, *“Here I am.”*

God said, *“Come no nearer!*

*Remove the sandals from your feet,
for the place where you stand is holy ground.
I am the God of your fathers,”* God continued,
“the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.”

Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

But the LORD said, *“I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt
and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers,
so I know well what they are suffering.*

*Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians
and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land...”*

Moses said to God, *“But when I go to the Israelites
and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’
if they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what am I to tell them?”*

God replied, *“I am who am.”*

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans
whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices.

Jesus said to them in reply,

*“Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way
they were greater sinners than all other Galileans?*

By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!

*Or those eighteen people who were killed
when the tower at Siloam fell on them—*

do you think they were more guilty

than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means!

But I tell you, if you do not repent,

you will all perish as they did!”

And he told them this parable:

*“There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard,
and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none,
he said to the gardener,*

‘For three years now I have come

in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.

So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?’

He said to him in reply,

‘Sir, leave it for this year also,

and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it;

it may bear fruit in the future.

If not you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Luke, chapter 13