

Prayer Gathering for 23rd Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Our Destiny,
your Son pointed out the way that leads to everlasting life
and shocked us by showing that it lies *beyond* the Cross.
As we face the sorrows and challenges of life
keep us faithful to the route he has given us... and help us trust in the grace he offers.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

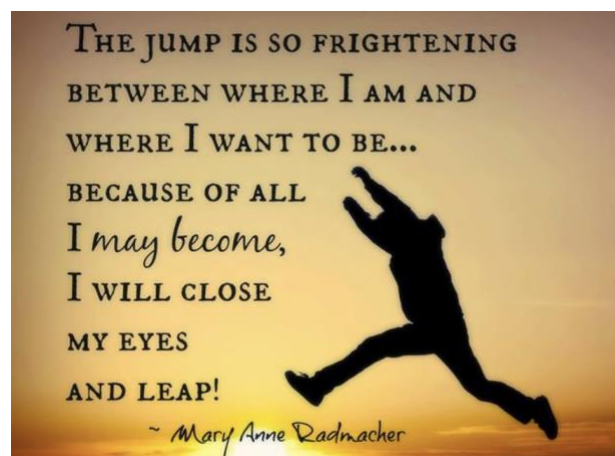
“For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. For the corruptible body burdens the soul, and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind...”

We often think of our bodies in opposition to our souls. At times, they seem to have opposite goals. What is your body’s relationship with your soul? How has that relationship changed?

“In the same way, any one of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.”

If you needed to surrender all of your possessions very suddenly (through a decision, a catastrophe or a natural event), how do you expect you would feel about it? How would your body feel about it? How would your soul feel about it?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

“Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion?”

When we decide to follow Jesus with the commitment of a disciple, we offer God a “blank check” to do with our life what God sees fit. Have you written that check? Why or why not? What do you do to “maintain the funds” to cover that blank check?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

That the Church will be for the world a model of utter commitment to the will of God; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

That all of us seeking to be disciples of Jesus Christ drop more and more of our resistance to giving him all we have to give; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

That our passion for the way of Jesus may always be far greater than our particular political convictions; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

That all children returning to school will be enlivened by their learning and nurtured by their teachers and mentors; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

That all countries under siege because of war and conflict may taste peace and safety; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick... for the terminally ill... for those in chronic pain; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

For our beloved dead... and for everyone mourning... we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the needs we share with God in silence... 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 Wisdom:

Who can know God's counsel,
or who can conceive what the LORD intends?

For the deliberations of mortals are timid,
and unsure are our plans.

For the corruptible body burdens the soul
and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind
that has many concerns.

And scarce do we guess the things on earth,
and what is within our grasp
we find with difficulty;

but when things are in heaven,
who can search them out?

Or who ever knew your counsel,
except you had given wisdom
and sent your holy spirit from on high?

And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus,
and he turned and addressed them,

*“If anyone comes to me without hating
his father and mother,
wife and children, brothers and sisters,
and even his own life,
he cannot be my disciple.*

*Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple.*

*Which of you wishing to construct a tower
does not first sit down and calculate the cost
to see if there is enough for its completion?*

*Otherwise, after laying the foundation
and finding himself unable to finish the work
the onlookers should laugh at him and say,
‘This one began to build
but did not have the resources to finish.’*

*Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down
and decide whether with ten thousand troops
he can successfully oppose another king
advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops?*

*But if not, while he is still far away,
he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms.*

*In the same way,
any one of you who does not renounce all his possessions
cannot be my disciple.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Luke, chapter 14