

Prayer Gathering for First Week of Lent

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Crafter of All Creation,
you blew life into dust and created us from the sleeping dirt.
May we remember how brief is our time in this world
and how much awaits us in your kingdom of glory.
Help us use our time to serve you wholeheartedly... and keep focus on what will last.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“The serpent said to the woman: ‘You certainly will not die!’
The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes,
and desirable for gaining wisdom.”*

**When have you been convinced that something sinful was not “so bad”?
What kind of vigilance prevents you from succumbing to these lies?**

*“Jesus said in reply: ‘It is written: One does not live on bread alone, but on every word
that comes forth from the mouth of God.’”*

**When Jesus was tempted by the Devil, he turned to a Bible passage (Deuteronomy 8:3)
to fortify him. What phrase or mantra do you turn to for help in tense moments?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

(Devil) "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels... and... they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

**The Devil quoted Scripture to Jesus (Psalm 91) to try to convince him to sin.
This is one of the worst tricks: using religion as a justification to do wicked things.
What does this make you think of from your own life or from modern times?**

LITANY

When my disgust with the sins of churches tempts me to walk away from faith, may I remember...

God alone do I worship... God alone do I serve

When my opinions begin to seem more important than my fidelity, may I remember...

God alone do I worship... God alone do I serve

When I am tempted to tamper with the truth, may I remember...

God alone do I worship... God alone do I serve

When my longing for bygone youth trumps my desire for eternal life, may I remember...

God alone do I worship... God alone do I serve

When competition makes me think the next trophy or honor is all that matters, may I remember...

God alone do I worship... God alone do I serve

When today's projects, plans and goals take precedence over all else, may I remember...

God alone do I worship... God alone do I serve

When my anxiety keeps me from pursuing God's will, may I remember...

God alone do I worship... God alone do I serve

When my work and my hobbies leave no time for anything else, may I remember...

God alone do I worship... God alone do I serve

When I assume I will always have more time later to pursue what really matters, may I remember...

God alone do I worship... God alone do I serve

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 Genesis

The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east,
and placed there the man whom he had formed.

Out of the ground the LORD God made various trees grow
that were delightful to look at and good for food,
with the tree of life in the middle of the garden
and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made.
The serpent asked the woman,

*"Did God really tell you not to eat
from any of the trees in the garden?"*

The woman answered the serpent:

*"We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;
it is only about the fruit of the tree
in the middle of the garden that God said,
'You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.'"*

But the serpent said to the woman:

*"You certainly will not die!
No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it
your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods
who know what is good and what is evil."*

The woman saw that the tree was good for food,
pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom.

So she took some of its fruit and ate it;
and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her,
and he ate it.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened,
and they realized that they were naked;
so they sewed fig leaves together
and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.

The tempter approached and said to him,
*"If you are the Son of God,
command that these stones become loaves of bread."*

He said in reply, *"It is written:
One does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God."*

Then the devil took him to the holy city,
and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him,
*"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.
For it is written:
'He will command his angels concerning you
and with their hands they will support you,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"*

Jesus answered him,
"Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'"

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain,
and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him,
*"All these I shall give to you,
if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."*

At this, Jesus said to him,
*"Get away, Satan!
It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship
and him alone shall you serve.'"*

Then the devil left him and, behold,
angels came and ministered to him.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 4