

Prayer Gathering for Holy Week

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Father of Jesus,
the pace of life sometimes shackles us to our petty complaints.
Amnesia overtakes our hearts, smothering gratefulness with gluttony.
In this holiest of all weeks, may we fix our eyes on your Son,
bend our knees in adoration, and raise our hands in humble thanksgiving.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

“There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.”

When in your life have you witnessed yourself or someone else “stand there and not run” during a time of trial? When has someone stayed by your side in a crisis?

The phrase “*I can’t stand this*” typifies our resistance to standing there and not fleeing. What is your most common “go-to” coping strategy when you can’t stand what’s happening?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

“They said, ‘Truly, this was the Son of God!’”

In what way(s) is your faith in Jesus “saving you” right now?

How will the Easter message that “*life is stronger than death*” be different for you this year than at earlier times of your life?

LITANY

From our anger...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our pride...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our dishonesty...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our vanity...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our jealousy...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our greed...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our fear...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our gluttony...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our impurity...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our procrastination...	...Save Us, O Lord
From our tendency to choose death over life...	...Save Us, O Lord
Save us, O Lord...	...Save Us, O Lord
You have saved us, O Lord...	...We thank you, O Lord

OUR FATHER

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 there, 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 letter of St. Paul to the Philippians

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave...
coming in human likeness...
and found human in appearance,

he humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus cried out again in a loud voice,
and gave up his spirit.

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary
was torn in two from top to bottom.
The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened,
and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised.
And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection,
they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus
feared greatly when they saw the earthquake
and all that was happening, and they said,
“Truly, this was the Son of God!”

There were many women there, looking on from a distance,
who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him.
Among them were Mary Magdalene
and Mary the mother of James and Joseph,
and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph,
who was himself a disciple of Jesus.
He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus;
then Pilate ordered it to be handed over.

Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen
and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock.
Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb
and departed.

But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there,
facing the tomb.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 26