

Ministry Praise

LENT ... Let us begin

MORNING PRAISE

We bless the God whose Son has gained for us true freedom.

May we sing your mercies, kind God.

We praise the God whose Spirit enlightens our lives.

May we sing your mercies, kind God.

We adore the Creator who continually cleanses us from sin.

May we sing your mercies, kind God.

We render our gratitude to God for the grace
of the Cross of Christ.

May we sing your mercies, kind God.

God of the living, strengthen us in the Spirit, that, as

Jesus did not shrink from our humanity, we may not shrink

from your invitation to holiness. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Lent is the ideal time of the year to get to know Jesus better. How blessed we Christians are to have this season of forty days to prepare for Holy Week and Easter, the most important and solemn days of the liturgical year. We endeavor to get our hearts ready to contemplate the mysteries of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. We strive to tune in to what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives as we ask ourselves "Are we being the people God wants us to be? "

LET US COMMIT OURSELVES TO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS PRECIOUS SEASON LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

MARCH 1 – ASH WEDNESDAY

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; You claimed us for Christ in the waters of Baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days, bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent. Lord, as I spend this Lent with You, let me know you so well that I cannot help but love You. Let me love You so deeply that I cannot help but want to be like you. Let the ashes I receive today be a sign of my desire to spend this Lent in a life-changing way.

Lord Jesus, may I be grateful for my gifts and put them all at the disposal of others and your Kingdom. Let people find in me — as they found in You — a humble heart, a welcoming smile, and a listening ear. Jesus, make my heart more like yours.

Lord Jesus, help me to appreciate prayer. Help me to be more grateful for the honor of being able to speak with you every day, knowing that you hear me, that you love me, that you enjoy our time together. Teach me to pray as you prayed. Jesus make my heart more like yours.

Lord Jesus, when I look at your life, I am moved by your great mercy. You felt the effects of sin in your own flesh and yet you are the first to excuse, to pardon, to welcome back into your friendship. Praised be your gentle, merciful heart. Jesus make my heart more like yours.

**Thank you, Lord, for being there for me in my own life.
Help me to be there for others.**

WEEKDAY PRAYERS FOR LENT

We are encouraged to make a prayer commitment for the Lenten season. Below is a suggested format of prayers for each day during Lent. Set a time each day, maybe at mealtime or bedtime to pray these prayers, alone or with family, aloud or silently but say them each day. Our hurting world will be a better place because of your efforts.

SUNDAYS – FOR THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for the Church throughout the world. Let this Lenten season draw us closer to your Sacred Heart, in deeper commitment to living the Kingdom of God.

We pray for our Holy Father, our bishop, our pastor, all ordained and for all in leadership positions in the Catholic Church. May their attempts to promote human dignity and the common good bear fruit in our Lenten prayer and penance. We pray for all the elect, journeying to Baptism and for the already baptized, ready to welcome them into the sacramental life of the Church. We offer our prayers through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

(Our Father)

MONDAYS – FOR PEACE IN OUR WORLD

Heavenly Father, your Son, Prince of Peace, at His Last Supper, gave his disciples His gift of peace. Hear us plead for peace in our time and let us be instruments of your peace and love in a world of violence and hatred.

We pray for all nations torn by war and for all victims of war.

“May all nations beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.”

May all nations not raise the sword against each other or train for war again.

We express gratitude for all who serve or have served in our military.

We pray for their safe return home and for proper care for all veterans still suffering from the effects of war. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you forever.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where is injury, pardon;

Where is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we born to eternal life.

Amen.

TUESDAYS – FOR REFUGEES, IMMIGRANTS AND ALL HOMELESS

Heavenly Father, your Son was born in an animal stall because there was no room for Mary and Joseph at the inn. During his public ministry, Jesus traveled from village to village preaching and healing. He identified with those uprooted, abandoned and rejected. Hear us now as we pray for those wandering the lands throughout the world seeking a home. May we be their advocates for justice.

We pray for the more than 220 million people wandering the face of the earth searching for safety, stability, work and basic human rights. We pray in sorrow for the hostility they often endure and for the exploitation and violence that crushes their souls. We pray that their search for welcome and peace be fulfilled with compassion of the nations and all believers in God. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

PSALM 23

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack.
In green pastures he makes me lie down;
To still waters he leads me; he restores my soul.
He guides me along right paths for the sake of his name.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
Your rod and your staff comfort me.

WEDNESDAYS – FOR ALL HUNGRY AND MALNOURISHED

Heavenly Father, with a few loaves and fish, your Son fed the multitudes. In the Eucharist He continues to nourish our souls with the Bread of Life, His very Body and Blood. Hear our prayer for those suffering hunger throughout our world.

We pray for the growing numbers of American families now living in poverty and choosing between housing and meals, heating or eating, medicine or nutrition. We pray for all efforts to secure stable sources of food for all families and households. We pray for all farmers and farm workers. May they receive just recompense for their labors and harvests. For all operating food kitchens and food pantries. We pray for millions of third world families despairing of the next meal and watching their loved ones die of starvation. Hear this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter
every kind of evil against you because of me.*

THURSDAYS – FOR ALL LACKING ADEQUATE HEALTH CARE

Heavenly Father, in his public ministry, your Son healed the sick and cured many of diseases. His Blessed Mother and many canonized saints accompanied with healings. Hear us as we pray for deeper compassion and justice for the sick and their loved ones, anxious for their care.

We pray for the tens of millions in our nation lacking basic health care insurance. We pray for those who receive inadequate treatment for their illnesses or injuries. Or have suffered financially for their health condition. May all Catholic health professionals and health care institutions be protected from participating in procedures that violate the sacredness of human life.

(Sign of the Cross, Apostles Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary)

**FRIDAYS – FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN LIFE FROM
CONCEPTION TO NATURAL DEATH**

Heavenly Father, the Blessed Mother rejoiced at Archangel Gabriel's announcement that she would give birth to your divine Son. We pray for all preborn children, safe in their mother's womb and we pray for their safe delivery and welcome into nurturing families.

We pray for women with troubled or unwanted pregnancies. May they receive the financial, medical, spiritual and emotional support to bring their babies to birth. We pray for women who have had abortions and all involved in procuring them. May they come to realize the sacredness of all human life and the power of our Lord's healing and merciful love.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

SATURDAYS – FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL WORKERS and EMPLOYERS

Heavenly Father, your Son labored as a carpenter, using his skills to build and repair homes, make tools for other workers and create products for daily life in Nazareth. Hear us pray for a greater sense of the dignity of work and a deeper sense of the sacred in the workplace.

We pray for the growing numbers of workers now unemployed and for businesses and companies, ready to hire when demand for their services improves. We pray for all efforts to secure justice in the workplace, for employers and employees and for the millions exploited for their cheap labor. We pray that labor unions be recognized as legitimate advocates for workplace justice in keeping with the teaching of the Church.

St. Joseph, with loving patience and obedience you carried out the will of God.

May we also give ourselves to God's holy will.

St. Joseph, patron of workers, pray for us.

FOR OUR CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

Lord Jesus, we ask your blessings on the men and women who aspire to join our Church through our parish community. As they ponder your Word and share their stories, may the fabric of their lives become interwoven just as our lives are — into the very Body of Christ, your Church.

Give to us , Spirit of Love, the grace to walk their journeys with them in faith. And Creator God, may we all be one in You.

MARCH – DEDICATED TO St. JOSEPH

O blessed Joseph, gentle, humble and quiet man of faith, God chose you to be the husband of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, As part of the very life of the Word of God made man, you carried the loving Child in your arms and loved and served him. You were a comforter and supporter and companion to His mother. With loving patience and generosity you carried out the will of God the Father.



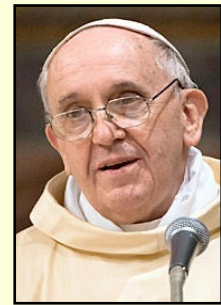
St. Joseph, thank you for being our model of virtues. Help us to imitate those virtues. May we give ourselves entirely to the accomplishment of God’s holy will.

- St. Joseph, faithful servant, pray for us.
- St. Joseph , patron of workers, pray for us.
- St. Joseph, patron of families, pray for us.
- St. Joseph, patron of a happy death, pray for us.
- St. Joseph, patron of the Church, pray for us.

SIGN LANGUAGE

Not all prayer involves words. The gesture of making the Sign of the Cross can stand alone without words. The Cross is our I.D., marking us as belonging to Christ. Why not make the Sign of the Cross as you leave the house or when you return, as you tackle an exhausting task

Or when you get into your car, or in gratitude for a special favor. It is the perfect prayer, especially during Lent, and place all of your experiences at the foot of Christ’s Cross.



Words by Pope Francis:
“As we continue our Lenten journey, let us change our ways and come closer to the Lord. It is beautiful to be close to the Lord.”



Those Who Recently Found Eternal Rest
Walter Byrne
Paul T. Grothause
Jerome M. Burgei
Marguerite Thitoff

MARCH 17, ST. PATRICK’S DAY

May you always walk in sunshine
May you never want for more.
May Irish angels rest their wings
Right beside your door.

COME HOLY SPIRIT!

On Sunday, March 19, the following students from Delphos St. Johns, PSR, Landeck and Spencerville will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Let us support them and their sponsors in prayer.

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| Brianna Altenburger | Jason Gillespie | Carson Muhlenkamp |
| Brandt Baldauf | Gillian Goecke | Ruben Noriega III |
| Cody Bockey | Keegan Goecke | Kylie O'Connor |
| Dominic Bonifas | Derek Haggard | Jeffrey Odenweller |
| Morgan Bonifas | Lilian Hempfling | Rylee Pohlman |
| Brooke Brinkman | Gage Henkener | Joshua Radler |
| Nathan Buettner | Zach Herron | Rileigh Rahrig |
| Abby Buettner | Leah Hodgson | Emma Reindel |
| Gracie Butorac | Jenna Illig | Abra Riley |
| Alivia Carpenter | Matthew Kahny | Kassidy Ringwald |
| Caitlin Cox | Kaylie Kill | Abbie Riordan |
| Brandon Dues | Noah Kimmet | Kambrynn Rohr |
| Courtney Ebbeskotte | Allison Kramer | Jada Schafer |
| Kenton Edsall | Jenna Ladd | Michaela Shawhan |
| Brenden Etgen | Trent Lindeman | Troy Smith |
| Isaac Fairchild | Chase Martin | Gage Stemen |
| Katlynn Feathers | Corbin McKinley | Ryan Stocksdales |
| Audrey Ferguson | Owen Miller | Reagan Ulm |
| Jayna Friemoth | Erika Moenter | Renee Unland |
| Logan Gallmeier | Nathan Moiser | Noel Warnement |
| Paige Gaynier | Curtis Mueller | Cassidy Werts |
| Keaton Gerdeman | Addison Mueller | Damon Wiltsie |
| Elizabeth Gerow | | Elizabeth Wrasman |

LET US PRAY

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your children and kindle in them the fire of your love.

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
And you shall renew the face of the earth.*

Spirit of God, fill your children with the joy of your presence. Increase in them the fruits of your Spirit: the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Love, Patience, and Gentleness, the Spirit of Wonder and true Holiness.

Bless all of your people with love, and reverence for your Spirit. Amen.