

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 5, 2017



Scripture Readings

Malachi 1:14b–2:2b, 8–10

Psalm 131:1, 2, 3

1 Thessalonians 2:7b–9, 13

Matthew 23:1–12

Prayer during Fall

God of life and love,
you are the source
of all that we have and all that we are.
Thank you for all you have created
and for your abundant blessings.
Make us good stewards of your gifts.
May we broaden our minds
by being open to new discoveries.
May we strengthen our bodies
by staying active and healthy.
May we deepen our hearts
through our prayer to you
and through the love we show to others.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ritual

Jesus tells us if we want to become great the way to do it is to be the servant of others. That means thinking of others first. This week, allow everyone in your family to have a turn at being the “greatest.” Do something thoughtful without being asked. Or try this: at dinner each night this week, have each family member serve another. Do this in silence to have each person focus on the action of putting food on a plate, pouring a

drink in the glass, etc. At dinner each night this week, have each family member serve another. Do this in silence to have each person focus on the action of putting food on a plate, pouring a drink in the glass, etc.

Conversation Questions

☉ How does our family use our gifts to serve others?

☉ When we do acts of service, are we connecting them to our Christian calling (i.e., Why do we serve others? How does serving relate to what Jesus asks of us as disciples?)?

Living the Liturgy at Home

When we complete an act of service, talking about it beforehand and afterward especially helps children connect to their Catholic Christian upbringing and the teachings of Jesus. This week, plan an act of service and complete it within the next few weeks. List all the things that will be done that day. Afterward, write about and discuss feelings and mission.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 12, 2017



Scripture Readings

Wisdom 6:12–16

Psalms 63:2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8 (2b)

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 or
4:13–14

Matthew 25:1–13

Prayer during Fall

God of life and love,
you are the source
of all that we have and all that we are.
Thank you for all you have created
and for your abundant blessings.
Make us good stewards of your gifts.
May we broaden our minds
by being open to new discoveries.
May we strengthen our bodies
by staying active and healthy.
May we deepen our hearts
through our prayer to you
and through the love we show to others.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ritual

The month of November helps us to remember those who have passed into eternity. This month, as a ritual devotion, pray for the souls in purgatory: “Lord God, have mercy on the souls in purgatory. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.” Light a candle daily as a reminder to pray.

Conversation Questions

☉ Upon first hearing, this story seems a bit unfair. Shouldn't the wise girls share their oil? However, we must take responsibility with our lives if we want to get to heaven. What do you think you must do?

☉ How does daily prayer help us to stay ready for Jesus?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Was there a recent Baptism in your family or in your home? Talk about the candle being a symbol of the Light of Christ. Do an Internet search for the Rite of Baptism for Children so you can read what it says about the Light of Christ burning brightly. Gather photos or a video from a family baptism and if the candle can be found, use it for prayer at home this week.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2017



Scripture Readings

Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31

Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5 (see 1a)

1 Thessalonians 5:1–6

Matthew 25:14–30 or 25:14–15, 19–21

Prayer during Fall

God of life and love,
you are the source
of all that we have and all that we are.
Thank you for all you have created
and for your abundant blessings.
Make us good stewards of your gifts.
May we broaden our minds
by being open to new discoveries.
May we strengthen our bodies
by staying active and healthy.
May we deepen our hearts
through our prayer to you
and through the love we show to others.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ritual

During Mass, we regularly pray with certain saints, usually the patron of our parish and the Blessed Mother. Which saints are honored in your family? Are family members named after saints? Go to www.catholic.org/saints and see what you can find out about some of your favorite saints or for whom family members are named.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ The master gave his servants certain numbers of coins. God give us each certain talents. What are your talents? How can you increase them and use them to serve others?
- ☉ Can you identify talents in other people who might not see them in themselves? Name a talent that you see in each member of your family. You might also want to name some in your friends.

Living the Liturgy at Home

This Sunday's Gospel offers an opportunity for discernment. It is usually done in community because the different perspectives of different members give a more rounded evaluation than one person can achieve alone. It is not too early to talk with your child about his or her own gifts and talents that you have already noticed in him or her. You might share how you learned of your own preferences and talents and the work you have done in your life to help them grow. You might add when developing them was fun, or when it was challenging. Mention those who have encouraged and helped you along the way: mentors, family members, and friends.



Prayers and Blessings at Home

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 26, 2017

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17

Psalms 23:1–2, 2–3, 5–6 (1)

1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 28

Matthew 25:31–46

Prayer during Fall

God of life and love,
you are the source
of all that we have and all that we are.
Thank you for all you have created
and for your abundant blessings.
Make us good stewards of your gifts.
May we broaden our minds
by being open to new discoveries.
May we strengthen our bodies
by staying active and healthy.
May we deepen our hearts
through our prayer to you
and through the love we show to others.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ritual

Go online to learn more about extreme poverty in other parts of the world. As a family, choose one place or region to pray for during the course of the week. Together with your child, learn more about the area's culture, history, and geography. You might even add pictures of the people and places of this area on your prayer table to remind yourselves of this intention in your prayers.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Today we honor Christ our King! Jesus is not like the kings of this world. How would you describe Jesus as King? How would you describe the Kingdom of God?
- ☉ Why does Jesus want us to help everyone, even the people who live far away and those we have never met?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Has your family participated in clothing drives or volunteer programs in nursing homes, stocked food pantries, cared for elderly neighbors, responded to the needs of immigrants, or prayed for those in prison? Chose one of these suggestions and put it into practice this week.