

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Solemnity of All Saints

November 1, 2017



Scripture Readings

Revelation 7:2–4, 9–14
Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6
1 John 3:1–3
Matthew 5:1–12a

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

Today is a Holyday of Obligation. We celebrate those who have gone before us in faith, whether those canonized as saints by the Church or our own deceased relatives and friends. This week, obtain a copy of the Litany of Saints. A litany consists of the name of the saint followed by the phrase, “pray for us.” Often the list begins or ends with a reference to Mary, the mother of Jesus. (Ask your pastor or director of faith

formation for help or go to www.catholic.org.) Pray the litany together during family prayers. Personalize the litany with favorite family saints.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Which of the Beatitudes have we incorporated well into our family life?
- ☉ Which of the Beatitudes have we failed to practice as a family? What can we do to improve?

Living the Liturgy at Home

The Beatitudes give a very challenging framework of parenting, but they also promise great blessings and rewards. Whenever you feel overwhelmed, reflect on “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” While you might feel weak, inadequate, or overscheduled, remember what a blessing your child and your family are. Your role and what you do for your family qualifies you for a place in the Kingdom of heaven. Also reflect on “Blessed are the peacemakers.” Peace at home begins in the relationship between husband and wife. Children will emulate peaceful relationships with siblings and peers when they see their parents’ example.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 5, 2017



Scripture Readings

Malachi 1:14b–2:2b, 8–10

Psalms 131:1, 2, 3

1 Thessalonians 2:7b–9, 13

Matthew 23:1–12

Prayer during Fall

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May we deepen our hearts
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and through the love we show to others.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ritual

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

- ☉ What are some ways that we encourage one another to act with integrity in this family?
- ☉ What is one way we are living out our commitment to discipleship?
- ☉ What is one way we can improve our commitment?

Living the Liturgy at Home

If there is a synagogue in your area, inquire about prayer services offered to the larger community. Consider attending one with your child or with your whole family to learn more about the faith tradition that gave birth to Christianity. If this is not possible, devote an hour one night this week to learning about the Jewish faith.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 12, 2017



Scripture Readings

Wisdom 6:12–16

Psalm 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

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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

Today's readings remind us that we need to live good lives now in order to be prepared for a time when we will go on to new life with God. During family prayers this week, reflect on some of the symbols of faith that we, as Christians, encounter in the course of our day. How many crucifixes are in your home, and where are they located? Where have you seen crucifixes outside your home? Do you have holy water at home? Where in the church or chapel can you find holy water?

Do you light votive candles during prayer? Where might you also find candles in the church?

Conversation Questions

- ☉ When have we been prepared, and that preparation really made a difference in our family's experience?
- ☉ Do we sometimes fall into the trap of finding solace and happiness in material things? How can we rely more on God instead of these things?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Help your child prepare a "Readiness Kit," which includes all the "tools" your child will need to be on the alert for the presence of God, like the ten prepared virgins had been. Those young women in the Gospel parable watched for the arrival of the bridegroom and ensured that they had enough oil for their lamps. This kit will include items such as a small Bible, rosary, or prayer cards and booklets. They may also keep their reflection journal or booklet in the box, completed worksheets from class, or service certificates. Encourage your child to personalize and decorate the kit.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2017



Scripture Readings

Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20,
30–31

Psalms 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

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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

When your family gathers for daily prayer,
have each call to mind one gift received from
God. Pray: Loving God, help us to use our
gifts and talents to continue the mission of
your Son. Amen.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ How is God calling us as a family to share our gifts and talents with others in our community?
- ☉ What is one particular way we can become more involved as a family in the parish?
- ☉ Have we thanked God lately for the gifts and talents we are blessed with?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 23. Attend Mass together or spend some quiet time in front of the tabernacle. Explain to your child that it is a special place where the Eucharist is reserved for later use, like its distribution to the sick or homebound, or for the adoration of the faithful. Give thanks to God for all of the blessings your family has received in the past year. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving for one another as well.

Thanksgiving also offers a good opportunity to help out in a soup kitchen, food pantry, or thrift shop in your area that helps those in need. Inquire how you and your family (including your child) can help. Many organizations welcome the gift of time.

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

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Thank you for all you have created
and for your abundant blessings.
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May we broaden our minds
by being open to new discoveries.
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Conversation Questions

- ☉ What can we do as a family to meet the needs of the poor in our community?
- ☉ If today was Judgement Day, would you be ready? Why or why not?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Prepare for Advent by deciding on a good place to set up your Advent wreath. Are there candles that need refreshing? Also, what appropriate religious or sacred family items, such as a Bible, may be placed near the wreath?

Ritual

In the Gospel today, Jesus is telling us that we must reach out to those in need. This is the mission of Jesus Christ and the mission of our Church. One way we can do this is by prayer. Together, write a prayer about the hungry being fed, the poor being clothed, the immigrant being welcomed, the sick being healed, and those in prison being supported. Pray this every night this week during family prayers.