

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.

Examination of Conscience

☉ How well do I live the Beatitudes? Which ones do I need to work more on?

☉ Who in my life best represents these Beatitudes? What can I learn from the way they live their lives?

Did You Know?

. . . the process of canonization of a saint usually starts at the local level, where there is some support recognizing the holiness of an individual? Once the local bishop signs off on a case, it can then be sent on to the Vatican. The process requires one miracle attributed to the person for beatification. Two miracles are required for canonization.

Living the Liturgy at Home

As we begin November, the traditional month of remembrance, place some pictures or statues of saints on your family's prayer table. Talk about how these saints inspire you to live holy lives. Discuss who your patron saints are. Is there a saint who shares your name? Or is there a saint who is the patron for a particular interest of yours? If you don't know much about him or her, do some research. Another idea is to watch a film about a saint and discuss it afterwards. There are many great films out there about the saints . . . check them out!

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.

Examination of Conscience

☉ When I have received accolades, honors, and recognition, how have I behaved towards others? Have I ever been tempted to rub it in?

☉ How can I cultivate humility and compassion in my life? What can I do to integrate these aspects into my daily life?

Did You Know?

. . . St. Teresa of Calcutta lived a life in service to others, focusing her work on those who were the “poorest of the poor”? Despite all of her wonderful accomplishments, she always worked with a humble and genuine spirit. Even when she spoke truth to power, she always did so with great humility. She chose to see Christ in everyone.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Jesus calls us to humble ourselves in service to one another. In living humble lives, we can be exalted. The great symbol of expressing love for one another that Jesus gave his followers was the *mandatum*, the washing of feet that he instituted at the Last Supper, and which we, as the Church, take part in on Holy Thursday. With your family, read the Gospel of John’s account of the Last Supper (John 13:4–17). Then, with your family members, reenact what Jesus did for his disciples in washing each other’s feet. Discuss how this experience made you feel. Resolve to attend the next Holy Thursday Mass.

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

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.

Examination of Conscience

☉ The time when Jesus returns in the Second Coming is outside of our control. If Jesus were to return in the Second Coming tomorrow, would I be ready for his arrival? Why or why not?

☉ In what ways can I better prepare myself as a disciple of Jesus? What are some spiritual practices that can help me get ready?

Did You Know?

. . . that even though we do not use this type of language regularly, Catholics are born again? Through the waters of Baptism, we experience a new birth in Christ. This new birth washes away all sin, including Original Sin, and we become members of the Mystical Body of Christ alive and well in the world.

Living the Liturgy at Home

St. Francis of Assisi is often credited with the statement “Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words.” This statement offers wise and good advice. This week, keep this saying in the forefront of your consciousness and try and integrate it into your daily actions. When confronted with a decision to make, ask yourself, “Is what I’m about to do what a good Christian would do in this situation? Am I being faithful to the promises I made to Christ?” Write in your journal about what you encounter and how you respond.

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

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.

Examination of Conscience

☉ You have been gifted with unique talents,
given to you by God. What are some of
my talents?

☉ Am I grateful for them? Do I share them
with others, or do I bury them?

Did You Know?

. . . there are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?
These seven spiritual gifts are: wisdom,
understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude,
piety, and fear of the Lord (which is the
feeling of awe and wonder before God). When
one is confirmed, the bishop or priest says,
“Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit,” as he
anoints the one being confirmed.

Living the Liturgy at Home

We all have God-given talents. This week, schedule some family time to explore each other's talents. Start your discussion by rereading the long version of the Gospel passage from this Sunday, Matthew 21:14–30. Then, have each person identify the talents that they recognize within themselves. Next, take turns in identifying the talents that you see in each other. Sometimes we may not even realize that we have been gifted with a particular talent, and it is helpful to have someone else to reflect our true self back to us. Lastly, share how you all may be able to make better use of your talents.

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.

Examination of Conscience

☉ Jesus says that when I care for others, I care for him. How did I respond the last time I encountered someone who was hungry or thirsty? When I see people on the street looking for help, how do I respond?

☉ Am I a sheep or a goat at this point in my life?

☉ What are some proactive steps that I can take to be on the side of the sheep?

Did You Know?

. . . Pope Pius XI made Christ the King a feast day on the Church's calendar in 1925? This feast day marks the end of the liturgical year and it calls to mind that although there are rulers, heads of state, and other government officials throughout the earth, our one true King rules heaven and earth and the Kingdom of God will reign for all times.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. We start a whole new year next Sunday with the First Sunday of Advent. Today's feast really brings the entire year full circle. In recognizing and worshipping Jesus Christ the King, we have come full circle from where we began this past year in preparing for the Incarnation throughout the season of Advent. To ready yourself for the coming new year and for the preparations that will be made during Advent, craft a new Advent wreath this week. Be creative in how you make this wreath. Use images that speak to you for what you will be preparing for throughout this upcoming holy season.