

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Third Sunday of Lent

March 4, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Exodus 20:1–17 or 20:1–3, 7–8,  
12–17

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11  
(John 6:68c)

1 Corinthians 1:22–25

John 2:13–25

## Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.

May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.

May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.

May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.

You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Ritual

During the season of Lent, we reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus. Introduce or review how to pray the Rosary to your family. The Sorrowful Mysteries help us to reflect on the Passion of Christ. (For guidance on how to pray the Rosary, ask your parish priest or go online to find directions.) The Sorrowful Mysteries are the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning with

**Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, and the Crucifixion.**

**This week, pray the Rosary and reflect on these mysteries. How do they enrich your Lenten prayer experience?**

## Conversation Questions

☉ Are we passionate about anything in our lives today?

☉ Are we filled with a deep and burning love for the things of God and for his Son, Jesus?

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

☉ As our Lenten journey continues, check in with one another on your Lenten promises. How can you support one another as we approach the halfway point?

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

March 4, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Exodus 17:3–7

Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9

Romans 5:1–2, 5–8

John 4:5–42 or 4:5–15, 19b–26,  
39a, 40–42

### Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Ritual

Water plays an important role in many rituals within the Church. One night this week, perform a simple blessing with holy water. At family prayers this week, let each family member dip his/her fingers in the water and make the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of another. (Ask at your parish office where you may obtain some. Remember that holy water must never be disposed of in a sink. Allow the water to evaporate or dispose of it directly into the earth.)

### Conversation Questions

The woman told everyone she knew about Jesus.

- ☉ Who told you about Jesus?
- ☉ Who can you tell? What will you say?

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

The Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent are devoted to the Scrutinies for the people who are about to be baptized. This is a good time to look at our own lives to see in what ways we are most like Jesus and what aspects of our lives that we need to change. Take some time to talk about these together as a family. Then, invite everyone who is able to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23

Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6 (6ab)

Ephesians 2:4–10

John 3:14–21

## Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Ritual

To remind yourselves of the presence of Christ's light in your life, add a lit candle to your prayer table. Ask Christ to guide your family more clearly into his light during this Lent.

## Conversation Questions

- ☉ Reflect on God's faithfulness to you. How has his faithfulness opened your eyes? How will it guide you this week?
- ☉ How does faith in Christ make life a little clearer? How has God guided you through dark times?

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Practice a corporal work of mercy by organizing a spring cleaning weekend at home. Ask each family member to find three to five high-quality, still-useful items that would be appreciated by those in need and donate them to your favorite charity. Pray together for those who will receive them.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A

March 11, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a

Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41 or 9:1, 6–9, 13–17,  
34–38

### Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Ritual

Focus your family prayer this week on the sense of touch, which is an important element in Catholic rituals. At Mass we make the Sign of the Cross and sign ourselves before we listen to the Gospel. When we exchange the Sign of Peace we shake each other's hands. In the Sunday Gospel, Jesus touched the blind man eyes and healed him. Join hands and pray to be transformed and opened to the Light of Christ.

### Conversation Questions

- ☉ The blind man did not ask for help, unlike many of the others whom Jesus healed. Why do you think Jesus healed him?
- ☉ How are you able to feel or see the presence of God? Teach your child how to look for these signs in the world.

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Research what resources are available for members of the community who are blind, such as the Xavier Society ([www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org](http://www.xaviersocietyfortheblind.org)), and how sighted members of the community can offer forms of assistance, such as recording books to make them more accessible. Consider offering your family's service.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 18, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Jeremiah 31:31–34  
Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13,  
14–15 (12a)  
Hebrews 5:7–9  
John 12:20–33

## Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Ritual

This week, at family prayers, invite each member of the family to share any stories or prayers that express the difference Jesus makes in his or her life. How does Christ's sacrifice make an impact to your family's life?

## Conversation Questions

- ☺ Think about a time when you didn't see past a certain challenge or a difficulty. Reflecting on it now, could you see that something new or positive emerged from it? Share your thoughts.
- ☺ Who are the people in your lives who bring you hope and life? How do they do this?

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Has your family thought about the gift of life in organ donation? Learn more and prayerfully consider how your family members can make provisions to donate organs after they die.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

March 18, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Ezekiel 37:12–14

Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8

Romans 8:8–11

John 11:1–45 or 11:3–7, 17,  
20–27, 33b–45

### Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.

May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.

May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.

May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.

You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Ritual

This week, pray for the dead—all those  
whom you know and those who have no one  
to pray for them. Recite the prayer: “Eternal  
rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpet-  
ual light shine upon them. May they rest in  
peace.” Close your family prayer by continu-  
ing to pray for strength.

### Conversation Questions

☉ Jesus cried at the tomb of Lazarus. What  
does this tell us about how much he loved his  
friend?

☉ How is Jesus a model for us when we are  
sad or when we lose someone we love?

☉ Before Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb  
he prayed first to his Father. Do you take time  
to pray, to ask God’s help and thank God  
when you do some important work?

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

You might take your child or the entire family to  
visit the grave of a family member or close friend  
this week. Or you light a candle at church in their  
memory. Whether you are at the cemetery or in  
church, remember to say a prayer for your  
departed loved one.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 25, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 50:4–7  
Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20,  
23–24 (2a)  
Philippians 2:6–11  
Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1–39

### Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Ritual

After you receive blessed palms at Mass,  
place them on your family's prayer table at  
home. Let them remind you of how great  
God's love is for all of us. This week, pray  
the Prayer before the Crucifix or pray the  
Rosary and reflect on the Sorrowful  
Mysteries.

### Conversation Questions

- ☉ When have we, like Simon, helped someone carry a heavy burden?
- ☉ When is it difficult to admit that we are followers of Jesus? Have we thought about how this is a denial of him?
- ☉ This week, how will we show that we honor Jesus as the Christ and Son of God?

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

The liturgies of the Triduum (the “three days”) are the highest holy days of the Church. Plan to attend at least one, if not all, of these liturgies as a family. Check your parish bulletin or website for Mass times for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil on Saturday night, when adults in RCIA come into full communion with the Church, and Easter Sunday.