

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

- ☉ How is new life present when we forgive someone who asks for forgiveness?
- ☉ What in my life is cluttered and needs to be “cleaned out”? Talk with your child about what might be distracting us from focusing on God—especially at Lent.

Living the Liturgy at Home

Talk to your child about when you were in religious education or attending a Catholic school. What were some teachings of Jesus that impressed you? Did you have a favorite Bible story? What images of Jesus were popular then? Were there any songs at Mass that you really liked? Ask your child these same questions after you share.

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

As Jesus longed for a drink and the woman
at the well longed for the water of eternal
life, we long for God in the deepest part of
our souls. This week, add an empty bowl to
your Lenten prayer space as a reminder of
the emptiness we feel without God and our
longing to be refreshed in the divine love.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ With whom can we share our stories about Jesus this week?
- ☉ How does it feel to be thirsty? What happens when we have a drink after being thirsty? Can we have this feeling when it comes to God?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Talk to your child about when you were in religious education or attending a Catholic school. What were some teachings of Jesus that impressed you? Did you have a favorite Bible story? What images of Jesus were popular then? Were there any songs at Mass that you really liked? Ask your child these same questions after you share.

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

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is also called Laetare Sunday. We rejoice because Easter is drawing nearer. Add some rose-colored fabric to your prayer space at home to signify this day.

Conversation Questions

- ☉ God loves us so much he gave us Jesus. Based on God's love for us, how should we live? Is it easy to live up to this love?
- ☉ What is it about verse 3:16 that resonates with people? Why do you think it's so cherished and beloved?

Living the Liturgy at Home

This week, you might read or retell the story of *The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown. Point out that no matter what the young bunny does to hide, the mother finds him. Talk about how God is like the mother in this story. No matter what we do to hide, God is still there, waiting to bring us back to the light.

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

Today we read about Jesus restoring sight to a blind man. When people are preparing for Baptism at Easter, they will declare that they want to be a baptized member of the Catholic Church. During the Rite of Acceptance, the priest will sign their foreheads with the Sign of the Cross. Sometimes he will also bless each one of their senses: their ears, eyes, lips, heart, shoulders, hands, and feet.

Conversation Questions

☉ How are you able to feel or see the presence of God? Teach your child how to look for these signs in the world.

☉ How does God shed light in your lives, even in the darkest of times?

Living the Liturgy at Home

This week, research resources in your community for people who are blind or who have vision loss. What can you do as a family to support these causes? Find an organization that provides reading for the blind. Many of these organizations enjoy getting whole families involved in reading books aloud and recording them.

Prayers and Blessings at Home

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 18, 2018



Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Psalms 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

Just as bodies and minds grow, the soul also needs to grow in the life of grace. The Sacrament of Confirmation builds on the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, and Eucharist, completing the process of initiation into the Catholic community. In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized person is “sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit” and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. At Confirmation, you renew those same promises made on your behalf

by your parents and godparents, but this time you speak for yourself in your promises to renounce Satan and believe in God and the Church. Being confirmed in the Church means being responsible for your own faith.

Conversation Questions

☉ Today’s Gospel tells us that for a plant to grow a seed must die. When we want to make other people happy and give them what they need sometimes we need to give up a part of our lives. What is one way to do this?

☉ St. Joseph is remembered on March 19. In what ways did Joseph take care of and protect Jesus and Mary?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Is there someone in your family who has served in the name of the Lord? If so, tell this story to your family. If not, lead a discussion about a saint who served the poor, such as St. John of God, St. Frances Cabrini, or St. Vincent de Paul. Talk about how Jesus tells us that God will honor whoever serves him. If you are involved in ministry at your church, talk to your child about why you serve.

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

Praying for the dead is an important part of our faith. Gather your family around a lighted candle and pray for family members who have died. Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross. Mention their names and then pray, “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.”

Conversation Questions

- ☉ Are you aware of any bad habits that might be preventing you from being the best person you can be? If so, what are some ways to break these bonds?
- ☉ When are we like Martha, disappointed that God has not answered my prayers in the way we want?
- ☉ When has God answered prayers with even more than hoped for?

Living the Liturgy at Home

Jesus went to the tomb of his friend Lazarus. There he wept and prayed. This week, visit the cemetery where friends or family members are buried. At the grave, pray just as Jesus did. If you are not able to visit, consider lighting a vigil candle at church in memory of your loved one who has died. At home, share memories of them.

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

Today we receive palms when we attend Mass. Many people have a custom of using the palms to create beautiful designs and symbols such as a cross. They may also display them in their home behind a cross or crucifix or holy picture. Place these palms on your prayer table as a reminder of how they connect us Easter to Easter—from palms to ashes to palms again.

Conversation Questions

☉ What are your reflections on Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us?

☉ Talk with your child about Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Living the Liturgy at Home

The liturgies of the Triduum (the “three days”) are the highest holy days on the church calendar. Plan to attend at least one of these liturgies as a family. Check your parish bulletin or website for Mass times for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday night where adults from RCIA come into full communion with the Church.

You can also find many demonstration videos online showing how to fold palm leaves into crosses, flowers, and other decorations. Doing this together as a family can start a Palm Sunday tradition that will be cherished for years to come. While browsing online show your child what palm trees look like in the Holy Land.