

Prayer for Life

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love, Justice, Fortitude

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Compassion, Discipleship, Reverence, Solidarity, Stewardship

BLESSING AND OPENING PRAYER

Let us begin our prayer with the sign of our faith:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Lord, you call us to be a people of life. Help us to treasure your gift of life, and to reach out to those who struggle with sickness and poor health. May our care for them be a sign of your desire that they share in the fullness of life with you now and forever.

We ask you this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

READING

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew,
(Matt 15, 29-31)

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

(pause)

The Word of the Lord

REFLECTION

Jesus came to show us the way to fullness of life. Everywhere he went, he healed people and brought them back to health. These healings were signs of his Father's Kingdom: a Kingdom of love, peace, healing and everlasting life. When we were baptized, Jesus himself planted the seeds of this Kingdom into our hearts. He is always there to help his Father's Kingdom of life grow in us day by day. His Holy Spirit helps us pray, he speaks to our hearts in his holy Gospel, he feeds us with his Body and Blood, he heals us and forgives our sins. He gives us parents, teachers, pastors and friends to help us along the way to grow as his people of life.

Jesus wants us to look after each other, especially those who are sick or need help. He asks us to bring his healing and comfort to one another, to be loving signs of his Kingdom of life. Whenever we work for life, we are like the hands, feet, heart and voice of Jesus, who came to give us abundant, everlasting life.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Let us pray for the Church, that all who share a common baptism may be united in protecting the precious gift of human life. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the world, that all God's children will treasure the gift of life, and place their best resources and talents toward building a culture of life. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for those whose lives are in danger in our communities and country. That we they will be given the protection they deserve as God's children. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for ourselves, that our reverence and love for the precious gift of human life will grow and increase each day. We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our own intentions... We pray... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Let us join all our prayers together with one voice, using the words that Jesus taught us: *Our Father...*

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

God our Father, we thank you for the precious gift of life. We ask you to bless our school's work to support life. May the life-giving joy and peace of your Spirit be present in all that we do. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen

And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen