

Congregation in Prayer Dec 13, 2015

The world says, "Don't worry, be happy!". Paul tells us, "Don't worry, pray!" Today, we consider what it looks like to "rejoice in the Lord always. There are many things in our world and in our lives that would cause us to feel anxious and to worry. In the face of such things, Christ offers us His peace that is able to guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. [Zech 3:14-20; Php 4:4-7; Lk 7:18-28]

The Order of Meditation and Prayer for Daily Use

(Pray and confess out loud as much of the Order of Meditation as possible)

Theme for the Week: Thanksgiving and Prayer

Invocation (Spoken while making the sign of the cross to remember your baptism)
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

Learn by Heart Verse (Practice saying this verse word for word, out loud, throughout the day)

Galatians 5:17 (ESV) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

From the Catechism (Read together and discuss briefly)

Third Petition <i>Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven</i>	Pre-K+
What does this mean? <i>The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.</i>	Second Grade+
How is God's will done? <i>God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keep us firm in His word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.</i>	Fifth Grade +

Daily Readings

Monday	John Sends Messengers to Jesus - Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)
Tuesday	The Annunciation of Our Lord - Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	The Visitation - Luke 1:39-56
Thursday	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist - Luke 1:57-80
Friday	Christ's Birth Is Foretold to Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25
Saturday	Looking Ahead

Daily Themes for Prayer: Second Sunday of the month:

Sunday: Pray for those who help lead us in worship: our Pastors, our Elders, our organists. Pray that God's people are actively engaged as they worship. Pray for those who serve in our military and for our chaplains as they proclaim the Gospel.

Monday: Pray for the unemployed and underemployed; pray for the homeless in our community; pray for the ministries of DayBreak and MorningStar in our community; pray for the ministry of Feed My Starving Children.

Tuesday: Pray for our CrossRoad Life Recovery ministry and its leaders. Pray that this important ministry would continue to expand among us and through us. Pray that it might impact other congregations and communities around the country.

Wed: Pray for the ministries of our congregation: Braille, CrossRoad Life Recovery, DayBreak, Operation Christmas Child, Quilters, Sunny Hill, Spiritual Vitamins. Pray that new ministries might be developed among us that will impact lives through our serving.

Thursday: Pray also for ministries in our community: Guardian Angel Home, Joliet Area Hospice, Lambs Fold, Living Alternatives, Stepping Stones, Trinity Services.

Friday: Pray for our communities and neighborhoods; for our words of witness and acts of mercy to our neighbors.

Saturday: Pray that people would see the need to come to worship this weekend. Pray that we would be a welcoming, non-judgmental community of faith for them as they come.

Lord's Prayer

Going with God's Blessing

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Looking Ahead (Take a look at the readings for next Sunday)

Micah 5:2-5a

Heb 10:5-10

Lk 1:1:39-56