

## LENTEN DAILY PRAYER FOR THE PARISH AND HOME

*Place Bible, cross, bowl of regular tap water [unblessed] on a table in a visible place.*

### **Sign of the Cross**

#### **Opening Prayer**

*Leader.*

During the Forty Days of Lent, we walk with our catechumens and candidates in their final preparation for baptism. We prepare ourselves for the renewal of our own baptism at Easter by reflecting on our baptismal responsibilities and by engaging in prayer, fasting, almsgiving and works of charity. We search God's Word to discover where we are in need of repentance and conversion.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

*All.* Now and forever.

*Leader.*

Let us pray.

God of all mercy and compassion,

During our Lenten journey you call us to turn from sin and follow more deeply your way of love. During these forty days help us to prepare ourselves to renew our baptismal commitment at Easter by our willingness to say a stronger "no" to sin and evil, and a stronger "yes" to you and your way. This we pray through Christ our Lord.

*At baptism we were anointed priest, prophet and king—a priest to serve God's people, a prophet to proclaim the Word of God in our lives and in the world, and a king to lead people to Christ. At Easter we will renew our commitment to go into the world to live out those baptismal responsibilities.*

### **Scripture**

Let us now listen to the Word of God. (See below scriptures and reflection questions for each week.)

### **Question for reflection**

*After you read the scripture, take a moment to reflect on it. If possible, share the fruit of your reflection with one or more persons.*

**Week 1: Romans 6: 1-11:** As we reflect upon this last year, in what way have we "died to ourselves" by proclaiming God's Word by our words and actions? In what way have we "risen to new life" by witnessing to Christ and serving his people? What needs to change in us to more fully live out our baptismal call?

**Week 2: Lk. 9: 28-36:** How are we trying to create pockets of silence so that we can listen to Jesus and others and thereby live out our baptismal commitment more fully?

**Week 3: Lk. 13-19:** Do we have the courage to look into our hearts and name sinful attitudes and behaviors? By doing so, we are seeking to restore ourselves into our baptismal likeness of Christ.

**Week 4: Lk. 15:1-3, 11-32:** To what extent are we able to accept God's mercy? Acceptance of God's mercy renews our lives and our baptismal commitment.

**Week 5: Jn. 8:1—11:** Do we, like the Pharisees, sometimes have a tendency to be more concerned about the sins of others than about our own sins? Such concerns obviously hinder us from living out our baptismal commitment.

**Week 6: Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50: 4-7:** What is the biggest cross in my life and what helps me to carry it? By patiently carrying our crosses, we are daily becoming more like the suffering Christ.

### **Blessing and Sprinkling of Water**

*Leader.*

Let us ask God's blessing on us and on this water, which recalls our baptism.

*short silence*

Merciful God,  
you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism.

Look upon us during these Forty Days as we bear the mark of ashes.

Bless this water and let it call to mind our baptism into Christ,  
who has redeemed us by his death and resurrection.

*All bless themselves with water from the bowl. If there is a large group, perhaps secure a branch and sprinkle the group with water from the bowl.*

Bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth.

May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, for in his cross you proclaim your love,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Intercessions**

- That catechumens who, in their final preparation for baptism be transformed more perfectly into Christ's image, we pray to the Lord.
- That baptized candidates, who will be coming into full Catholic communion, will use this Lenten reflection as a time to prepare to celebrate the Easter sacraments with joy, we pray to the Lord.
- That our parish community, during this Lenten season, grow in charity and be in constant prayer, we pray to the Lord.
- That during Lent, we as individuals prepare ourselves to renew our baptismal responsibility which commissions us priest, prophet and king, we pray to the Lord.
- Add your own intention....

### **Rice Bowl**

*Add your daily almsgiving to the Rice Bowl at this time.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Final Blessing**

*Leader.*

Let us bless the Lord. [make sign of the cross]

*All.* Now and forever.