

# **A Treasury of Prayers for Children for the Month of October Year B**

In October 2009, Father Tobin wrote a prayer booklet for children in the school who were focusing on prayer for the month. This is a useful resource for teachers and catechists especially and parents who would like to focus on the many saints of the month to deepen their child's prayer life.

## MONTH OF OCTOBER

### **OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>: FEAST OF GUARDIAN ANGELS**

Today boys and girls our church celebrates the Feast of Our Guardian Angels. Listen to what Jesus says to us in today's Gospel.

*See that you do not despise one of these little ones,  
for I say to you the angels in heaven always look upon  
the face of my heavenly Father. Matt 18:10*

In this scripture, Jesus tells us that children have assigned to them a special angel to be their companion on earth. Our guardian angel seeks to protect and guard us from evil and guide us in the ways of Jesus. Today's scripture also says that our angel is always in the presence of God. So we have a great friend in high places. We would be very foolish if we did not take time to develop a relationship with our Guardian Angel. We can do this by often praying to him in our own words and by praying the *Guardian Angel Prayer*.

**[Note to Teacher:** An important part of each morning prayer is inviting the children to mention any special prayer intentions that they may have e.g. a family member who is sick. Asking God's blessing on some upcoming school or parish event, an intention connected to the Feast or scripture reading of the day. Initially, the children may be reluctant to mention prayer intentions – especially in the upper grades. You may need to find a creative way to help them participate in this portion of Morning Prayer.]

Does anyone have any intentions that you would like the class to pray for? Let us now pray together our prayer to our Guardian Angel. (If the children do not know this prayer, teach it to them.)

#### **Guardian Angel Prayer**

*O angel of God my guardian dear to whom God's love commits me here.  
Ever this day be at my side to light and guard to rule and guide. Amen.*

### **OCTOBER 3<sup>rd</sup>: TUESDAY OF THE 26<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **KEEPING FAITH IN SAD TIMES**

First Reading Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; There is no need to read the reading for the class unless you want to.

#### **Reflection**

Job is the name of one of the books of the Bible, which deals with the question of why bad things happen to good people. In today's reading, Job who had many sufferings is so depressed that he says: "I wish I was never born". When we are feeling sad and downcast, it is good for us to remember that some of God's friends in the Bible also felt very sad and depressed at times. Despite his sadness and depression, Job kept his faith in God. We must try to do the same. In bad times God is our best friend even if we cannot feel his presence. St. Therese believed this very much. Even though she suffered much sickness and sometimes felt God had forgotten about her, she kept praying to him. We must try to follow Therese's good example. Let us now pray for the grace to remain faithful to God even when things are not going well for us.

#### **Prayer**

*Dear God, we believe that you are with us not only in the good times but also in the bad times of life. We may not always feel your presence but we believe you are still with us. Today, we pray in a special way for all people, especially children who are going through a bad time. Help them to know that you are with them. Give them faith and good friends to help them get through this difficult time in their life. Amen*

Teachers – Do remember to pray for school children or families that you know are going through a bad time. Of course, before you mention *names* be sure it is okay to do so.

Does anyone have any special intentions that you would like us to pray for?

Let us now pray for our spoken and unspoken prayer intentions in the words of Jesus. Our Father . . . . .

End with the Sign of the Cross.

### **OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>: FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (1180-1226)**

Today we celebrate the feast of the most loved Saint in the world – Francis of Assisi (a town in Italy). Francis is not only loved by Catholics but by all Christians and even by people who are not Christians. Francis was a great lover. He loved God with all his heart. He loved people especially the poor and he loved creation. He loved creation so much that he treated everything in it like a brother and sister. He used to talk about “brother sun” and “sister moon”. Francis also had a great love for animals. In many parishes there is a blessing of animals either on the feast of St. Francis or on the Saturday closest to his feast. Two years before Francis died he received the *stigmata* – the five wounds of Christ on his body (hands, feet and side). This made him more like the crucified Christ. When he was close to death, Francis asked that all his clothes be removed and that his body be placed naked on the earth in imitation of Jesus who also died naked or almost naked.

#### **Lesson:**

- Let us today and every day try to imitate the example of St. Francis by loving others, especially hurting people, appreciating creation and loving animals.
- If you have an animal at home, bless him/her when you go home. You can simply say: ‘N.\_\_\_\_\_ I bless you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit’. Then shake some holy water on him/her. Or bring your animals to our church grounds next Saturday for the Blessings of Animals.

#### **Prayer of St. Francis**

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born again in eternal life.*

Does anyone have any prayer intentions? Let us now pray for these spoken and unspoken intentions in the words of Jesus. Our Father . . . . . End with the Sign of the Cross.

### **OCTOBER 5<sup>th</sup>: THURSDAY OF THE 26<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **Pray for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life**

*In today’s Gospel, Jesus sends 72 disciples in pairs to share the Good News. Then he says: “The harvest is rich but the workers are few; therefore ask the harvest-master to send workers to his harvest.” Luke 10:1-3*

In this reading, Jesus sees the world as a great big harvest field ready to be harvested. Jesus wants all people to come to know God’s love for them. But for this to happen, Jesus needs workers. He needs people who love him and who would want very much to tell others about him. All of us can do this in our own way if we so desire. Priests and sisters do it in a very special way because they dedicate themselves totally to helping others come to know and love Jesus. Jesus may be calling some of you to be a priest or a sister. After all, if some people do not respond to God’s call, we will have no priests or sisters. That would be very sad. Today I want you to think about this important question: If you knew God wanted you to be a priest or sister, what would your answer be? Pause . . . . . Hopefully, each of us would answer ‘yes’ to God’s call. Let us now pray about this.

## Prayer

*Jesus, you invite us today to think about your need to have more workers to help you lead people to God. Help us Jesus to always want to hear and respond to your call. If you are calling one of us to be a priest or sister, help us to hear you and respond to it with a big 'yes'. May we always remember that following your path is the key to our happiness. Finally, help us with our studies today.*

Does anyone have any prayer intentions? Is there anyone sick in your family?

Let us now pray for our spoken and unspoken prayers in the words of Jesus. Our Father. . . . .

End with the Sign of the Cross

## **OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup>: FRIDAY OF THE 26<sup>th</sup> WEEK OF THE YEAR - Reading Job 38:1, 12-21, 40:3-5**

### **THE MYSTERY OF WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE**

The book of Job seeks to help people cope with a big question, which no one can answer - not even the Pope. The question is: *Why does a good and loving God allow bad things to happen to good people?* Why does God allow hurricanes and earthquakes? Why does God allow some children to be very sick and even die? In the book of Job, Job asks God again and again: *Why are you allowing all these bad things to happen to me?* God does not give Job a clear answer. Instead he tells Job his small mind could never understand the mysteries of the universe. But what God does do for Job is help him to cope with his sufferings. When we study the life of Jesus, we see a God who cares a whole lot about sick and hurting people. Finally, remember this: God's plan is to always bring some good out of bad events. St. Therese, whose feast we celebrated last Sunday, suffered a lot in her short life, yet in and through her suffering she became a great saint. While suffering is in one way a really bad thing, it is in another way good, when it draws us closer to God. Let us now pray about all this.

## Prayer

*God, we sometimes wonder why you allow bad things to happen to good people.*

*When we see this, we may be tempted to stop speaking to you because we are so confused or upset.*

*Help us to be like Jesus who never gave up on you even when you allowed very bad things to happen to him.*

*In a special way we pray today for good people who are suffering a lot.*

*We pray for sick people, people who are hungry and living in violent situations.*

*This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Does anyone have any prayer intentions you would like us to pray for?

Let us now pray together for all who are suffering today in the words of Jesus. Our Father . . . .

End with the Sign of the Cross.

## **OCTOBER 9<sup>th</sup>: MONDAY OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> was the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. This week begin reviewing with the children the Rosary. Some basic facts:

- We do not know for sure how the Rosary originated. One tradition says that Mary appeared to St. Dominic and gave him the Rosary.
- In ancient times, different people used beads to count their prayers. In the Medieval times people who couldn't read the 150 psalms, prayed 150 Our Fathers. Then people started to pray 150 Hail Mary's.
- Gradually, the tradition grew in which a *decade* of the Rosary was made up of *one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be to the Father.*

- Each Rosary beads have *five decades*, plus a crucifix and five other beads, which are used at the beginning to pray one *Our Father* three *Hail Mary's* and one *Glory be to the Father*.
- Gradually, people started to reflect on events in the life of Jesus or Mary as they prayed a decade of the Rosary. These events are called the *Mysteries of the Rosary*.
- We pray the Rosary because Mary, our mother, asked us to do so. For several centuries, Catholic Christians have found the Rosary a great way to pray for many intentions and to reflect on events in the life of Jesus.
- There are 20 mysteries in the full Rosary. The four sets of five mysteries called:

**[Teachers:** It is a good thing to teach the children to pray for one or more intention as they pray a decade of the Rosary. Below you will see that I have named several intentions for each decade. When I created the following intentions around each decade, I had adults in mind. Yet, as you will quickly see, many of the intentions listed below will also speak to children. You can be creative and add some other intentions if you feel led to do so.]

### **The Joyful Mysteries – Monday/Saturday**

*Annunciation:* (Luke 1:26-38) For the grace to en flesh the ways of Jesus in our lives. For couples having a difficult time conceiving a child. For crisis or difficult pregnancies. That the Angel Gabriel will move every woman considering abortion this day to choose life. For all who have asked me to pray for them.

*Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth:* (Luke 1:39-45) For all who visit the sick and homebound, that our elderly may know that God can make them productive members of our communities even in their older years.

*Birth of Jesus:* (Luke 2:1-8) For a safe delivery for women who are expecting a child at this time. For midwives, adoptive parents and foster parents. For the families of our parish especially for those who are going through a difficult time. For my own family, relatives and friends.

*Presentation of Jesus in the Temple:* (Luke 2:22-38) For parents that they may dedicate their children to God and raise them in the ways of Christ and his church. For our universal church family. For school and religious education ministries.

*Finding of Jesus in the Temple.* (Luke 2:41-50) For all missing children and their families. For children and teenagers forced into slave labor and prostitution. For the conversion of all who harm children.

### **Sorrowful Mysteries – Tuesday/Friday**

*Agony in the Garden* (Mark 14:32-42). For all suffering agony of any kind – physical, emotional or spiritual. For all who work daily with distressed and sick people. For all engaged in research to find a cure for the mental and physical diseases that plague our human family.

*Scourging at the Pillar:* (Matthew 27:26) For the victims of domestic violence, street violence, and victims of war and terrorism. For the apprehension and conversion of terrorists. For an end to war.

*Crowning with Thorns:* (Mark 15:16-20) For all who suffer from migraine headaches and mental illness, for the blind and the deaf.

*Jesus Carries His Cross:* (Mark 15:21-22) For all who are carrying a big cross at this time and for their loved ones and caregivers. For all who have asked me to pray for them.

*The Crucifixion:* (Mark 15:23-41) For a peaceful death for all who are dying, for hospice and respite workers.

## **Mysteries of Light - Thursday**

*The Baptism of Jesus:* (Luke 3:21-22) For all who are preparing for baptism and entry into our church. For us who are baptized that we will live as faithful disciples of Jesus.

*The Wedding Feast of Cana:* (John 2:1-12) For all preparing for marriage at this time, for married couples especially those in hurting relationships.

*The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God:* (Luke 4:14-15) For all who are engaged in spreading the Good News. For all who teach our Catholic faith to children, teenagers and adults.

*The Transfiguration:* (Luke 9:28-36) That we, like the Apostles may listen to Jesus and be transfigured into his likeness. For all who work in Houses of Prayer.

*The Institution of the Eucharist.* (Luke 22:19) That the Holy Spirit may move Catholics who no longer come to Mass to return. For all who have asked me to pray for them.

## **Glorious Mysteries - Wednesday/Sunday**

*The Resurrection* (Mark 16:1-20). For the gift of faith for all who do not know Jesus. For strength and victory for all who daily fight the forces of evil. For a spiritual awakening for all who are spiritually asleep. For all who will be preaching in churches this weekend.

*Ascension* (Acts 1:6-11). For the deceased and living members of our church family, especially for all who generously share with us their gifts of time, treasure and talent.

*The Coming of the Holy Spirit* (Acts 2:1-13). For the grace to become more attentive and responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. For unity between Christian churches.

*Assumption of Mary into Heaven:* (1 Thessalonians 4:14) For the souls in Purgatory. For deceased priests and for our own deceased relatives and friends.

*Crowning of Mary Queen of Heaven.* (Revelation 12:1) For an increase of true devotion to Mary. For all who have asked us to pray for them.

If not praying the Rosary in church as a school family, pray at least one decade of the Rosary one day each week.

## **OCTOBER 10<sup>th</sup>: TUESDAY OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

In today's responsorial psalm, which is read after the first reading, we hear these beautiful words:

*Truly you have formed my inmost being;  
You knit me in my mother's womb,  
I give you thanks that I am wonderfully made.*

Psalm 139:13-14

In this verse, the psalmist reflects on his own creation by the hand of God. He recognizes that it was God, who made him. It was God who placed him in his mother's body and gradually he grew to be a unique and special person. When the psalmist becomes aware of God's role in his creation he is filled with gratitude. Each of us is the unique and special creation of God. We are the work of God's hands. Since we are the work of God's hand, let us act today like the special children of God that we are. Let us express our gratitude to God for creating us by applying ourselves to our studies.

## Prayer

*God, our Creator, I thank you for each child in this classroom.  
Help each of us to discover and become the person you created us to be.  
Help all of us to treat each other with respect. Help us to apply ourselves fully to our studies today.  
This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Does anyone have a prayer intention? Let us now pray together in the words of Jesus, Our Father. . . .

End with the Sign of the Cross.

### **OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>: WEDNESDAY OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

In the first reading today, Paul tells us about a confrontation he had with Peter (also known as Cephas). Paul writes:

*When Cephas came to Antioch, I directly confronted him for he was clearly in the wrong.*  
Galatians 2:11-12

When Jesus came he wanted to save all people, both Jews and Gentiles. Jews weren't friendly with Gentiles. But since Jesus loved *all* people Jews who had become Christians should now love the Gentiles and not hesitate to sit with them during mealtime. For a while Peter did sit with the Gentiles. But when his Jewish buddies came up from Jerusalem to see him, he stopped sitting with the Gentiles. This made Paul very angry and he told Peter how upset he was. Despite their conflict, they continued to be friends. This incident reminds us that even great church leaders, like Peter and Paul, sometimes had conflicts. Conflicts are a normal part of life. As followers of Jesus, we must learn to deal with our conflicts in a mature way.

#### **Lesson:**

What can we learn from this incident? Perhaps you can have a short discussion on the courage to speak up when wrong is being done. Also talk about how some students like Peter, may not want to sit with others during lunch.

## Prayer

*Holy Spirit, we thank you for letting the authors of the books of the Bible share with us the imperfect side of some of your best followers. May we never hesitate to sit beside anyone at lunch for you love each of us very much. May we always have the courage to speak up if a friend or schoolmate chooses to do what is clearly wrong. And may we have the bigness of heart to settle our differences in a loving way. Amen.*

Does anyone have any prayer intentions? Let us now pray together for all who are suffering today in the words of Jesus. Our Father . . . . End with the Sign of the Cross.

### **OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup>: THURSDAY OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **THE PROBLEM OF UNANSWERED PRAYER**

*[Note to Teacher:* Helping children to deal with the problem of unanswered prayer is a *very* important lesson in their spiritual formation. If they continue to have questions on this issue bring them up when their priest visits the classroom.]

In Luke 11:9, Jesus says to us: *Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you.*

In this verse, Jesus is telling us to not only pray but to persevere in prayer. But sometimes our prayer is *not* answered in the way *we* want it to be answered. When this happens, our faith in a God who loves and cares for us is *tested*. Sometime people stop praying because they did not get the answer *they* wanted. When we

quit praying because God didn't answer our prayer the way we wanted, the devil is very happy and God is very sad. We really don't know why God doesn't answer some of our prayers in the way *we* want. But in those times we are called to trust that God knows best. This is not always easy. But we do know that if we continue praying even when we don't get the answer we want, our faith will get stronger. We will grow to love God *not* for the good things he gives us but for who he is. Also, it is important to remember that some very wise people believe that no prayer goes unanswered because every time we pray we grow our relationship with God. This is very important to remember.

### **Prayer**

*Dear God we believe you love us very much even though we do not always understand your ways. Help us to show our love for you by always taking time to pray. Help us to believe that you know what is best for us. We especially pray for those who are not having their prayers answered in the way they wish. Amen.*

Does anyone have any special prayer intentions? Let us now pray together the Lord's Prayer.

Let us end with the Sign of the Cross.

## **OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>: FRIDAY OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME**

### **OPENING OUR HEARTS TO GOD'S WORD**

*If today you hear my voice harden not your hearts. Psalm 95:8*

In this verse, God is pleading with the Israelites and with us to keep our hearts open and receptive to his words. Daily the choice is ours to be open to God and his ways or to be indifferent or closed. One way we show that we are open is by following the way of love. When we are selfish and only focused on what we want we are being closed to God and his ways. Let us now pray that we will always keep our hearts open to God and his word.

Let us pause for a moment of quiet and ask Jesus to help us hear his voice. Pause. . . . .

### **Prayer**

*Jesus we thank you for this day and for the blessings in life that we can easily take for granted: food, shelter and health. Help us today to open our hearts to your voice as it comes to us in the silence of our hearts or through another person. And help us with our studies today. Amen.*

Does anyone have any special intentions that you want the class to pray for?

Let us now pray together for our spoken and unspoken intentions in the words Jesus taught us. Our Father. . .

End with the Sign of the Cross.

## **OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup>: MONDAY OF THE 28<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

Today pray a decade of the Rosary. On Monday's the church prays the *Joyful Mysteries*. Choose one of the Joyful Mysteries. Say something about the event and ask if the children want to come up with intentions connected to the event. For example, the fifth Joyful Mystery is the *Finding of Jesus in the Temple*. Luke 2:41-50.

In this mystery or event, Jesus at the age of twelve gets lost in the Temple. His parents, Mary and Joseph, are very worried about him. But, they were very happy when they found him.

Can anyone think of intentions that we can pray for that relate to this mystery of the Rosary? Suggestions: pray for all missing children and their families who worry about them. Does anyone have any other intentions that you would like us to pray for?



**OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>: FEAST OF ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH – AROUND 108 A.D.**

St. Ignatius was one of the first saints and martyrs of our church. In the first centuries of Christianity, it was illegal to be a Christian. The Roman Emperor hated Christians because they were worshiping another God and not him. In those days many followers of Jesus were killed for their belief in him. St. Ignatius of Antioch was one of them. When the Emperor came to visit Antioch he said to the people: You have a choice, stop believing in Jesus and live or believe in Jesus and die. Ignatius chose to die rather than deny his faith in Christ.

Today in countries like China, many Christians are still persecuted and even killed because of their faith in Jesus. We here in America are very blessed to be able to publicly display our faith in Jesus. Let us pray for persecuted Christians and let us pray that we would never deny our faith in Jesus by our words and deeds.

**Prayer**

*Suffering, Jesus, you died on the cross to show your love for us. Since then many of your followers have also died cruel deaths because of their faith in you. Today, we thank you for the example of great friends of yours like St. Ignatius, who was willing to die rather than deny you. Jesus, we ask you to strengthen in a special way all those who are being persecuted today because of their faith in you. Help us to be strong in our witness to you. May we never be ashamed to stand up for you and your message. Amen.*

Does anyone have any special intentions that you would like us to pray for?

Let us now pray together for our spoken and unspoken intentions in the words of Jesus. Our Father . . . .

End with the Sign of the Cross.

**OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup>: FEAST OF ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST**

Today our church celebrates the feast of St. Luke.

St. Luke is the author of two books of the Bible. Does anyone remember? (Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.) Luke was a Gentile (i.e. a non-Jewish person) and a physician. His gospel has many special features that endear him to many people. For example, Luke tells many wonderful stories about the awesome mercy of God (e.g. Parable of the Prodigal Son). Women and the poor feature in Luke's Gospel more than in the other three Gospels. Today, we thank God for Luke and for his wonderful writings, which tell us so much about Jesus and the history of the early church.

**Prayer**

*Good and caring God, today our church family gives you thanks for your wonderful servant St. Luke. He showed his love for you by sharing your message with us through his writings. May we honor Luke by taking time to read his stories about Jesus and about the early history of our church. May your Holy Spirit continue to guide and inspire all those who share your message through their writings. Help all the boys and girls in our school to be good students. In a special way help all the students who struggle to understand some of the instruction that they receive. This we pray through Christ our Lord Amen.*

Does anyone have any prayers intentions? Let us now pray for our spoken and unspoken intentions in the words Jesus gave us. Our Father. . . . . End with the Sign of the Cross.

**OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>: THURSDAY OF THE 28<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

***CALLED TO BE HOLY AND LOVING IN HIS SIGHT***

In his letter to Ephesians, Paul says to us: *God chose us in Christ to be holy and blameless in his sight to be full of love.* Ephesians 1:4

Sometimes we may wonder why God created us. Let's pause for a moment to think about this question why God created you.

Pause. . . . .

[**Note to Teacher:** You may ask the children to respond or just continue with the follow.]

In our reading today, Paul reminds us why God created us. He created us to be holy and loving in his sight. We may end up with the best job in the world. But if we do not try to live holy and loving lives we will be a big failure in God's eyes.

To be holy is to be like God or Jesus. To be holy is to be prayerful, kind, forgiving, sharing and loving.

Let us now ask God for the grace we need to have a deep desire to be holy and loving.

**Prayer**

*God when you created us, you created us to be holy and loving. Help me to never forget that this is our primary purpose in life. This day, help us to grow in holiness and love by having a positive attitude, applying ourselves to our studies and by being helpful and kind to those around us. This we pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Does anyone have any intentions that you would like the class to pray for?

Let us now pray in the words of Jesus for our spoken and unspoken intentions. Our Father. . . .

Suggestion - Have your students learn by heart an ancient catechism response to the question: Why did God create us? Write response on board.

*God created us to know, love and serve him here on earth and to enjoy him forever in heaven.*

**OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>: FRIDAY OF THE 28<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

**HYPOCRISY**

In today's Gospel, Jesus issues a strong warning to us. He says:

*Be on your guard against the attitude of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nothing hidden that will not be made known. Everything you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight; what you have whispered in locked rooms will be proclaimed from the rooftops.* Luke 12:1-3

Let us pause and reflect on those words for a moment . . . . .

Does anyone know what the word 'hypocrisy' means? The word '*hypocrisy*' means 'play-acting' or 'pretending'. Jesus was very upset with the Pharisees because they were letting on to be Godly when in truth they were not. In our relationship with God and others, there is a danger that we play a game and fail to be real. We may pretend to be religious when in truth we don't really care about God and his ways. Or we may be phony and not honest with our classmates and friends. Sometimes we are afraid to be our true self in case we are rejected. It is not easy to be our true self if it is different from how our classmates or friends behave. A big piece to growing up to be a mature, holy person is having the courage to be our true self even if others do not like it. Let us now pray about this.

## Prayer

*Jesus, in your word today you call us not to be Pharisees who pretended they loved God when in fact they did not. Sometimes we find it hard to be our true self because we are afraid others may reject us. Jesus, grant us the courage to put aside all phoniness and pretense. Help us to be who we really are even if others do not like it. Also, help us not to say in secret what we don't want you or others to hear. Amen.*

Does anyone have any intentions that you would like us to pray for?

Let us now pray the Lord's Prayer for our spoken and unspoken intentions. Our Father . . . . .

## **OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>: MONDAY OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME**

### **GREED**

In the Gospel today, Jesus says:

*Avoid greed in all its forms. A person may be wealthy in this world's goods, but that does not guarantee he will enter heaven.*

Yesterday, Jesus warned us about the danger of . . . . . does any one remember? Hypocrisy. Today Jesus warns his disciples and us about the danger of material things. Elsewhere, Paul says riches in themselves are not bad. What is bad is the *love* of material things. In our world there are what we might call *greedy* rich people and *sharing* rich people. Some people are blessed with a lot of material things and others are not. *Sharing rich* people love to share their possessions with others. *Greedy rich* people have no such desire. They only think about how they can acquire more riches.

When it comes to material possessions, the big danger is that they make us greedy. The second danger is that they distract us from God. We may become so preoccupied with things and more things that we lose touch with God or only give him lip service. We must never forget that we cannot buy our way into heaven.

The only way to make it to heaven is by having a good relationship with Jesus and by trying to follow his ways. Let us now pray about all this.

## Prayer

*Jesus, in today's gospel you warn us about the danger of possessions and how they can cause us to forget about you. Help us to follow your word and avoid greed in all its forms. Help us to love sharing our possessions. Help us to share our allowance with the poor and our church family. Amen.*

Does anyone have special intentions that you would like us to pray for?

Let us now pray the Lord's Prayer for our spoken and unspoken intentions. Our Father . . . . .

## **OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>: TUESDAY OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **RECONCILIATION**

In today's first reading Paul says to us:

*It is Christ who is our peace, who made the two of us one by breaking down the barrier of hostility that kept us apart. Ephesians 2:13-14*

In this scripture, Paul reminds his readers of God's work of reconciliation brought about by Jesus. Jesus' mission was to break away the barrier between God and us and the barriers between people e.g. Jews and Gentiles. Whenever we work at tearing down a barrier that exists between another and us or between two other people we are doing *God's* work. Whenever we do or say stuff that puts up a barrier between others, we are doing the devil's work. Hopefully, all of us would want to be God's agents and not the devil. The choice is ours.

## Prayer

*Jesus, you came to be an ambassador of reconciliation. You came to break down the barrier between God and us and between people. May we follow your example and be an ambassador of reconciliation in our home and at school. Help us today to only speak words and do actions that will build unity. Help us to be truly sorry for the times that we caused friction between others. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Does anyone have any prayer intentions?

Let us now pray for our spoken and unspoken intentions in the words of Jesus. Our Father . . . . .

### **OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>: WEDNESDAY OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

Today pray a decade of the Rosary for Morning Prayer. Review the following.

- What makes up a decade of the Rosary – be sure the one answering gets the proper order: one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory be to the Father.
- Can anyone remember what group of mysteries we pray on Wednesday? (If no one usually remembers the answer to this question, consider giving a little reward for the person with the right answer.) Answer is The Glorious Mysteries.
- Can anyone remember the names of any of the five Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary? If not, take a moment to review.

Then decide on which mystery you wish to focus on as you pray a decade and ask for some prayer intentions which may or may not be connected to they mystery. For example: the Second Glorious Mystery is the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. This mystery recalls that moment in time when Jesus departed from the earth and returned to his Father in heaven. As you know our parish is named after this event in the life of Jesus. Let us then pray for all the members of our church family living and deceased. We especially pray for the sick and hurting members of our church family. Does anyone else have intentions you would like us to pray for? Now pray a decade of the Rosary.

Begin and end with the Sign of the Cross

### **OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>: THURSDAY OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **WE MUST DECIDE FOR OR AGAINST CHRIST**

In today's gospel Jesus says something that may sound very unlike what Jesus would say. He says:

*Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth? I assure you, the contrary is true. I have come for division. From now on a household will be divided . . . . . Luke 12:51-53*

When we think of Jesus, we usually think of a peacemaker. But in these verses he says that he has come to bring not peace but division. What does he mean? Did Jesus come to be a troublemaker? The answer is 'yes' and 'no'.

What Jesus is saying in these verses is that households will be divided because of him. Some members of the household will accept him and his message and some will reject him. Now or in the future you may find that if you become a strong follower of Jesus some will like and admire you and some will dislike and maybe even hate you. This even happens in families today. A division in the family may happen because of religion and people's faith in Jesus.

## Prayer

Since the first reading in our lectionary for today is a prayer composed by St. Paul for his readers, let us make it our prayer for today. It is very beautiful. So let us read it carefully.

**[Teachers in lower grades may decide to pray a more simple prayer]**

*That is why I kneel before the Father from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth takes its name;  
and I pray that he will bestow on you gifts  
in keeping with the riches of his glory.  
May he strengthen you inwardly through the working of his Spirit.  
May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,  
and may charity be the root and foundation of your life.  
Thus you will be able to grasp fully, with all the holy ones,  
the breadth and length and height and depth of Christ's love,  
and experience this love, which surpasses all knowledge,  
so that you may attain to the fullness of God himself.  
To him whose power now at work in us can do  
immeasurably more than we ask or imagine to him be glory in the church  
and in Christ Jesus through all generations, world without end.  
Amen.*

## **OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup>: FRIDAY OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **“LIVE A LIFE WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING”**

*I plead with you, then, as a prisoner for the Lord,  
to live a life worthy of the calling you have received,  
with perfect humility, meekness, and patience,  
bearing with one another lovingly.  
Make every effort to preserve the unity  
which has the Spirit as its origin and peace as its binding force.  
Ephesians 4:1-4*

In this reading, Paul is writing to an early Christian community from prison encouraging them to be faithful to their Christian calling. He says: ‘live a life worthy of your calling’. Then Paul tells us some of the behaviors we should have in order to be a good Christian: humility, patience, gentleness and bearing with one another’s shortcomings. Nothing is sadder than to see people who are Christians act in an unchristian way. When we do this, we give very bad example to non-Christians who may look to us to see what a good Christian looks like. We also live a life worthy of our Christian calling when we “make every effort to preserve unity among each other”.

Boys and girls, each day we come to school, we have many opportunities to show Jesus that we want to follow him and his ways. We do it when we are humble about our achievements, when we forgive one another, when we speak words and do actions that create unity amongst classmates and schoolmates. Of course we can also engage in un-Christian behavior. Each day the *choice* is ours. Let us now pray that Jesus will help us to follow his ways.

## Prayer

*Jesus, today your word calls us to live a life worthy of our calling to be your followers. Sometimes that is not easy. Sometimes we are tempted to be selfish and mean to others and to forget your call. Jesus, we need your grace and strength to help us follow you. Help us to be patient when tempted to be impatient. Help us to be humble when tempted to be arrogant and proud. Help us to be loving when tempted to be hateful and mean. Amen.*

Does anyone have any prayer intentions?

Let us now pray for all of our spoken and unspoken intentions in the words of Jesus. Our Father . . . . .

End with the Sign of the Cross.

## **OCTOBER 30<sup>th</sup>: MONDAY OF THE 30<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **BE MUTUALLY FORGIVING**

In our first reading today, Paul has more wonderful words for us. He says:

*Be kind to one another, compassionate and mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ . . . Follow the way of love. Avoid all bad talk. Instead give thanks to God.*

As followers of Jesus, we are daily called to follow the way of love. One big way we do this is by forgiving people who hurt us. Sometimes it may be easy enough to forgive. This is especially true when we know that someone is sincerely sorry and has said so. Other times, it can be very hard especially if the one who hurts us does so several times or if the person doesn't even say he is sorry or says it in such a way that makes you wonder if he/she is truly sorry. When it is really hard to forgive someone, all we can do is to ask Jesus to help us. And remember when we forgive others we are very like Jesus because he was big on forgiving others. He even forgave the people who put him to a cruel death. And we know that, that had to be very hard. Let us now pray for the grace to grow in our ability to forgive others.

## Prayer

*Jesus, in your Gospel you tell us over and over to forgive one another just as you forgive us. Jesus, sometime we find it very hard to forgive some people, especially those people who hurt me over and over. Jesus, sometimes we may even feel like taking revenge on people who hurt us. But, I know if we give into these feeling, we would not be following the way of love. So Jesus, help us not to hold onto grudges and resentments because they only make us unhappy. Help us not only to be forgiving but also help us to ask for forgiveness when we know we have hurt someone else. Amen.*

Does anyone have any prayer intentions?

Let us now pray for our spoken and unspoken intentions in the words Jesus gave us. Our Father . . . . .

End with the Sign of the Cross.

## **OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>: TUESDAY OF THE 30<sup>th</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **OBEDIENCE**

*Children obey your parents in the Lord, for that is what is expected of you. . . . Parents bring up your children with training and instruction befitting the Lord. Eph. 6:1-9*

**[Note to Teacher:** If you are following the lectionary, you will realize that the above reading is from *Wednesday* of the 30<sup>th</sup> week, not Tuesday. Since tomorrow is All Saints Day, we will not be reading the above reading in church. Since it is an important reading for children, I have chosen it over the prescribed Tuesday reading.]

Does anyone remember what the fourth Commandment says? . . . (Honor thy father and mother). Obedience is not easy for most, if not all, of us – especially for those of us who are strong willed. We often want to only do what *we* want to do and *when* we want to do it. Submitting to another person may often not be easy for us. Yet it is very important for us to learn the virtue of obedience because all of us are expected to obey God’s commandments. If obedience is a virtue that we don’t like to practice, there is a good chance we will not even want to obey God’s commandments. We will become a rebellious child, which in life will sooner or later get us into a lot of trouble.

When it comes to obedience, two wonderful models are Jesus and his mother Mary. Jesus once said: “*My food is to do the will of him who sent me*” (John 4:34). In the *Agony in the Garden* (anyone remember which set of mysteries it belongs to?), Jesus said with sweat and tears: “not my will but your will (God) be done” (Luke 22:43). Also, we know Mary always said ‘yes’ to whatever God asked of her.

Of course, sometimes our parents and other adults in authority over us may sometimes seem very unreasonable in their demands. If this *often* happens, you ought to speak with someone you can trust and see if they can help you. But today, let us pray for the grace to be obedient when it comes not only to God’s rules but also to the rules of our home and school.

### **Prayer**

*Jesus, you have shown us how to be obedient even when it was very, very difficult and painful. Sometimes we want to rebel against the rules other people set for us. Help us during those times to do what is the right thing. If a rule seems to be unfair, help us to have the courage to speak with someone who might be able to help us. Help us to have a good day at school. Amen.*

Does anyone have any special intentions you would like us to pray for? Now let us pray for our spoken and unspoken intentions in the words of Jesus. Our Father . . . . .