

DIOCESE OF TRENTON
FAITH IN OUR FUTURE

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Lord Jesus Christ,

Word of the Father, we turn to you.

Watch over our plans.

Enliven our service to the Church.

Sustain our labors.

Guide our steps in the search

of the best ways to proclaim your Gospel.

Our poverty is great.

We do not place trust in ourselves

but only in you.

Encourage us, reassure us,

give us your blessing.

You who with the Holy Spirit live

and reign in us and in your Church

forever and ever.

Amen.

+ Prayer of Blessed Pope Paul VI

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**SAMPLE PRAYERS BASED ON LITURGICAL SCRIPTURAL
READINGS- 2017**

March 5, 2017 First Sunday of Lent

OPENING PRAYER

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

Bestow on us, we pray, O Lord,
a spirit of always pondering on what is right
and of hastening to carry it out, and, since without you we cannot exist, may we be
enabled to live according to your will.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen

Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread."

He said in reply, "It is written:

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

*He will command his angels concerning you
and with their hands they will support you,
lest you dash your foot against a stone."*

Jesus answered him, "Again it is written,
You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written:
The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

The Word of the Lord. **All:** Thanks be to God.

FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
2. What in this passage comforted you?
3. What in this passage challenged you?

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GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

- That we may be willing to endure loss and suffering and trust in God's care for us to diminish our anxieties: let us pray to the Lord...
- That we may be strengthened to give focused energy to the planning of *Faith in Our Future* to the Lord...
- That we may look beyond our parishes, beyond our cohort to help enrich and support the broader diocesan Church: let us pray to the Lord...
- That we may strengthen our outreach to the poor, the lonely, the hungry and homeless: let us pray to the Lord...

Please add your own intentions

Lord, hear our prayers, those spoken and those embedded in our hearts. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen

CLOSING PRAYER:

I, the LORD, have called you for justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
To open the eyes of the blind,
to bring out prisoners from confinement,
and from the dungeon, those who live in
darkness.

I am the LORD, LORD is my name.

(Isaiah 42:6-8a)

March 12, 2017 - Second Sunday of Lent

OPENING PRAYER

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

Keep your family, O Lord,
schooled always in good works,
and so comfort them with your protection here
as to lead them graciously to gifts in high. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

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Gospel Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, “Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Rise, and do not be afraid.”

And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, “Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
2. What in this passage comforted you?
3. What in this passage challenged you?

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

- That we may be strengthened to see the connections to the past as we plan for the future: let us pray to the Lord.
- That we may be open to new insights from the Spirit: let us pray to the Lord
- That we may plan for vibrant parishes formed by the Gospel: let us pray to the Lord
- That we may show in our planning that we care for those in need: whether neighbors or strangers: let us pray to the Lord

For all these petitions: those spoken and unspoken: we ask you Lord to be mindful of us and present to us. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Hear me, O islands,

listen, O distant peoples.

The LORD called me from birth,
from my mother’s womb he gave me my name.

He made of me a sharp-edged sword
and concealed me in the shadow of his arm.

He made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me.

You are my servant, he said to me,
Israel, through whom I show my glory.

Though I thought I had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength,
Yet my reward is with the LORD,

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my recompense is with my God.

(Isaiah 49:1-4)

March 19, 2017 - Third Sunday of Lent

OPENING PRAYER

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

May your unfailing compassion, O Lord, cleanse and protect your Church, and, since without you she cannot stand secure, may she be always governed by your grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" —For Jews use nothing in common with Samaritans.— Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you do not even have a bucket and the cistern is deep; where then can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us this cistern and drank from it himself with his children and his flocks?" Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.

"I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you."

Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him. When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in

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him because of his word, and they said to the woman, “We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world.”

FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
2. What in this passage comforted you?
3. What in this passage challenged you?

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

- That we may grow in appreciation for the love that God has for us: let us pray to the Lord...
- That we may be more conscious of the enduring gift of hope: let us pray to the Lord...
- That we may be strengthened to be more forgiving: let us pray to the Lord...
- That we may pray for hope during difficult times in the planning process: let us pray to the Lord...
- That we may not forget the hungry, lonely and homeless who often see God's presence through us as we try to meet their needs: let us pray to the Lord...

For what else should we pray...?

For all these petitions, those spoken and unspoken, we ask you Lord to be mindful of us and present to us. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER:

I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God is now my strength!

It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant,

to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel;

I will make you a light to the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

(Isaiah 49:5b-6)

March 26, 2017 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

OPENING PRAYER

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

O God, who renew the world

through mysteries beyond all telling, grant, we pray,

that your Church may be guided by your eternal design

and not be deprived of your help in this present age.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

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Gospel Reading: John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is,” but others said, “No, he just looks like him.” He said, “I am.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.” So some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a sinful man do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, “What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

They answered and said to him, “You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?” Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
2. What in this passage comforted you?
3. What in this passage challenged you?

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

- That we may grow in the love of God by being reconciled to our brothers and sisters: let us pray to the Lord...
- That we may appreciate all that Christ has done for us: let us pray to the Lord...
- That our plans for our parish and cohort may reflect our faithfulness to the Word of God: let us pray to the Lord...
- That we may make Christ's presence known as we become ambassadors who care for the poor: the underserved: the lonely and depressed: let us pray to the Lord...

For what else should we pray?

For all these petitions: those spoken and unspoken: we ask you Lord to be mindful of us and present to us. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER:

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The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue,
That I might know how to answer the weary
a word that will waken them.
Morning after morning
he wakens my ear to hear as disciples do;
The Lord GoD opened my ear;
I did not refuse, did not turn away.

(Isaiah 50:4-5)

April 2, 2017 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

OPENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Enlighten, O God of compassion,
the hearts of your children, sanctified by penance, and in your kindness
grant those you stir to a sense of devotion a gracious hearing when they cry out to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
ALL: Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

The sisters of Lazarus sent word to Jesus, saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.” When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was. Then after this he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise.” Martha said, “I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.”

He became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Sir, come and see.” And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him.” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?”

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the dead man’s sister, said to him, “Lord, by now there will be a

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stench; he has been dead for four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me.” And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
2. What in this passage comforted you?
3. What in this passage challenged you?

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord, hear our prayer

- That we may realize in new ways that we exist to honor love and praise our gracious God: we pray to the Lord...
- That our country and our Church may realize the many blessings they have received and continue to honor God as the giver of all good things: we pray to the Lord...
- That in our plans we continue to care for those who are hungry and who suffer: we pray to the Lord...

For what else should we pray to the Lord...?

For all these petitions: those spoken and unspoken: we ask you Lord to be mindful of us and present to us. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER:

See, my servant shall prosper,
he shall be raised high and greatly exalted.
Even as many were amazed at him—
so marred were his features,
beyond that of mortals
his appearance, beyond that of human beings—
So shall he startle many nations,
kings shall stand speechless;
For those who have not been told shall see,
those who have not heard shall ponder it.

(Isaiah 52:13-15)

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GENERAL INTERCESSIONS (THESE MAY BE USED IN ANY ORDER.)

Week One

For the success of the implementation phase of *Faith in Our Future*, that all parishes will faithfully participate under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to look at how they can best build the Reign of God, let us pray to the Lord. Response...

Week Two

That our Core Team will be blessed and strengthened as it participates in the *Faith in Our Future*, let us pray to the Lord. Response...

Week Three

That the Holy Spirit may continue to guide our Core Team as it implements Bishop O’Connell’s decisions for our cohort, let us pray to the Lord. Response...

Week Four

For our Core Team as it looks for ways to suggest strengthen our parish and all the parishes in our cohort, let us pray to the Lord. Response...

Week Five

That the Holy Spirit will continue to be with the *Faith in Our Future* as our parish and cohort continue their important work, let us pray to the Lord. Response...

Week Six

For all those throughout the Diocese of Trenton who are working to carry out the *Faith in Our Future* decisions by Bishop O’Connell regarding our future, let us pray to the Lord. Response...

Week Seven

That *Faith in Our Future* will generate attitudes and actions of sharing across the diocese and the larger Church, let us pray to the Lord. Response...

Week Eight

That *Faith in Our Future* will renew parish life across the Diocese of Trenton, we pray to the Lord. Response...

ANNOUNCEMENTS AT LITURGY

Besides the bulletin announcements suggested above, it is a good idea to have members of the Core Team give a brief update on *Faith in Our Future* at least every other week during the announcement time at liturgy. This will make the work of the Core Team come alive for the parish community.

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ADDITIONAL PRAYER RESOURCES

If you need more prayer services than those provided and would like to create your own, consider using the following template.

1. PREPARE THE ENVIRONMENT WITH A BIBLE, A CRUCIFIX, AND A LIGHTED CANDLE
2. HAVE COPIES OF MUSIC TO BE SUNG BY ALL
3. OPENING PRAYER
4. CHOOSE A READING FROM THE SUNDAY LECTIONARY
5. REFLECTION AND FAITH SHARING
Sample questions:
What words spoke to you especially today in these readings?
What actions flow from the readings for you?
How were you changed by the readings? New insights? Motivations to change something in your life?
6. GENERAL INTERCESSIONS
7. LORD’S PRAYER
8. SIGN OF PEACE