

Prayer Gathering for 13th Week in Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God, you love all that you have made
and you are present in all of creation
and are at home in the innermost chambers of our hearts.
May we see you in every person we encounter
and strive to love them as you do.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

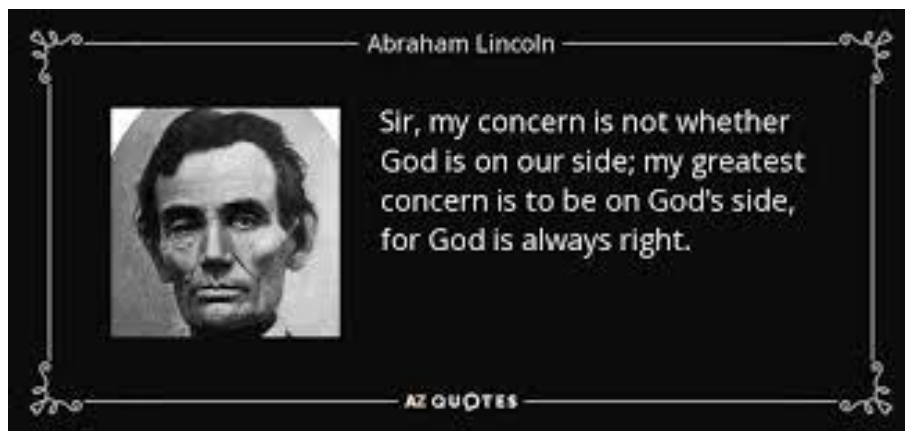
SHARING QUESTIONS

If God asked you to rank your relationships by importance, who would be #1 in your life?

**If God asked to be preferred above that #1 person, would you be able to do it?
How would you demonstrate that God was ranked #1?**

How does placing God at the center of that relationship differ from preferring God to that relationship or choosing God over that person?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

What situation in your life reminds you of wanting God to be on your side, even if your side might not be the right one?

"You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do." (Anne Lamott)

How do you cope with knowing that God loves even the person who has hurt you most in life... or with a politician whom you personally despise? How can this be?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That Catholic Christians will live our faith so beautifully, others will be drawn in like moths to a bright flame; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

That our nation will show by example what is possible when people of goodwill come together with a common love of freedom and solidarity; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

That our communities will grow in our love and concern for each other's well-being; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

That everyone who deals with shame caused by things like illness, addiction and past mistakes may be freed by the merciful touch of God; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

That purity may be reclaimed by our society as a noble virtue that applies not only to our bodies but to work, money and relationships; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

That all the sick will see beyond their present circumstances to the healing that is always offered through our connection to God; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

That our beloved dead will send us signs of their connection to us despite the illusion of our separation; we pray... **Lord, Hear Our Prayer**

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from Psalm 89

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever,
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness.

For you have said, “My kindness is established forever;”
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout;
in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk.
At your name they rejoice all the day,
and because of your justice they are exalted.

You are the splendor of their strength,
and by your favor our horn is exalted.
For to the LORD belongs our shield,
and the Holy One of Israel, our king.

Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his apostles:

*“Whoever loves father or mother more than me
is not worthy of me,
and whoever loves son or daughter more than me
is not worthy of me;*

*and whoever does not take up his cross
and follow after me
is not worthy of me.
Whoever finds his life will lose it,
and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 10