

Prayer Gathering for the Octave of Christmas

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**God of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
you entrusted your Son into the care of a human family
and allowed the author of life to learn from those you created.
Humble us as we ponder the humility of Jesus. Teach us all you want us to learn.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*“My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives.
Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him...”*

**Many have experienced watching an elderly parent become feeble or frail;
some develop dementia. How has this experience touched you or your family?
What did it teach you about life? About yourself?**

“Reville not (your father) all the days of his life...”

**It is not uncommon for families to fracture. In every parish there are families who
are estranged from each other. How has this experience touched your life?
How can it be overcome?**

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*“He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them...
And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.”*

This passage gives us a special glimpse of Mary, Joseph and Jesus’ lives.

Have you ever thought of Jesus growing and advancing in wisdom as he aged?

What, do you suppose, did he need to learn?

How comfortable are you thinking of him being 100% human as well as 100% divine?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That all families that be able to heal the fractures that separate and divide; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christmas may bring peace to the most troubled places in the world; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

That everyone in the darkness of depression may experience a dawning of fresh hope; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

That our care for the earth may inspire us to consume less and conserve more; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

That we will alleviate the gnawing lack in others' lives by sharing our bounty this Christmas;
we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may save room at our dinner tables and on our calendars for the lonely; we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those deceased loved ones we acutely miss this time of year... ...and for those
whose losses are recent ... we pray...
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the needs we now share with God in silence... ... 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 here, 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 the book of the prophet Sirach

God sets a father in honor over his children;
a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.

Whoever honors his father atones for sins,
and preserves himself from them.
When he prays, he is heard;
he stores up riches who reveres his mother.

Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children,
and, when he prays, is heard.

Whoever reveres his father will live a long life;
he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old;
grieve him not as long as he lives.

Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him;
revile him not all the days of his life;
kindness to a father will not be forgotten,
firmly planted against the debt of your sins
—a house raised in justice to you.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom.

After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him,
*"Son, why have you done this to us?
Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."*

And he said to them,
*"Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"*
But they did not understand what he said to them.

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Luke, chapter 2