

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in August, 2021

Introduction

Leader Mary holds a special place in Catholic life. That God chose her to be the mother of Jesus places her high in our appreciation and gratitude. For as her cousin Elizabeth exclaimed, she is blessed among all women.

Opening Prayer

All God of goodness, we thank you for the life and example of Mary in the Gospels. As a woman and mother of Jesus, she became the mother of all of us for all time. May we turn to her when we need a mother's special love. We ask this through her Son, Jesus through His Spirit. Amen.

Word of God Luke 1:39-47

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke *(The reading is on the reverse side.
Pause for silent reflection.)*

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's.

1. When did you develop a devotion to Mary?
2. What aspect of Mary's life attracts you? What virtue or goodness of Mary is a model for your life?

Response (Taken from Luke 1:39-47)

Side 1 "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Side 2 Through the ages, Elizabeth's words to Mary have become ours.

Side 1 "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Side 2 May Elizabeth's gratitude for Mary become our own.

Side 1 "Mary said, 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.' "

Side 2 This response of Mary is one of the highest gratitude and our model for humility.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer (from Mary's Magnificat, Luke 1:51-53)

All "The Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his Name...
He has shown the strength of his arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things
and the rich he has sent away empty."

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste
to a town of Judah,
where she entered the house of Zechariah
and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the infant leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.
Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.