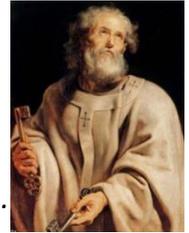


Monday, February 22, 2021



- **Readings**

- 1 Peter 5:1-4 *I am an elder, a witness to Christ's sufferings.*
- Psalm 23 *The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.*
- Matthew 16:13-19 *You are Peter; I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*

- **Reflection**

Early Roman Christians celebrated a feast on this day in honour of their dearly departed ones, including their predecessors in the faith, Peter and Paul. In the 4th century, when the feast of these two saints was moved to June 19th, the emphasis of this day shifted to celebrating Peter and his successors as bishops of Rome and expressing gratitude for their service.

“The ‘cathedra’ is literally the seat of the bishop,” Pope Benedict XVI said on this day in 2006. “It is the symbol of his authority and, particularly of his ‘Magisterium,’ in other words of the evangelical teaching that he, as successor to the Apostles, is called to protect and transmit to the Christian community.’

To celebrate the ‘Chair’ of Peter means, then, giving it a strong significance, and recognizing therein a privileged sign of the love of God.” Livingwithchrist.ca

- **Prayer**

God in Heaven, we thank You for the ordered community of faith we enjoy in the Catholic Church. Your chosen vicar, Saint Peter, guided the early Church and guides Her still, ensuring that we remain one, holy, catholic, and apostolic until the end of time. Continue to grace Your Church with the unity so necessary to accomplish Her mission on earth, AMEN.

Tuesday, February 23, 2021



- **Readings**

- Isaiah 55:10-11 *My word shall accomplish that which I purpose.*
- Psalm 34 *From all their afflictions, God will deliver the just.*
- Matthew 6:7-15 *Pray in this way.*

- **Reflection**

The Lord’s Prayer is indeed a summary of the entire Gospel. It is called “The Lord’s Prayer” in that Jesus Himself gave it to us as a way of teaching us to pray. In this prayer, we find seven petitions to God. Within those seven petitions we will find every human longing and every expression of faith found within the Scriptures. Everything we need to know about life and prayer is contained in the wonderful prayer.

Jesus Himself gave us this prayer as the model of all prayer. It is good that we repeat the words of the Lord’s Prayer regularly in vocal prayer. This is also done in the various sacraments and liturgical worship. However, saying this prayer is not enough. The goal is to internalize each and every aspect of this prayer so that it becomes a model of our personal petition to God and an entrustment of our entire life to Him. <https://catholic-daily-reflections.com>

- **Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Jesus, I trust in You, AMEN.

Wednesday, February 24, 2021



- **Readings**

- Jonah 3:1-10 *The Ninevites turned from their evil ways.*
- Psalm 51 *A broken, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn*
- Luke 11:29-32 *This is an evil generation; no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.*

- **Reflection**

Independently, each person of Nineveh might have hesitated to heed the warning of a foreign prophet. As they eyed each other and exchanged hushed, anxious words, however, they compelled one another to change until the entire nation bowed its head in repentance. The witness of others strengthens our own resolve, which in turn further strengthens others until the whole community changes for the better. Daily Prayer, Liturgy Training Publications

- **Prayer**

Gracious God, when we fall into sin, you reach down and pull us out of it. May we reach out to others who have turned away from you until everyone has turned back and is calling loudly for your mercy. Through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

Thursday, February 25, 2021



- **Readings**

- Esther 14:3-5, 12-14 *O my Lord, I have no helper but you*
- Psalm 138 *Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.*
- Matthew 7:7-12 *Everyone who asks receives.*

- **Reflection**

The Jewish rabbis used say: 'Human beings can hardly hear two people talking at once, but God, if all the world talks to him at the one time, hears their cry'. That challenges our imagination. Parent-child is only a metaphor for what happens in prayer. I know, Lord, that you always hear my cry, but I do not always understand your answer. I will still go on praying to you, happy to fall back on the 'Our Father'. In the very act of praying we receive something from God. As we open our hearts to God in prayer, God's hands are open to give us good gifts. We leave a time of prayer with an increase of faith, hope and love, which is the consolation of God. No time of prayer is wasted; all prayer is in the service of love, and prayer increases within us our capacity to love. <https://www.sacredspace.ie>

- **Prayer**

Jesus, please give each of us the courage today to ask, to search, to knock, and thus to receive your Spirit. Open our minds and hearts that we might receive you, find you, and have the door opened to us to a new Journey of Faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

Friday, February 26, 2021

- **Readings**

- Ezekiel 18:21-28 *If the wicked turn away from all their sins they shall surely live.*
- Psalm 130 *If you, O Lord, laid bare our guilt, who could endure it?*
- Matthew 5:20-26 *First be reconciled to your brother or sister, then come and offer your gift.*

- **Reflection**

“If you remember that your brother or sister has something against you...” This phrase makes us shift a little in our seats. Jesus gives us a tremendous view into God’s heart. God’s very essence is a unity of love – three persons, one nature. We are made in God’s image, and we are made to live forever in union with God. But so too are my brothers and sisters. If we have done anything to wound the union of love with those around us, then we must repair the breach. In fact, it is so important to God (and so important for us) that God will not accept our “offering” if we have consciously wounded the unity with those around us. Bring those particularly difficult relationships to prayer and draw the strength from God to love as we should. He will not ask for some virtue and then refuse his grace.

- **Prayer**

Lord God help us recognize and admit our wrongdoing. Give us all the strength of will to change our behavior no matter how set in our ways we might seem. Through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

Saturday, February 27, 2021

- **Readings**

- Deuteronomy 26:16-19 *You are to be a people holy to the Lord your God.*
- Psalm 119 *Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord.*
- Matthew 5:43-48 *Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

- **Reflection**

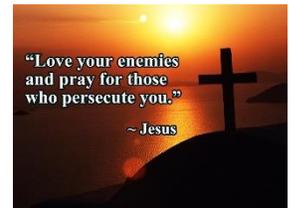
This is one of the most famous of Jesus' commands . . . and one of the hardest to obey. It's hard enough to love those for whom we feel strong affection. So now we're to love those whom we find it natural to hate? We're to pray for those who mistreat us?

Jesus' unprecedented call to love one's enemies surely scandalized many in his own day. Many Jewish groups in the first-century A.D. called for hatred of the enemies of Israel. How easy it would have been for people to hate the sometimes brutal and always demanding Romans. Yet Jesus confronted this natural inclination to hate with an unsettling call to love even one's enemies.

To love such people doesn't mean to feel all sorts of warm fuzzies for them. It means to treat them with unwarranted kindness, even to pray for their well-being. In this way, Jesus said, his followers would be imitating God's own astounding graciousness.

- **Prayer**

Jesus, you are the author and originator of love. We only know love because you are love and you loved us first. You love us in our sin and rebellion against you. You love us despite the pain we inflict on others. You love us in our mess. It is that love - that selfless, self-sacrificing love, which allows us to love others. It is an overflow of your love for us that allows us to love other people. Jesus, we ask you to make us better lovers of one another. We ask this through Christ our Lord, AMEN.



Sunday, February 28, 2021

- **Readings**

- Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 *The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*
- Psalm 116 *I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.*
- Romans 8:31b-35, 37++ *God did not withhold his own Son.*
- Mark 9:2-10 *This is my Son, the beloved; listen to Him.*



- **Reflection**

Do you see the glory of God in your life? Oftentimes this is a real struggle. We can easily become aware of all the problems we face and can focus in on them. As a result, it is easy to miss seeing the glory of God in our lives. Do you see God's glory in your life?

The feast we celebrate today is a commemoration of the fact that Jesus literally revealed His glory to three of the Apostles. He took them up a high mountain and was transfigured before them. He became dazzling white and radiant with glory. This was an important image for them to have in their minds in preparation for the very real image of the suffering and death Jesus was about to undergo. One lesson we should take from this feast is the fact that the glory of Jesus was not lost on the Cross. His suffering and pain was made manifest at that time, but it doesn't change the fact that His glory was just as real while He suffered on the Cross.

The same is true in our lives. We are blessed beyond measure and God desires to transform our souls into glorious beacons of light and grace. When He does this, we must strive to constantly see it. When we suffer or face some Cross, we must never take our eyes off the glorious things He has done in our souls.

Reflect, today, upon the beautiful and profound transformation that God has done and continues to desire to do in your soul. Know that He wants you to fix your eyes upon this glory and forever remain grateful for it, especially as you endure any cross you are given. <https://catholic-daily-reflections.com>

- **Prayer**

Lord, may I see Your glory and the glory that You have bestowed upon my own soul. May my eyes forever remain fixed on that grace. May I see You and Your glory especially in difficult times. Jesus, I trust in You, AMEN.