

MEETING AND PRAYER GUIDE
WEEK OF JANUARY 22, 2023
THIRD WEEK OF ORDINARY TIME



OPENING PRAYER

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, DIVINE CREATOR, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH!
HELP US TO PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT US. BE OUR COMPANION WHEN IT IS EASY
TO PRAY AND WHEN PRAYER COMES HARD. ENTER OUR HEARTS AND HELP US
TO LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD AND TO BE TRANSFORMED EVER MORE PERFECTLY
INTO THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF JESUS.
THIS WE ASK THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, WHO LIVES AND
REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE FATHER, NOW AND FOR EVER. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE

Two people went up to the temple to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.

The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself:

"O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity – greedy, dishonest, adulterous – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income."

But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed,

"O God, be merciful to me a sinner."

Lk 18:10-13.

LINK TO THE VIDEO REFLECTION

https://youtu.be/zReWkaI_PAg

At the bottom of the YouTube video screen, click “CC” to stop closed captioning.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was wrong with the prayer of the Pharisee? What made the prayer of the tax collector powerful and life giving?
2. How can knowing about the prayer life of the saints help us to pray more and better?
3. Which form of prayer is the most deeply moving for you? Which is the most difficult?
4. Which prayer written by St. Thomas Aquinas is most appealing to you? Will you practice that prayer for a week and see what happens?

Grant me, O Lord my God,
a mind to know you,
a heart to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
conduct pleasing to you,
faithful perseverance in waiting for you,
and a hope of finally embracing you.
Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

LORD JESUS,

BLESS EACH OF OUR SMALL GROUPS AND THEIR MEMBERS AND FAMILIES,
THAT THROUGH PRAYER WE MAY COME TO KNOW YOU BETTER AND LOVE YOU MORE.

FOR WHAT ELSE SHALL WE PRAY? **[SPONTANEOUS PRAYERS ARE WELCOME.]**

FOR THESE SPOKEN PRAYERS AND THE UNSPOKEN INTENTIONS IN OUR HEART,
WE ASK THAT THEY BE GRANTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD’S WILL,
THROUGH CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.