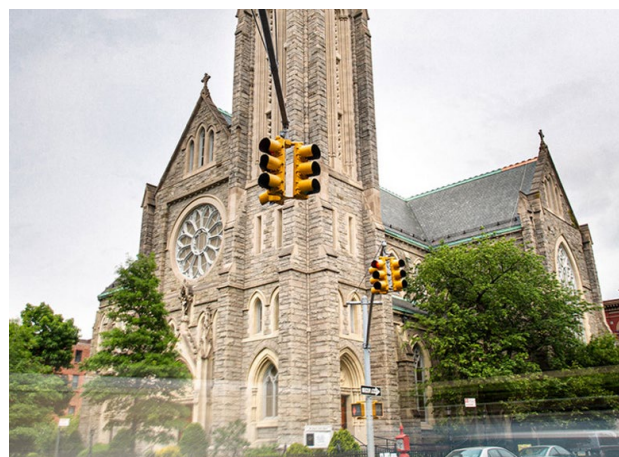


Novena for the Healing of the United States of America

January 11 through 19, 2021



Led by the parishioners and friends of
St. Charles Borromeo and
St. Augustine and St. Francis Xavier
Brooklyn, NY

January 9, 2021

Invitation to Join Together in Prayer

The invasion of our Capitol this week revealed not only the division in our nation in general but that this transition of power will be like none other in our history. All Americans must do what we can to enable a smooth and orderly process up to, during, and after the Inauguration of President-Elect Biden. We participate in many institutions from political parties to professional organizations and we must ask how we can help them provide stability and direction.

In his slim but frightening book of several years ago *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*, Yale historian Timothy Snyder told us that institutions do not defend themselves and urged every American to pick one and defend it. I recommend the book enthusiastically. It is surprisingly comprehensive and decidedly thoughtful, and I hope that everyone be enlightened by his examples and will follow, at least, a few of his suggestions.

He does not discuss prayer and we must ask ourselves what Catholic Christianity can offer us at this moment. I invite you to participate in a “Novena for our Country.” This situation is so unique that there are no available novenas that we can use as now written and so we will be building the airplane as we fly. To keep this distinctly Catholic we will emphasize the prayers and blessings of the Church and the teachings of the Popes. The novena prayers themselves will be no longer than 10 minutes long.

They will be at our customary COVID-19 prayer time of 5:00PM and you can connect via Zoom in the usual manner. They will be said before Rosary on Monday and Wednesday, Vespers on Friday, and Bible study on Sunday for those who must leave immediately afterwards. They will be stand-alone on the other days.

We will begin this Monday, January 11, and end on Tuesday night, January 19.

I hope that we will find many ways of being effective at this time, but we must always remember that one of them must be prayer.

I remain
In Christ,
Fr. William Smith
Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo

Novena for the Healing of the United States of America

Day One: January 11, 2021

Entrance Antiphon:

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.
You will call upon me, and I will answer you,
and I will lead back your captives from every place. [Jer 29:11–12, 14]

Opening Prayer:

O God, author and lover of peace,
to know you is to live, to serve you is to reign;
defend against every attack those who cry to you,
so that we, who trust in your protection,
may not fear the weapons of any foe.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Reading:

From the Encyclical “Fratelli Tutti” Pope Francis 1 (Chapter 5:160-161)

160. Closed populist groups distort the word “people”, since they are not talking about a true people. The concept of “people” is in fact open-ended. A living and dynamic people, a people with a future, is one constantly open to a new synthesis through its ability to welcome differences. In this way, it does not deny its proper identity, but is open to being mobilized, challenged, broadened and enriched by others, and thus to further growth and development.

161. Another sign of the decline of popular leadership is concern for short-term advantage. One meets popular demands for the sake of gaining votes or support, but without advancing in an arduous and constant effort to generate the resources people need to develop and earn a living by their own efforts and creativity. In this regard, I have made it clear that “I have no intention of proposing an irresponsible populism.” Eliminating inequality requires an economic growth that can help to tap each region’s potential and thus guarantee a sustainable equality. At the same time, it follows that “welfare projects, which meet certain urgent needs, should be considered merely temporary responses.”

Scriptural Response: Isaiah 49:6

It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant,
to raise up the tribes of Jacob,
and restore the survivors of Israel;
I will make you a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth

Concluding Prayer:

Circle the earth, Lord
Keep peace within, keep violence without.
Keep understanding within, keep prejudice out.
Keep courage within, keep error and despair without.
Keep open minds within, keep hard hearts out.
Keep safety within, and harm without.
Keep love within, keep hatred out

Final Prayer:

Graciously enlighten your family, O Lord, we pray,
that by holding fast to what is pleasing to you,
they may be worthy to accomplish all that is good.
Through Christ our Lord

Novena for Our Country

Day 2: Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021

OPENING ANTIPHON (*Bolded part said together*)

You heavens, **bless the Lord**,
praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you waters above the heavens, **bless the Lord**,
praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you powers, **bless the Lord**;
praise and exalt him above all forever.
Sun and moon, **bless the Lord**;
praise and exalt him above all forever. (Dan 3:59-62)

OPENING PRAYER: “A Christian Prayer in union with creation” Pope Francis (from *Laudato Si*)

God of love, show us our place in this world
as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.
O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life,
to prepare for a better future, or the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.

READING: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis, chapter 5

178. In the face of many petty forms of politics focused on immediate interests, I would repeat that “true statecraft is manifest when, in difficult times, we uphold high principles and think of the long-term common good. Political powers do not find it easy to assume this duty in the work of nation-building”, much less in forging a common project for the human family, now and in the future. Thinking of those who will come after us does not serve electoral purposes, yet it is what authentic justice demands. As the Bishops of Portugal have taught, the earth “is lent to each generation, to be handed on to the generation that follows”.

179. Global society is suffering from grave structural deficiencies that cannot be resolved by piecemeal solutions or quick fixes. Much needs to change, through fundamental reform and major renewal. Only a healthy politics, involving the most diverse sectors and skills, is capable of overseeing this process. An economy that is an integral part of a political, social, cultural and popular programme directed to the common good could pave the way for “different possibilities which do not involve stifling human creativity and its ideals of progress, but rather directing that energy along new channels”

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE: Psalm 148: 9-14

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars; Animals wild and tame,
creatures that crawl and birds that fly;
Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all who govern on earth;
Young men and women too, old and young alike.
Let them all praise the LORD’s name, for his name alone is exalted,
His majesty above earth and heaven.
He has lifted high the horn of his people;
to the praise of all his faithful,
the Israelites, the people near to him.
Hallelujah!

CONCLUDING PRAYER: A Prayer from the Ancient Irish

Our God is the God of all things
The God of heaven and earth
The God of the sea and the streams
The God of the sun, moon and stars,
The God of the great high mountains, and the deep glens,
The God above heaven, in heaven and under heaven,
And He has a household, heaven and earth,
And the sea, and all that they contain.

FINAL BLESSING (From Pope St John Paul 2) *(Said by priest)*

Spirit of God,
Pour your light and your love into human hearts
to achieve reconciliation between individuals, within families, between neighbors
In cities and towns and within the institutions of our society.
All: Amen

Novena for Our Country

Day 3: Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’
(Mat 25: 40b)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, who hast created man in thine own image; Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil, and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice among men and nations, to the glory of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (*Book of Common Prayer*)

READING *from Fratelli Tutti (Pope Francis) chapter 5*

180. Recognizing that all people are our brothers and sisters, and seeking forms of social friendship that include everyone, is not merely utopian. It demands a decisive commitment to devising effective means to this end. Any effort along these lines becomes a noble exercise of charity. For whereas individuals can help others in need, when they join together in initiating social processes of fraternity and justice for all, they enter the “field of charity at its most vast, namely political charity. This entails working for a social and political order whose soul is social charity. Once more, I appeal for a renewed appreciation of politics as “a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good”

181 This means acknowledging that “love, overflowing with small gestures of mutual care, is also civic and political, and it makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world”

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. (*Mat 25:35-37*)

FINAL PRAYER

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love. God of freedom. *(Prayers from the Cathedral of St John the Divine)*

FINAL BLESSING *(Said by priest)*

May God bless you with every heavenly blessing,
make you always holy and pure in his sight,
pour out in abundance upon you the riches of his glory,
and teach you with the words of truth;
may he instruct you in the Gospel of salvation,
and ever endow you with fraternal charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, X and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R. Amen.

(Solemn Blessing from the Roman Missal)

Novena for Our Country

Day 4: Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *(all say together)*

**Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you;
hear the prayers of your servants
and guide us in the way of justice.** Sir 36:18, 19

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who have revealed
that peacemakers are to be called your children,
grant, we pray,
that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice
which alone ensures true and lasting peace.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever *(Mass for Peace, Roman Missal)*

READING - *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis. Chapter 5

190. Political charity is also expressed in a spirit of openness to everyone. Government leaders should be the first to make the sacrifices that foster encounter and to seek convergence on at least some issues. They should be ready to listen to other points of view and to make room for everyone. Through sacrifice and patience, they can help to create a beautiful polyhedral reality in which everyone has a place. Here, economic negotiations do not work. Something else is required: an exchange of gifts for the common good. It may seem naïve and utopian, yet we cannot renounce this lofty aim.

191. At a time when various forms of fundamentalist intolerance are damaging relationships between individuals, groups and peoples, let us be committed to living and teaching the value of respect for others, a love capable of welcoming differences, and the priority of the dignity of every human being over his or her ideas, opinions, practices and even sins. Even as forms of fanaticism, closedmindedness and social and cultural fragmentation proliferate in present-day society, a good politician will take the first step and insist that different voices be heard. Disagreements may well give rise to conflicts, but uniformity proves stifling and leads to cultural decay. May we not be content with being enclosed in one fragment of reality.

SCRIPTURAL RESPONSE (2 Samuel 22:2b-4)

The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;

The God of my rock; in him will I trust:

He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge,

My saviour; thou savest me from violence (*King James Version*)

CONCLUDING PRAYER (*all say the bolded responses*)

Where there is charity and wisdom,

there is neither fear nor ignorance.

Where there is patience and humility,

there is neither anger nor disturbance.

Where there is poverty with joy,

there is neither greed nor avarice.

Where there is rest and meditation,

there is neither anxiety or restlessness.

Where there is fear of the Lord to guard an entrance,

there the enemy cannot have a place to enter.

Where there is a heart full of mercy and discernment,

there is neither excess nor hardness of heart

Admonition XXVII (The Undated Writings) Francis of Assisi -

FINAL BLESSING (*said by a priest*)

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields
and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand

(The Irish Blessing: traditional)

Novena for Our Country

Day 5: Friday, Jan. 15, 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be. (James 3:9-10)

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
(from Collects of the Roman Missal)

READING

By Chaplain Barry E. Pitegoff, BCC, Staff Chaplain at Bon Secours Community Hospital in Port Jervis, NY, and friend of St. Charles Borromeo parish, expressly for this service:

The common part of the Bible treasured by both Christians and Jews, especially within The Five Books of Moses, contains what has become known as "commandments." The "Top Ten Commandments" are the most well-known and memorized. If you keep reading, finding and listing all the commandments you notice, the result will be a list of 613 do's and don't's, 613 commandments. Some of these commandments are actually repeated. This is especially significant, because The Bible uses words very carefully and very sparingly. . . .

[For example,] you will find the commandment or mitzvah of *Hachnasat Orchim*, or "Welcoming the Stranger," a total of 36 symbolic times. . . . Why is it repeated for a total of 36 times? That is very symbolic. In Hebrew, the number 18 is associated with the word "life." The number 36 would be "two lives." When we welcome strangers, they become "lives," they become "real." When you continue on to the Biblical teachings added by the Christians, you find similar guidance in the wisdom of Matthew and others: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me...' (Matthew 25:35) 'Whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me' (Matthew 10:40).

The bottom line, for me, is oxymoronic, a term that contradicts itself. For when we welcome the stranger, the stranger is a stranger no more. What a beautiful pathway towards peace at a challenging time. . . . [The late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks of England] wrote, "It's the people **NOT** like us who make us grow." Welcoming strangers, and transforming strangers into friends, is a path to peace to consider at this time. It is truly a way to help each other grow. ... May this be G-D's will.

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. (James 1:19-21)

FINAL PRAYER (Prayer of St. Francis)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.

**For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

FINAL BLESSING (*Said by priest*)

May the Lord bless us and keep us. **Amen.**
May the Lord let his face shine upon us and have mercy on us. **Amen.**
May the Lord look upon us with kindness and give us his peace. **Amen.**
May the Lord bless us: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Novena for Our Country

Day 6: Saturday, Jan. 16

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: (*Acts 1:14*)

With one heart the disciples continued in prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus. Alleluia

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God
You have shown us in the Blessed Virgin Mary
The model of sublime love and profound humility
Grant that your Church may be like her
Obedient to our commandment of love,
So that by giving itself wholeheartedly
To seeking your glory and to serving others
It may stand before all peoples
As the sacrament of your love
(*Collect: Image and Mother of the Church, 2*)

READING: *Fratelli Tutti, Chapter 8, Pope Francis*

278. Called to take root in every place, the Church has been present for centuries throughout the world, for that is what it means to be “catholic”. She can thus understand, from her own experience of grace and sin, the beauty of the invitation to universal love. Indeed, “all things human are our concern... wherever the councils of nations come together to establish the rights and duties of man, we are honoured to be permitted to take our place among them”. For many Christians, this journey of fraternity also has a Mother, whose name is Mary. Having received this universal motherhood at the foot of the cross (cf. Jn 19:26), she cares not only for Jesus but also for “the rest of her children” (cf. Rev 12:17). In the power of the risen Lord, she wants to give birth to a new world, where all of us are brothers and sisters, where there is room for all those whom our societies discard, where justice and peace are resplendent

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: (Judith 13:18-19)

Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God, above all the women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, the creator of heaven and earth, who guided your blow at the head of the chief of our enemies.

Your deed of hope will never be forgotten by those who tell of the might of God.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

(Mary) received your Word in the purity of her heart
And, conceiving in her virgin womb
Gave birth to our Savior
And so nurtured the Church in its very beginning
She accepted God's parting gift of love
As she stood beneath the cross
And so became the mother of all those
Who were brought to life
Through the death of her only Son
She joined her prayers with those of the apostles,
As together they awaited the coming of your Spirit,
And so became the perfect pattern of the Church at prayer.
Raised to the glory of heaven,
She cares for the pilgrim Church with a mother's love
Following its progress homeward
Until the day of the Lord dawns in splendor

(Adapted from the Preface, BVM, Image and Mother of the Church, 1)

FINAL BLESSING

May God, who through the motherhood of the Virgin Mary
Graciously redeemed the human race
Enrich you with his blessing,
Amen

Through Mary you have received the author of life
May your experience her loving protection
Now and at every hour
Amen

You have gathered to celebrate this memorial of Our Lady,
May you go forth from here
Rejoicing in the spirit and the gifts of heaven
Amen

May Almighty God bless you,
The Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen

(All the prayers and Biblical readings are from "Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary" a selection of Masses for use in the United States.)

Novena for Our Country

Day 7: Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021

OPENING ANTIPHON (*bolded part said together*)

By Thomas Merton:

My Lord God, I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end...

I know that you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore I trust You always,

I will fear not, for You are with me,

and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

And behold, I am with you always....

Matthew 28:20

OPENING PRAYER: Pope Francis' Prayer to Protect the World

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Faithful, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

READING: from *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis, chapter 5

183. Effective love

“Social love”_makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. Charity, with its impulse to universality, is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone. Social love is a “force capable of inspiring new ways of approaching the problems of today’s world, of profoundly renewing structures, social organizations and legal systems from within.”

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE: Luke 10:25-38

And behold, a certain lawyer got up to test him, saying, “Master , what do I do to gain eternal life?” But he said to him, “What is written in the Law? How dost thou read? He answered and said: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole strength and with thy whole mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he said to him, “Thou hast answered rightly; do this and thou shalt live.” But he, wishing to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus answered, “A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell in with robbers, who after both stripping him and beating him went their way, leaving him half-dead. But, as it happens, a certain priest was going down the same way, and when he saw him, he passed by. And likewise a Levite also, when he was near the place and saw him, passed by. But a certain Samaritan as he journeyed came upon him, and seeing him, was moved with compassion. And he went up to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. And setting him on his own beast, he brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, “Take care of him; and whatever more thou spendest, I, on my way back, will repay thee.”

Which of these three, in thy opinion, proved himself neighbor to him who fell among the robbers?” And he said, “He who took pity on him.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do those also in like manner.”

CONCLUDING PRAYER: (From Padre Pio’s Prayer: “Trust in the Divine Mercy”)

“Without Divine Grace, could you have been victorious in all the crisis and all the spiritual battles which you have had to face?

Well, then, open your soul more and more to Divine Hope, have more trust in the Divine Mercy, which is the only refuge of the soul exposed to a stormy sea.”

Amen

FINAL BLESSING: From Pope Francis at the midday Marian prayer broadcast on January 10, 2021; Pope Francis invoked the intercession of the Immaculate Conception.

(said by priest)

“May the Immaculate Virgin, Patroness of the United States of America,
help to keep alive
the culture of encounter,
the culture of care,
as the main way to build the common good together..”

All: **Amen**

Novena for our Country

Day 8: Monday, Jan. 18, 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

From the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. *(Colossians 3:15)*

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all. *(St. Pope John XXIII)*

READING

From the Encyclical "Fratelli Tutti" Pope Francis

4. [Saint] Francis [of Assisi] did not wage a war of words aimed at imposing doctrines; he simply spread the love of God. He understood that "God is love and those who abide in love abide in God" (1 Jn 4:16). In this way, he became a father to all and inspired the vision of a fraternal society. Indeed, "only the man who approaches others, not to draw them into his own life, but to help them become ever more fully themselves, can truly be called a father". In the world of that time, bristling with watchtowers and defensive walls, cities were a theatre of brutal wars between powerful families, even as poverty was spreading through the countryside. Yet there Francis was able to welcome true peace into his heart and free himself of the desire to wield power over others.

223. Saint Paul describes kindness as a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22). He uses the Greek word *chrestótes*, which describes an attitude that is gentle, pleasant and supportive, not rude or coarse. Individuals who possess this quality help make other people's lives more bearable, especially by sharing the weight of their problems, needs and fears. This way of treating others can take different forms: an act of kindness, a concern not to offend by word or deed, a readiness to alleviate their burdens. It involves "speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement" and not "words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn".

Scriptural Response:

From the Letter of Paul to the Romans:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *(Romans 15:13)*

Concluding Prayer:

Be At Peace

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life;
rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise,

God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day.

He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.
Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

(Saint Francis de Sales)

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Christ has no body on earth but ours,
no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion into the world.
Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world.”
(St. Teresa of Avila)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Novena for our Country

Day 9: Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021

Entrance Antiphon *Psalm 139: 23-24*

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

OPENING PRAYER *Roman Missal, Collect for the First Week of Ordinary Time*

Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care,
O Lord, we pray,
that they may see what must be done
and gain strength to do what they have seen
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R: Amen

Moment of silence.

READING *Attributed to St. Teresa of Avila*

Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on Earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which He
looks compassion into this world.
Yours are the feet with which He
walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which He
blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands.
Yours are the feet.
Yours are the eyes.
You are His body.
Christ has no body now on Earth but yours.

Moment of silence.

Scriptural Response *John 13:34-35*

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you,
so you also should love one another.
This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for
one another.”

Moment of silence.

Concluding Prayer. *A Prayer to the Creator from Fratelli tutti by Pope Francis*

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.
May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.

May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams.
Amen.

Final Blessing *Roman Missal, Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III*

May almighty God bless you in his kindness
and pour out saving wisdom upon you.

R. Amen.

May he nourish you always with the teachings of the faith
and make you persevere in holy deeds.

R. Amen.

May he turn your steps towards himself
and show you the path of charity and peace.

R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, +, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you forever.

R. Amen.

