

OPENING PRAYER

Sign of the Cross

All: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Leader:

Turn our hearts to you, eternal Father,
and grant that, seeking always the one thing necessary
and carrying out works of charity,
we may be dedicated to your worship.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.

All: *Amen.*



Reflection (Pope Francis, “Homily for Ash Wednesday” [I])

Prayers of Intercession

In Christ the Lord, we are made a new creation. Let us call to him in prayer:

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, clothe us with compassion, kindness and humility,

–help us to be patient with everyone.

Teach us to be true neighbors to all in trouble and distress,

–and so follow the way of the Good Samaritan.

Help us to deny ourselves today,

–and not to deny those in need.

May we receive this day, and each day, of penance as your gift,

–and offer it back to you through works of mercy.

Master our rebellious hearts,

–and teach us to surrender our lives to you in trust.

Grant us the gift of your mercy,

–forgive our sins and make us instruments of your merciful love.

All:

O Lord,

*who hast mercy upon all,
take away from me my sins,
and mercifully kindle in me
the fire of thy Holy Spirit.*

*Take away from me
the heart of stone,*

*and give me a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore Thee,
a heart to delight in Thee,
to follow and enjoy Thee,
for Christ's sake,*

Amen.

–St. Ambrose of Milan (AD 339-397)

MID SESSION PRAYER

Sign of the Cross

All: *In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Reflection (Pope Francis, “Homily for Ash Wednesday” [II])

Examination of Conscience (From “The Magnificat Lenten Companion / Lent 2021”)

✠ For the times when I forget that I need a Savior, and arrogantly rely on myself as if I am sufficient to myself: *Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.*

✠ For the times when I trust my sinful attachments more than the Father’s love: *Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.*

✠ For the times when I allow my own reactions and opinions to supersede the truth of the Father revealed to me through Christ in his Church: *Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.*

✠ For the times when I shun the presence of Christ, whether it be his sacramental presence or his presence through the people he puts in my life: *Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.*

✠ For the times when I blaspheme by using other human beings as things that I can manipulate or use for my own selfish ends: *Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.*

✠ For the times when I abuse those things the Father has given to me for the building up of his kingdom: *Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.*

✠ For the times when I justify my sinfulness: *Lord Jesus, have mercy on me.*

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father ...

CLOSING PRAYER

Sign of the Cross

***All:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Reflection (Pope Francis, “Homily for Ash Wednesday” [III])

Prayer (From “The Magnificat Lenten Companion / Lent 2021”)

Leader:

God our Father,
in this Lenten season may we not betray your love by trying to deserve it.
Help us to fast from all that distracts us from your love.
Help us to recognize you as the origin and goal
of all of the desires you place in our hearts.
Help us to be true to ourselves and true to you
by continuing to beg for your love.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer to St. Joseph (for the “Year of St. Joseph”)

***All:** Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

***To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.***

***Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.***

***Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil.***

Amen.

