

The Mission of the Prayer Ministry is to pray, teach others to pray, to study the Scriptures together, to provide prayer and ministry opportunities, and participate in the fulfillment of our church's vision and mission, as we are inspired by the Holy Spirit.

GOALS

1. To encourage people to pray and/or pray more.
2. Teach church members and others to pray.
3. Develop opportunities for people to become more involved in prayer, Bible study, and ministry.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES ON PRAYER

- God's answer is never a forced response. It is purely a gift of grace.
- You seek for God's will in your prayer--and in doing so you marvelously find your path fulfilled, your purposes achieved, and your desires responded to.
- He takes into account every prayer ever offered and is forever involved with us in charting the course of history.
- Here is the hope of our prayer: the kingdom of the enemy will fall and all its false pride will be exposed.
 - The more we pray, the more our horizons expand and the more we come to expect from a supernatural, miracle-working God.
 - When we short-circuit prayer we give our lives and ministry a secularistic or humanistic framework within which to work.
 - Prayer is giving focus to the mission of the church.
 - Does God exist to help fulfill our plans, or do we exist to fulfill the plans of God? God has chosen PRAYER as the key by which His church does its work. Through PRAYER we impact the world for God.

EIGHT PRINCIPLES OF COVENANT DYNAMICS FOR PRAYER GROUPS

1. The Covenant of Affirmation -- Agape Love

"I will love you and affirm you no matter what you have said or done. I love you as you are and for what Christ wants to make of you."

2. The Covenant of Availability

"Anything I have, time, energy, wisdom, myself, finances, are all at your disposal. I give these to you and the covenant group in a unique way."

3. The Covenant of Regularity

"I covenant to give a regular part of my time to this group when it decides to meet. I consider that time to be of highest priority on my schedule."

4. The Covenant of Prayer

"I promise to pray for you, to uphold you, and to attempt to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit concerning your needs."

5. The Covenant of Openness

"I will show myself to you, letting you know who I am as a person in feeling, history, hopes and hurts; in other words, I will need you!"

6. The Covenant of Honesty

"I will be honest in my mirroring back to you what I sense and feel coming from you."

7. The Covenant of Confidentiality

"What goes on in this group stays here. I will say nothing that may be traced back or that could-be injurious or embarrassing to my covenant partners."

8. The Covenant of Accountability

"You have a right to expect growth from me so that I may give you the fullness of the gifts which God has bestowed upon me and fulfill my God-created designs. Therefore I will not languish in the process of growth."

- "I am dead earnest about being in this group and about growing"

Oath of Confidentiality

(to be signed by the member, copy kept by leader)

I, _____, agree and understand that what I hear and learn as part of my intercessory prayer ministry will go no further than myself and my God; that I will conduct myself in such a manner as to be honorable to God and that I will neither participate in nor perpetuate gossip of any kind.

Signed _____.

The Commitment to Pray

In Acts 1:14 we read that the early church “continually” devoted themselves to prayer. The enemy of Christ and His church seeks to have us loose interest in prayer. As a group, and individually ask God to increase your commitment and zeal for prayer, and to keep you faithful to this great calling.

AGENDA FOR INTECESSORY PRAYER GROUP

1. **Opening prayer** – In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

O God, we come before you on behalf of our Holy Family Church community, to offer on their behalf the prayers from their hearts. We have confidence in your immense love for all of your people and you welcome all their petitions. Help us to be mindful that every petition is precious to you and that in your love and mercy you will answer each and every one in your own way and time. Nothing is beyond your intervention. You only ask that we have Faith and trust in you. We come in expectation that you will listen intently to these petitions and work miracles for those for whom we pray. Give us a pure and humble heart so we may offer these petitions with complete trust in you. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

2. **Listening to God's Word** – The coming Sunday's Gospel followed by reflections by members.
3. **Examination of conscience** – Since it is the prayer of the righteous that is powerful and effective (James 5:16), examine your conscience before you pray, and repent of any sin or harsh feelings you may have against other people. Make an act of contrition.

Penitential Act (Confiteor)

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

[Pray while striking the breast three times.]

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen.

4. **General Intercessory Prayers**

- a. **For the world** – O God, help us to preserve the beauty of your creation and continue to bless the whole world. Help us to take more care of it and preserve its resources so that all your people will have sufficient to survive on. (Add a prayer for any current need in the world.) We pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.
- b. **For the country** – Please bless our country and let us have respect for all our people. Help us to preserve dignity and respect for all your children and to fight for the preservation of life, from the preborn to the sick and elderly. (Add a prayer for any pressing need in the country.) We pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.
- c. **For the Church, the Pope and clergy** – We pray for Pope Francis and the clergy that they may continue to spread the teaching of our Catholic Faith. Help them to guide Catholics back to the sacraments and Scripture and help them realize how much God loves them. (Add a prayer for any pressing need in the Church.) We pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.
- d. **For the parish** – Here at Holy Family we are striving to become disciples to take your Good News beyond our parish. Help us to grow in confidence to reach out to our neighbours in love and fellowship. Please include prayers for:
1. Special projects or activities of the church i.e. for all the participants of our current Bible Study program/ adult faith formation programs, may the Lord open up their hearts and minds and be able to have deep, intimate relationship with the living Lord;
 2. For existing church ministries and for evangelism: have special prayers for our children and youth ministry; homeless mission team, homeless people we serve in our parish, ministry leaders and members, for our many volunteers who serve the church, the senior of our parish, etc.
 3. For our priests (Fr. Laszlo and Fr. Ravi), and for religious and priestly vocations
 4. For the presence of the Holy Spirit in all things the church undertakes, especially for the vision and mission of our parish.

(Add a prayer for any pressing need in the parish.) We pray to the Lord.
R. Lord hear our prayer.

5. **Individual petitions** – received from the intercessory prayer box or online will be sent to each group every week. The group makes a commitment that the petitions will be prayed for everyday by the members who received them. At the group meeting -

Each person will read their petition aloud and offer a short prayer on the person's behalf and end by saying "Let us pray to the Lord"

R. Lord hear our prayer.

A short period of silence follows for the whole group to offer a silent prayer for the intention.

Other scriptural "blessings" may be bestowed by praying the Psalms and inserting the names of those in need in the blanks. Example: Praying the Psalms for a prayer requester, using Psalm 23:

The Lord is _____'s Shepherd; he shall not want. He makes _____ lie down in green pastures; He leads _____ beside the still waters. He restores _____ soul. He leads _____ in the paths of righteousness, for His name's sake. Yea, though _____ walks through the valley of the shadow of death he will fear no evil; For You are with _____. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort _____. You prepare a table before _____ in the presence of his enemies. You anoint _____'s head with oil. _____'s cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow _____ all the days of his life; And _____ will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

6. **Personal petitions** – We pray for our own personal petitions, so this is for each member who wants to pray for his or her own intentions and for the intentions of those who have asked for our prayers.

CLOSING PRAYERS – OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY, GLORY BE, PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL, THE MEMORARE.

LORD WE SURRENDER THESE PETITIONS TO YOU, TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING (SAID 10 TIMES).

END OF MEETING

Extra General intercessions if needed – Response – “Lord hear our prayer”.

- Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours, that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves. We pray to the Lord ...
- Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray to the Lord ...
- Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, according to your promises, grant us with them a share in your Eternal Kingdom. We pray to the Lord ...
- O God, the creator and preserver of all, we pray for people in every kind of need; make your ways known on earth, your saving health among all nations. We pray to the Lord ...
- We commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed in body and mind. Comfort and relieve them in their need, give them patience in their sufferings, and bring good out of all their afflictions. We pray to the Lord ..
- Let us pray for for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health and salvation. We pray to the Lord ..