

Prayers Before the Blessed Sacrament



Diocese of Pittsburgh



God
our Father and our Creator,
we believe
that you have made each of us
in your image and likeness.
Help us to lead lives that reflect that belief.
Increase happy vocations
to the married life and the single life,
the religious life and the ordained life.
May we
as husbands and wives, mothers and fathers,
single women and single men,
sisters and brothers,
deacons, priests and bishops,
be open to your grace.
Grant that we may seek always
to do your will
and delight in the work
which makes your name and your love
known throughout the world.
We ask this prayer
in the name of Jesus, your Son,
and the Holy Spirit, our guide.
AMEN

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Meaning of the Eucharist

Since it was the will of God's only-begotten Son that human beings should share in His Divinity, He assumed our nature in order that by becoming Human He might make humans gods. Moreover, when He took our flesh He dedicated the whole of its substance to our salvation.

He offered His Body to God the Father on the altar of the cross as a sacrifice for our reconciliation. He shed His Blood for our ransom and purification, so that we might be redeemed from our wretched state of bondage and cleansed from all sin.

But to ensure that the memory of so great a gift would abide with us for ever, He left His Body as food and His Blood as drink for the faithful to consume in the form of bread and wine.

O precious and wonderful banquet, that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness! Could anything be of more intrinsic value? Under the old law it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered, but here Christ Himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this?

No other Sacrament has greater healing power; through it sins are purged away, virtues are increased, and the soul is enriched with an abundance of every spiritual gift. It is offered in the Church for the living and the dead, so that what was instituted for the salvation of all may benefit all.

Yet, in the end, no one can fully express the sweetness of this Sacrament, in which spiritual delight is tasted at its source, and in which we renew the memory of that surpassing love for us, which Christ revealed in His passion. It was to impress the vastness of this love more firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this Sacrament at the Last Supper. As He was on the point of leaving the world to go to the Father, after celebrating the Passover with His disciples, He left it as a perpetual Memorial of His Passion.

It was the fulfillment of ancient figures and the greatest of all His miracles, while for those who were to experience the sorrow of His departure, it was destined to be a unique and abiding consolation.

O Sacrum Convivium

Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

*O sacrum convivium,
in quo Christus sumitur;
recolitur memoria passionis eius:
mens impletur gratia:
et futurae gloriae nobis pignus datur.*

O sacred Banquet, wherein Christ is received; the memory of His Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and the pledge of future glory is given unto us.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be His most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary, most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste Spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds conceal me.
Do not permit me to be parted from you.
From the evil foe protect me.
At the hour of my death call me.
And bid me come to you,
to praise you with all your saints
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Blood of Christ, solace of the mourner	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, hope of the repentant	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, our peace and refreshment	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, our pledge of life	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, by which we pass to glory	be our salvation
Blood of Christ, most worthy of honor	be our salvation
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world	have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world	have mercy on us
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world	have mercy on us
Lord, you redeemed us by your blood	You have made us a Kingdom to serve our God.

Let us pray.

Father, by the blood of your Son you have set us free and saved us from death. Continue your work of love within us, that by constantly celebrating the mystery of our salvation we may reach the eternal life it promises. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
God our Father in heaven	have mercy on us
God the Son	have mercy on us
Redeemer of the world	have mercy on us
God the Holy Spirit	have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, one God	have mercy on us
Jesus, Son of the living God	have mercy on us
Jesus, splendor of the Father	have mercy on us
Jesus, brightness of everlasting light	have mercy on us
Jesus, king of glory	have mercy on us
Jesus, dawn of justice	have mercy on us
Jesus, Son of the Virgin Mary	have mercy on us
Jesus, worthy of our love	have mercy on us
Jesus, worthy of our wonder	have mercy on us
Jesus, mighty God	have mercy on us
Jesus, father of the world to come	have mercy on us
Jesus, prince of peace	have mercy on us
Jesus, all-powerful	have mercy on us
Jesus, pattern of patience	have mercy on us
Jesus, model of obedience	have mercy on us
Jesus, gentle and humble of heart	have mercy on us

Jesus, lover of chastity
Jesus, lover of us all
Jesus, God of peace
Jesus, author of life
Jesus, model of goodness
Jesus, seeker of souls
Jesus, our God
Jesus, our refuge
Jesus, father of the poor
Jesus, treasure of the faithful
Jesus, Good Shepherd
Jesus, the true light
Jesus, eternal wisdom
Jesus, infinite goodness
Jesus, our way and our life
Jesus, joy of angels
Jesus, king of patriarchs
Jesus, teacher of apostles
Jesus, master of evangelists
Jesus, courage of martyrs
Jesus, light of confessors
Jesus, purity of virgins
Jesus, crown of all saints
Lord, be merciful
From all evil
From every sin
From the snares of the devil
From your anger
From the spirit of infidelity
From everlasting death
From neglect of your Holy Spirit
By the mystery of your incarnation
By your birth
By your childhood
By your hidden life
By your public ministry
By your agony and crucifixion
By your abandonment
By your grief and sorrow
By your death and burial
By your rising to new life
By your return in glory to the Father
By your gift of the Holy Eucharist
By your joy and glory
Christ, hear us

have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Jesus, save your people
Christ, hear us

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us

Let us pray.

Lord, may we who honor the holy name of Jesus enjoy his friendship in this life and be filled with eternal joy in the kingdom where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
God our Father in heaven
God the Son, Redeemer of the world
God the Holy Spirit
Holy Trinity, one God
Heart of Jesus, Son of the eternal Father
Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in
the womb of the Virgin Mother
Heart of Jesus, one with the eternal Word
Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God
Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High
Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of
heaven
Heart of Jesus, aflame with love for us
Heart of Jesus, source of justice and love
Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love
Heart of Jesus, well-spring of all virtue
Heart of Jesus, worthy of all praise
Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts
Heart of Jesus, treasure-house of wisdom
and knowledge
Heart of Jesus, in whom there dwells the
fullness of God
Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father is
well pleased
Heart of Jesus, from whose fullness
have all received
Heart of Jesus, desire of the eternal hills

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us

Heart of Jesus, patient and full of mercy
Heart of Jesus, generous to all who turn
to you
Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness
Heart of Jesus, atonement for our sins
Heart of Jesus, overwhelmed with insults
Heart of Jesus, broken for our sins
Heart of Jesus, obedient even to death
Heart of Jesus, pierced by a lance
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation
Heart of Jesus, victim of our sins
Heart of Jesus, salvation of all who trust in you
Heart of Jesus, hope of all who die in you
Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
World
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
World
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
World
Jesus, gentle and humble of heart.

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

have mercy on us

Touch our hearts
and make them like
your own.

Let us pray.

Father, we rejoice in the gifts of love we have received from the heart of Jesus your Son. Open our hearts to share his life and continue to bless us with his love. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

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Litany of the Holy Eucharist

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Jesus, the Most High
Jesus, the holy One
Jesus, Word of God
Jesus, only Son of the Father
Jesus, Son of Mary
Jesus, crucified for us
Jesus, risen from the dead

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us
have mercy on us

Jesus, Redeemer of the world, you take away
the sins of the world:
Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us

have mercy on us
Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously
hear us
Lord Jesus, hear our
prayer

Lord Jesus, hear our prayer

Order of Solemn Exposition of the Holy Eucharist

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Act of Adoration

We adore You, Most Holy Lord, Jesus Christ, here and in all the churches of the whole world, and we bless You because by Your Cross You have redeemed the world. Have mercy on us.

St. Francis of Assisi

Act of Faith in The Divine Eucharist

I believe in my heart and openly profess that the bread and wine which are placed upon the altar are by the mystery of the sacred prayer and the words of the Redeemer substantially changed into the true and life-giving Flesh and Blood of Jesus Christ Our Lord and after the Consecration there is present the true Body of Christ which was born of the Virgin Mary and offered up for the salvation of the world, hung upon the Cross, and now sits at the right hand of the Father and there is present the true Blood of Christ which flowed from his side. They are present not only by means of a sign and of the efficacy of the Sacrament, but also in the very reality and truth of their nature and substance. Amen.

Saint Gregory VII

Desire For Closer Union

Lord Jesus Christ, pierce my soul with your love so that I may always long for you alone, who are the bread of angels and the fulfillment of the soul's deepest desires. May my heart always hunger and feed upon you so that my soul may be filled with the sweetness of your presence. May my soul thirst for you, who are the source of life, wisdom, knowledge, light and all the riches of God our Father. May I always seek and find you, think upon you, speak to you and do all things for honor and glory of your holy name. Be always my only hope, my peace, my refuge and my help in whom my heart is rooted so that I may never be separated from you.

Saint Bonaventure

Prayer Before the Reception of the Eucharist

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, who according to the will of the Father and with the cooperation of the Holy Spirit hast by Thy death given life unto the world, I adore and revere this Thy holy Body and this Thy holy Blood which was given over and poured forth for the many unto the remission of sins. O merciful Lord, I beg of Thy mercy that through the power of this sacrament Thou wilt make me one of that many. Through faith and love make me feel the power of these sacraments so I may experience their saving power. Absolve and free from all sin and punishment of sin Thy servants, Thy handmaidens, myself, all who have confessed their sins to me, those whom I have promised or am obliged to pray for, and so too those who themselves hope or beg to be helped by my prayers with Thee. Make our Church rejoice in Thy constant protection and consolation. Amen.

Saint Anselm

Support For Families

O Living Bread, that came down from heaven to give life to the world! O loving shepherd of our souls, from your throne of glory whence, a "hidden God", you pour out your grace upon families and peoples, we commend to you particularly the sick, the unhappy, the poor and all who beg for food and employment, imploring for all and every one the assistance of your providence; we commend to you the families, so that they may be fruitful centers of Christian life. May the abundance of your grace be poured over all.

Pope John XXIII

Food For Service

O Jesus, present in the Sacrament of the altar, teach all the nations to serve you with willing hearts, knowing that to serve God is to reign. May your sacrament, O Jesus, be light to the mind, strength to the will, joy to the heart. May it be the support of the weak, the comfort of the suffering, the wayfaring bread of salvation for the dying and for all the pledge of future glory. Amen.

Pope John XXIII

Prayer for a Visit to the Blessed Sacrament

Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696-1787)

My Lord Jesus Christ, who for the love which You bear us, remain night and day in this Sacrament full of compassion and love, awaiting, calling, and welcoming all who come to visit You, I believe that You are present in the

Sacrament of the Altar. I adore You from the abyss of my nothingness, and I thank You for all the graces which You have bestowed upon me and in particular for having given me Yourself in this Sacrament, for having given me Your most holy Mother Mary as my Advocate, and for having called me to visit You in this church. I now salute Your most loving Heart; and this for three ends: first, in thanksgiving for this great gift; secondly, to make amends to You for all the outrages which You receive in this Sacrament from all Your enemies; thirdly, I intend by this visit to adore You in all the places on earth in which You are present in this Sacrament and in which You are the least reserved and the most abandoned. My Jesus, I love You with all my heart. I grieve for having hitherto so many times offended Your infinite goodness. I purpose by Your grace never more to offend You for the time to come. And now, miserable and unworthy though I be, I consecrate myself to You without reserve; I give You renounce my entire will, affections, my desires, and all that I possess. Henceforward, dispose of me and of all that I have as You please. All that I ask of You and desire is Your holy love, final perseverance and the perfect accomplishment of Your will. I recommend to You the souls in Purgatory, and especially those who had the greatest devotion to the most Blessed Sacrament, and to the most Blessed Virgin Mary. I also recommend to You all poor sinners. Finally, my dear Savior, I unite all my affections with the affections of Your most loving Heart, and I offer them, thus united, to Your Eternal Father, and beseech Him in Your name to vouchsafe for Your love, to accept and grant them. Amen.

Visit to the Blessed Sacrament Before Meditation

John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801-1890)

I place myself in the presence of Him, in whose Incarnate Presence I am before I place myself there. I adore You, O my Savior, present here as God and as man, in soul and in body, in true flesh and blood. I acknowledge and confess that I kneel before that Sacred Humanity, which was conceived in Mary's womb, and lay in Mary's bosom; which grew up to twelve, wrought miracles, and spoke words of wisdom and peace; which in due season hung on the cross, lay in the tomb, rose from the dead, and now reigns in heaven. I praise, and bless, and give myself wholly to Him, who is the true Bread of my soul, and my everlasting joy.

How Good It Is to Love You

Saint Jean-Baptiste Marie Vianney (1786-1859)

My Jesus, from all eternity you were pleased to give yourself to us in love. And you planted within us a deep spiritual desire that can only be satisfied by yourself. I may go from here to the other end of the world, from one country to another, from riches to greater riches, from pleasure to pleasure, and

still I shall not be content. All the world cannot satisfy the immortal soul. It would be like trying to feed a starving man with a single grain of wheat. We can only be satisfied by setting our hearts, imperfect as they are, on you. We are made to love you; you created us as your lovers. It sometimes happens that the more we know a neighbor, the less we love him. But with you it is quite the opposite. The more we know you, the more we love you. Knowledge of you kindles such a fire in our souls that we have no energy left for worldly desires. My Jesus, how good it is to love you. Let me be like your disciples on Mount Tabor, seeing nothing else but you. Let us be like two bosom friends, neither of whom can ever bear to offend the other.

Dedicated To Jesus

St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)

Lord Jesus Christ, take all my freedom, my memory, my understanding, and my will. All that I have and cherish you have given me. I surrender it all to be guided by your will. Your love and your grace are wealth enough for me. Give me these Lord Jesus, and I ask for nothing more. Amen.

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