

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH OF ACUSHNET

**24 HOURS OF PRAYER
IN PREPARATION OF CONSECRATION**

On Friday 1 May at 3:00 pm, the Bishops of the United States (and Canada) will renew the consecration of our nation to Mary under the title “Mother of the Church”. To consecrate is to “render sacred” and this blessing is to place the protection and healing of our nation during this pandemic under the care of Mary and her beloved son, Our Lord Jesus Christ

In preparation for this consecration on the first day of May, a month traditionally dedicated to Our Blessed Mother, we offer 24 hours of preparatory parish prayer. Below is a suggested prayer regimen for each hour of dedicated prayer. We ask that you pray the following prayers before an image Our Lord and Our Lady. If you do not have such images in your home, then please allow the Holy Spirit to place within your mind gracious images of Jesus and Mary during your prayer.

You may pray this alone or with others. Please however determine beforehand who will pray each part so that your prayer will be continuous and therefore more efficacious:

OPENING PRAYER - THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

READING 1 - (JOHN 2:1-12)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” [And] Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from

(although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. After this, he and his mother, [his] brothers, and his disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there only a few days.

(**Now** spend some time in silent prayer meditating on how the Blessed Virgin Mary introduced Jesus to the world, prompting Him to begin His divine mission).

PRAYER: *O Blessed Mother, you who turn the attention of Our Lord Jesus to our everyday human activities as a way of showing Him to us in our daily routine, listen to our bishops' plea of consecration and intercede for our wayward and troubled world. Amen*

PSALM 90

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn man back to dust,
saying, "Return, O children of men."
For a thousand years in your sight
are as yesterday, now that it is past,
or as a watch of the night.

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You make an end of them in their sleep;
the next morning they are like the changing grass,
Which at dawn springs up anew,
but by evening wilts and fades.

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.
And may the gracious care of the LORD our God be ours;
prosper the work of our hands for us!
Prosper the work of our hands!

R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

READING 2 – (JOHN 19:25-30)

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom

he loved, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I thirst.” There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

(**Now** spend some time in silent prayer meditating on how the Lord Jesus offers His beloved mother to John not only to care for, but also as a perpetual blessing to the Church and to the world).

PRAYER: *O Lord Jesus, you who began and concluded your life and your ministry on earth with special reference to your beloved mother Mary, give her to us again as our sweet protection in the time of this pandemic and in all times of confusion, doubt, and fear. Amen*

THE MOST HOLY ROSARY: THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

Please pray here the Glorious Mysteries so precious to us during this Easter Season. Allow the glory of these five mysteries: The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, The Assumption of Mary, and The Coronation of Mary as the Queen of Heaven, to lead your hearts in consecratory prayer so that earth and heaven will meet with gracious and restorative blessing.

Conclude the Rosary with this Prayer:

Lord Jesus, your Apostles cherished your Blessed Mother as their mother in faith. We pray that the successors of your apostles, our bishop's, will cherish Mary with this same devotion and that their intercessory prayer through your Sacred Heart will re-consecrate and keep our nation safe from all malady, hopelessness, and fear caused by this present pandemic. Through the prayers and protection of Mary, Mother of the Church, help us to pass through this trial with charity and courage, and let us never be parted from you. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER:

Loving Mother of the Redeemer...

gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again.
To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,
Yet remained a virgin after as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.

AMEN