



LASALLE AND ELM
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
AND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

SIX WEEKS OF LENTEN PRAYERS
2020

Dedication

This Lenten booklet is dedicated to
Fr. Patrick Raymond, Rector,
and to all the
faithful people of Church of the Ascension
for their inspiration and
faithful support.

INTRODUCTION

In January 2020, we, the authors of this booklet, attended a conference in San Francisco at Grace Episcopal Cathedral. The conference was titled, *Ministry for the Common Good*, and was sponsored by the Newbigin House of Studies which seeks to develop and renew cities through urban ministries and theological education. Inspired by the dynamic ideas presented at the conference, and encouraged by Fr. Raymond, we decided to prepare Lenten prayers that reflect a new spirit of connection and concern for The Church of the Ascension and for the urban Chicago neighborhood at LaSalle and Elm where we are located.

Traditionally, Lent is a season of the church year when we Christians are called to look inward and examine the mysteries of our lives and prepare our hearts for the sacrifice and saving grace of Jesus as he suffered death on the cross. Lent is a time of reflection, a time for learning more about the tenets of our faith and for searching our souls to understand the meaning of our baptismal covenant and our relationship with the risen Christ. Building on this spirit of Lent, we seek to expand the practice of inward learning, reflection, and prayer to include vital, faith-affirming outreach and a deeper commitment to neighborhood connections and our need for a caring community of Christian love. We hope these prayers will encourage our Lenten devotions and bring us many blessings.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Kelly Colomberti
Marlea Edinger
Cheryl Peterson

At the Ministry for the Common Good conference, with the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Presiding Bishop's Canon for Evangelism and Reconciliation



WEEK 1: Ash Wednesday, February 26 - Tuesday, March 3
PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION AND THE DIOCESE

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP, pp. 817-18, #11 and #12.

Day 1: Let us pray for our Rector and all our Ascension clergy, that they may be compassionate pastors, faithful in the ministry of the Sacraments and inspired as leaders, as they and we seek to fulfill the promises of Christ.

Day 2: Guide and direct our lay leaders in their ministries for our church and for the development of our growth into a vital congregation of Christians devoted to your holy service.

Day 3: Give us grateful hearts for our musicians, including our choir members, who enrich our liturgy with beautiful sacred music throughout the year. Bless them particularly during this season of Lent and in Holy Week and Easter.

Day 4: Let us give thanks for our lay men and women, ushers, acolytes, coffee hour volunteers, child care providers, sexton, custodian, and office staff who serve faithfully to organize and deliver all the benefits of our beautiful services on Sunday and throughout the week.

Day 5: Pray for our St. Anthony of Padua food pantry guests and volunteers and for all services to meet the needs of the hungry. May our outreach ministries continue to increase.

Day 6: We ask for your guidance in the Diocese of Chicago as our congregations come together to select a new Bishop. May the candidates be blessed in their discernment and may those who are delegates vote with honesty, wisdom, and grace to select a faithful pastor and leader.

Day 7: Help us to rejoice in the fellowship of your faithful people within the Church of the Ascension, to build bridges of caring within the churches of our Diocese, and to be guided by the presence of Jesus Christ in reaching out to engage our neighborhood in His justice, love, and peace.

Loving Father in Heaven, we pray always for your grace that we may be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Do not allow us to hide under a bushel, but help us to reflect your light to others that they may give You the glory forever and ever; through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEEK 2: Wednesday, March 4 - Tuesday, March 10
PRAYERS FOR SOCIAL ADVOCACY AND FOR SCHOOLS

O Eternal God, bless all schools that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find You to be the source of all truth. Grant us grace fearlessly in the maintenance of justice and love in our communities, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP p. 824, #31; p. 260, #21

Day 1: Let us pray for Catholic Charities at 721 N. LaSalle Dr., who assist our neighbors with everything from family care to hunger and homelessness; and let us also pray for those who utilize these services.

Day 2: Pray for the success of the hard-working students and staff of nearby Ruben Salazar Bilingual Center at 160 W Wendell St.

Day 3: Lift up the healthcare providers and patients at Elizabeth Cohn Morris Health Center of Chicago at 1200 N. LaSalle St.

Day 4: Hear our prayers for Cornerstone Children's Learning Center at 1111 N. Wells St, that it may be an enriching and safe place for the youngest in our community and their caretakers.

Day 5: Ask for blessings upon the gifted students and staff of Walter Payton College Preparatory High School at 1034 N. Wells St.

Day 6: Let us pray for all the employees, volunteers, and learners at the Near North Public Library, located at 310 W Division St.

Day 7: Lift up our prayers for the employees, volunteers, and visitors of Access Living at 115 W Chicago Ave., an organization which advocates for the rights of all who are disabled.

Blessed Lord, give us gratitude for the many dedicated and faithful souls who reach out to our neighborhood with opportunities for education and supportive social services. Their work enriches us all and brings us into relationships that can transform our lives and benefit the common good. For the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



WEEK 3: Wednesday, March 11 - Tuesday, March 17

PRAYERS FOR OUR NEIGHBORING CHURCHES AND SYNAGOGUES

O God, by your grace you have called us into a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our neighboring houses of worship, their clergy and leaders, and all their people. Grant that your Word may be truly proclaimed and truly heard; Grant that people of faith everywhere may seek your goodness and mercy and bring the nations into your fold. By your Spirit, fashion our lives that we may truly and devoutly serve you and witness to the power of your love. Break down the walls that separate us and unite us in our common ministry of justice, peace, and love that we may serve you for the benefit of all. All this we ask in your most holy Name. Amen.

BCP, p. 100; p. 817, #10

Day 1: Let us pray for our fellow Christians at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1017 N. LaSalle Drive. The Orthodox celebration of Easter in 2020 falls on April 19.

Day 2: We ask God's blessings for our fellow Christians at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1301 N. LaSalle Drive.

Day 3: Hear our prayers for our dear neighbors in Christ at the LaSalle Street Church, 1136 N. LaSalle Drive. We ask special blessings for the Near North Unity Program and its community of care.

Day 4: Let us pray for the members and clergy of Christ The Savior Orthodox Church, 927 N. LaSalle Drive.

Day 5: We ask God's blessings for the rabbis and members of Lake Shore Drive Synagogue, 70 E. Elm St. and Chicago Congregation Sinai, 15 W. Delaware Place.

Day 6: Inspire us with prayers for the clergy and congregation of St. Joseph Church and Immaculate Conception Parish, 1107 N. Orleans St.

Day 7: Let us pray for the leaders, teachers, and students of Moody Bible Institute, 820 N. LaSalle and for the clergy and congregation of the Moody Church, 1635 N. LaSalle Drive.

Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless all those who worship you in spirit and in truth. Help us to work towards better understanding and communication in our worship of You. Open our hearts to the goodness of your faithful people throughout our neighborhood who seek your justice and peace that we may forge new relationships; through the blessing of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

WEEK 4: Wednesday, March 18 - Tuesday, March 24
PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth. Lead each one of us from prejudice to truth, and that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love. Help us heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

BCP p. 258, #18; p. 816, #6; p. 826, #35

Day 1: Let us offer prayers for the close family members we take for granted and the family members we have drifted away from; let your graceful love reignite our hearts and reunite us.

Day 2: Remind us of our mutual dependency upon those persons and pets who share our lives that we may honor them with love and respect and seek to care for them in peace and joy.

Day 3: Give us mercy, Lord, toward all those in our neighborhood who are suffering from homelessness and hunger, fear and shame that we may offer them hope through your grace.

Day 4: God grant us the sensitivity to know when others are in distress, and to be a conduit of your comfort and healing.

Day 5: Bless our neighbors at Maple Pointe Apartments (150 W. Maple St.) and Zelda Ormes Apartments (116 W. Elm St.), that they may be living comfortably and peacefully, and that we may be brought closer together under God's will.

Day 6: Inspire our hearts to pray for all young people, that they may navigate life's obstacles safely and be emboldened to create a better tomorrow.

Day 7: Let us pray for our beloved ones who have passed away, whose souls rest comfortably in God's hands.

Heavenly Father, you know the needs of those who are suffering and struggling, those in need of hope and purpose, and those whom we hold dear in our daily lives. Give us courage to reach out with love and compassion and to reaffirm their precious place in our lives and in your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEEK 5: Wednesday, March 25 - Tuesday, March 31

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. BCP p. 260, #22.

Day 1. Let us pray for Commander Daniel O'Shea, the officers, and personnel of the 18th district of the Chicago Police Department, 11 N Larrabee Street, that as they protect us we ask God to protect them.

Day 2. We ask God to bless the CAPS (Community Alternative Policing Strategy) program as it works in partnership with the 18th District officers.

Day 3. We pray for the fire fighters and first responders at the Chicago Fire Department located at 1044 N Orleans. They are always ready to be there for us. Let us pray for God to be there with them.

Day 4. We ask for God to guide and protect our EMS (Emergency Service) personnel.

Day 5. Inspire our prayers for the doctors, nurses, and medical personnel at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. Not only do we ask for their wisdom and guidance in our medical matters, but we pray also for their health and well-being.

Day 6. Let us pray for the continued mission of Warren Barr Gold Coast, 66 W. Oak St., to provide transitional and rehabilitation services. We ask for God to bless the medical staff and patients that they serve.

Day 7. Let us pray for God to bless Gold Coast Animal Hospital, 225 W. Division and Near North Animal Hospital, 1207 N. Wells for providing veterinary services to the pets in the neighborhood.

Heavenly Father we ask you to bless all those who sacrifice themselves for the health and safety of our neighborhoods and community. Give them courage, purpose, strength, and protection in their devotion to You and their vocation. We praise them in your Name. Amen.

WEEK 6: Wednesday, April 1 - Tuesday, April 7
PRAYERS FOR OUR SURROUNDINGS AND ENVIRONMENT

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that you may give us wisdom to preserve the beauty of your creation, our earthly home. You made us fellow workers in your creation; so give us reverence to appreciate and care for our neighborhood and to use its resources rightly for those who live and work here. We pray that no one may suffer from our abuse of our surroundings and that future generations may preserve them in joy and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BCP, p. 827, #41

Day 1: We are grateful for our beautiful Lake Michigan, for the drinking water and recreation it provides. And we ask God for guidance in preserving our lake-front.

Day 2: We pray for all the lifeguards who keep us safe and all the beach personnel who use their skills to keep our lakefront clean.

Day 3: Dear God watch over Lincoln Park Zoo. We pray that it will continue to be an oasis for the animals and the people for generations to come. We also pray for the zoo's mission to preserve our endangered species.

Day 4: Lord we are grateful to all workers who diligently strive to keep our neighborhood and its environment safe and clean: those workers who fill pot holes, who operate the street sweepers, and who plant the planters on LaSalle Street. We also offer prayers for our CTA workers who get us to and from our destinations safely.

Day 5: Let the flowers of the Lincoln Park Conservatory inspire our prayers. We pray this botanical garden will bring joy and beauty to many future generations.

Day 6: Let us pray for Washington Square Park, 901 N Clark St. It is a place for people to rest in the sunshine or play on the grass, and for dogs to enjoy chasing squirrels. We pray that it continue to be a place of God's delight in creation for years to come.

Day 7: Ascension's Our Lady of Victory Garden has provided a sanctuary to our parishioners, neighbors, and people who walk by and stop for a moment of quiet. Let us pray for the continuation of this place of peace in our neighborhood.

Gracious God, we thank you for your loving-kindness and ask that you will inspire us to be faithful stewards of thy bountiful creation. Help us to love and care for the natural beauty of our city and neighborhood; giving praise always to your most holy Name. Amen.





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