

St. Peter Parish Prayer Group

September 2021

The month of
The Seven Sorrows of Mary

(Leader):

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation,
be constant in prayer.

- Romans 12:12

(All):

Let all that we are praise the Lord;
may we never forget
the good things
that He does for us.

-Psalm103:2

Leader: When we fall,

All: He lifts us up.

L: When we fail,

A: He forgives.

L: When we are weak,

A: He is strong.

L: When we are lost,

A: He is the way.

L: When we are afraid,

A: He is our courage.

L: When we are broken,

A: He mends us.

L: When we are blind,

A: He leads us.

L: When we are hungry,

A: He feeds us.

L: When we face trials,

A: He is with us.

L: When we face persecution,

A: He shields us.

L: When we face problems,

A: He comforts us.

L: When we face loss,

A: He provides for us.

L: And when we face death,

A: He carries us home.

All:

For all of this, Eternal Father, we give our thanks and praise.

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory be

(Leader 1):

The month of September
honors
the Seven Sorrows of Mary

(All):

“ Without the burden
of affliction
it is impossible
to reach the height
of grace.
The gift of grace
increases as
the struggle increases.”

- St. Rose of Lima

The First Sorrow

The Prophecy of Simeon

(Leader 1)

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his Mother; "This Child is destined to be the downfall and rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed - and You Yourself shall be pierced with a sword - so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Luke 2:34 - 35

(Leader 2)

Contemplate the bitter words of Simeon and how Mary must have felt hearing such a harsh prophesy. She knew then and there that Her Child would suffer mightily, and that She would suffer along with Him.

(All)

Where in life have we suffered from hard words and devastating news? Dearest Mother, keep us in Your heart. Help us to have hope, and infinite trust in Our Lord, when such difficult times arise.

+ + +
Hail Mary
+ + +

The Second Sorrow

The Flight into Egypt

(Leader 1)

After they had left, the angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command; "Get up, and take the Child and His Mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the Child to destroy Him." Joseph got up and took the Child and His Mother and left that night for Egypt.

Matthew 2:13-14

(Leader 2)

Contemplate the anxiety and fear felt by Our Holy Mother, for both the safety of Her Child in the face of such hatred, and for the turmoil of Her blessed spouse in moving his small family in such haste from their home, into the wilderness and the unknown. These were sure to be magnified into anguish when news of Herod's atrocities reached them.

(All)

Queen of Martyrs let us unite our hearts to Yours in sorrow, and obtain for us the grace to avoid those who wish us evil. Let us trust fully in Our Lord, listen to His voice, and continue to follow the difficult but royal road to Heaven.

+ + +
Hail Mary
+ + +

The Third Sorrow

The Loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple

(Leader 1)

As they were returning at the end of the feast, the Child Jesus remained behind unknown to His parents. Thinking He was in the party, they continued their journey for a day, looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. Not finding Him, they returned to Jerusalem in search of Him.

Luke 2: 43-45

(Leader 2)

Think of the grief experienced by Mary when She realized that Her beloved Son was lost. It took Her and Joseph three long days of desperate searching to find Jesus. Her sorrow and worry must have grown immensely from day to day.

(All)

Where have we lost something that was most precious to us? Do we quickly despair, or put our faith in our Father above? Blessed Mother, obtain for us the grace to persevere in our walk with Your Son, Jesus. If we have the misfortune of falling, may we never doubt His mercy, and always return through the sacrament of confession which He instituted.

+ + +
Hail Mary
+ + +

The Fourth Sorrow

The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the way to Calvary

(Leader 1)

A great crowd of people followed Him, including women who beat their breasts and lamented over Him.

Luke 23:27

(Leader 2)

Picture the Blessed Mother, so tender and loving, looking upon Her beloved Son being dragged to a cruel death. Who can possibly fathom Her grief as She sees Her Son fall wounded and bleeding under the crushing weight of the cross, on His way to Calvary.

(All)

Holy Mother, unite our hearts to Yours in this sorrow, and obtain for us the grace to bear patiently whatever cross God may see fit to send us.

+ + +
Hail Mary
+ + +

The Fifth Sorrow

The Crucifixion of Jesus

(Leader 1)

Near the cross of Jesus stood His Mother, His Mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing His Mother there with the disciple whom He loved, Jesus said to His Mother, "Woman, there is Your son." In turn He said to the disciple, "There is your Mother." From that hour onward, the disciple took Her under his care.

John 19: 25- 27

(Leader 2)

Contemplate the heart of Our Mother watching Her beloved Son being nailed with such cruelty to the cross. Looking on, and being unable to help Him, yet at the same time realizing that this was the will of God. Imagine how every blow of the hammer also pierced Her Immaculate Heart like a sword. Words foretold so long ago.

(All)

Most Sorrowful Mother, allow us to join You in Your grief, to give us each strength and courage in the face of those things that are devastating, but that we can not change. Through Your Son, grant us the grace to stand steadfastly in the trust and love of our Heavenly Father, Who promises life everlasting.

+ + +
Hail Mary
+ + +

The Sixth Sorrow

The Pieta

(Leader1)

Afterwards, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus (although a secret one for fear of the Jews), asked Pilate's permission to remove Jesus' body. Pilate granted it, so they came and took the body away.

John 20:38

(Leader 2)

Imagine the sight of Our Sorrowful Mother, watching Her Son dying on a cross, and then seeing His body pierced for confirmation of His death. How Her heart must have been ripped in two as they lowered His lifeless body into Her waiting arms. Being able to touch Him one last time.

(All)

In life's toughest moments, do we feel alone, abandoned? Blessed Mother help us to realize that we can count on You to be there for our suffering and sorrow. You will never abandon us, however far we feel from Our Lord, You are always there to bring us back into His loving presence.

+ + +
Hail Mary
+ + +

The Seventh Sorrow

The Burial of Jesus

(Leader 1)

Then, having bought a linen shroud, Joseph took Him down, wrapped Him in the fine linen, and laid Him in a tomb which had been cut out of rock. Finally he rolled a stone across the entrance of the tomb.

Mark 15:46

(Leader 2)

Consider Our Blessed Mother taking one last look at Her beloved Son's body as the great stone was rolled over the entrance of the tomb. How great Her loneliness and grief must have been as She realized that things would never be the same, even though this was the will of the Eternal Father.

(All)

Do we walk easily into despair, or do we walk solidly with faith in the word of Our Lord God? Mary, Mother of God, grant us Your own deep faith in trusting the words of Your Son. Let us trust that even in suffering, even when all seems lost, with Jesus, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.

+ + +
Hail Mary
+ + +

(All)

We are comforted in knowing that Your heart is ever open to those who ask for Your prayers. We trust to Your gentle care and intercession, those whom we love and who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever.
Amen

(All)

Glory Be

Prayer to St. Joseph

Patron of our Church

(Leader):

“ Though you have recourse
to many saints
as your intercessors,
go especially
to St. Joseph,
for he has great power
with God.”

- St. Teresa of Avila

(All):

Remember, O chaste spouse
of the Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who implored your help
and sought your intercession
left unassisted.
Full of confidence
in your power, we implore
your protective prayers.

Amen

- Unknown

R (All): St. Joseph, pray for us.

(Leader):

....Please protect our families as you protected the Holy Family. **R**

....Guide us in the raising of our children. May we be able to teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over Him faithfully, as you have done. **R**

....Pray for all of our earthly fathers, show them how to emulate you as a father and a spouse. **R**

....Stand guard over the Holy Father, Pope Francis, please strengthen him against any spiritual or earthly trials that he may face. **R**

....Please watch over and guide our pastor, Father Cole. **R**

....Please watch over and guide Dante Iozzo as he works to become a Dominican Priest. **R**

....Help us all to stay strong in faith, passionate for justice, and tender in mercy. **R**

Our Father
Hail Mary
Glory Be

(All):

Lastly, Most Loving Father, we turn to You with these personal intentions, knowing that through You all things are possible. We ask, not with the intention of changing Your will, but to secure blessing for Your people and Church throughout the world.

(R): Father of Love and Mercy, Hear our Prayer

(Leader):

...Thank You for the strides being made in combating the COVID-19. May we continue to work for the safety of all as we prepare to battle the rising variations of this virus. **R**

...We pray for the spiritual guidance of our bishop and church leaders as they work to heal our wounded, and re-energize our Diocese. **R**

...Holy Spirit, please inspire our people with God's truth, as our ministries restart. May we all be able to work together to grow into a stronger and more unified body of Christ on earth. **R**

...Please keep our St. Peter Parish of Lewiston and Youngstown under Your loving care. Walk closely with us as we face any adversity. Help us to keep the Spirit of Christ alive in our homes and communities. **R**

...We pray for the protection and continued spiritual growth of our children of all ages. (especially those returning to school.) Please keep our St. Peter's School strong, and continue to bring the light of Your love to all who travel it's halls and classrooms. **R**

...We pray for the Holy Spirit to ignite the souls of our young, filling them with the fire of Your Grace, and love of Your Holy Word. May they be inspired to tend Your people through the vocations of priesthood, and all holy orders. **R**

...We pray for the universal acceptance that all human life is sacred, and imbued with great value and dignity. May all come to realize that no matter the circumstances, life is a sacred gift, created with love and purpose by God. **R**

...Keep close to You, all who are suffering, especially those who are separated from loved ones, as well as those who are facing death alone. **R**

...We pray for those who are on our parish prayer list. **R**

...We pray for the salvation of all our brothers and sisters who have passed from this life into the next. We offer special prayers to those who no longer have anyone left on earth to pray for them. **R**

...Take a moment to offer up the intentions most dear to your heart. **R**

We ask You, Heavenly Father, who is gracious and merciful, to hear these prayers brought before You, in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

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