

**St. Peter RC Parish Prayer Group**

*“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

Thessalonians 5:16-18

(All)  
Dear God,

Thank You for Your promise that Your mercies are new every morning and Your faithfulness is great. Thank You for Your amazing power, Your great love and works in our lives. Thank You for Your goodness and for Your many blessings over us. We are so grateful that only in You can we find hope for even the toughest of times. Thank You for Your power that gives us strength and for Your Spirit who helps us in all things.

Response (All): We give You thanks and praise.

... For our families; biological, church, and community.....**R**

... For the opportunity to worship again in person as a parish.....**R**

... For God’s marvelous works, blessings, and gifts.....**R**

... For our freedoms; religious, political, and social.....**R**

... For the blessing of each new day.....**R**

... For everyone in my life, and the love that we have shared.....**R**

... For my life, filled with an abundance of goodness.....**R**

(All) We turn our hearts to You, our most loving and forgiving Lord.

Our Father  
Hail Mary  
Glory be

For the month of September, in honor of Mary, Your chosen one, we take pause to reflect on  
The Seven Sorrows of Our Most Blessed Mother.

We begin in the words that our Savior taught us....

Our Father

## **The First Sorrow**

### The Prophecy of Simeon

(Leader #2)

*“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 #1)

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 #2)

*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 #1)

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 #2)

*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 #1)

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#2)

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

**Luke 23: 27**

(Leader #1)

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 #2)

*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 #1)

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

( Leader #2)

*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 #1)

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 #2)

*Then, having bought a linen shroud, Joseph took Him down, wrapped Him in 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 #1)

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

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) Our Father  
Hail Mary  
Glory Be

Lastly, loving Father, we turn over these most personal of intentions knowing that You will gladly lighten our load, and carry our burdens.

Response: (All) Heavenly Father, hear our prayer.

... Keep under Your watchful care our St. Peter Parish of Lewiston and Youngstown. Walk closely with us as we move through these uncertain times, keeping the Spirit of Christ alive in our homes and communities.....**R**

... Allow Your healing light to brighten the dark corners of our Diocese. Strengthen our faith, heal our broken and disillusioned, and grant the courage to all of Your people to step forward to embrace each other with faith and trust.....**R**

... For the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit for our teens, especially those waiting to make their sacrament of confirmation.....**R**

... Please guide our Neophytes ( 1st year Catholics ) as they move forward in their faith journeys....**R**

... Sustain all Your faithful as they resume worship. Open us to ways to reach out to those too compromised to attend mass in person.....**R**

... Provide protection and continued spiritual growth for our children of all ages. May our St. Peter's school stay strong and continue to bring the light of Your love to all who walk its halls, from teachers, staff, and students of all areas of spiritual education.....**R**

... We ask prayerful intercession for all who are ailing, most especially those who have been placed on our weekly prayer petition....**R**

... Please send Your Heavenly Hosts to care for all those who have been left to die alone, separated from their families and friends. Ask them to bring each person peace and comfort as they guide them gently into Your loving embrace....**R**

... For our church and community, that we may receive the grace to see every human as a child of God, regardless of race, language, or culture....**R**

... We ask Your Holy protection for all the unborn. Help us to see that You have created them all with love, and purpose. Allow us to see them as the treasure that they are....**R**

... We pray that Your divine mercy touches all our brothers and sisters who have passed from this life into the next....**R**

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

We ask You Lord, who is gracious and merciful, to hear these prayers that we bring before You,  
in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Amen