

WEEK AHEAD 1AA---APRIL 20-24, 2020

## THE LITURGICAL SEASON of EASTER

THIS WEEK WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON THE EASTER SEASON and THE GIFT OF PRAYER.

Easter is the feast of new life. We celebrate the gift of new life given to Jesus by God the Father when Jesus was raised from the dead. Jesus was not given back His old life as He knew it when He lived and prayed on this earth. Instead, God raised Jesus to a new life and glorious life that will never end. By Jesus' Death and Resurrection, we too, have been promised the gift of new life. Already in this world, our old selves have been put away and our new lives that will never end, have begun. We look forward with joy and hope to the Kingdom of God, where we live forever with God and one another.

During this Easter Season, we have been confronted by a terrible disease-the Coronavirus.

We must imitate Jesus and pray daily for all those affected in some way by it. This is a time that we should pray as a family to support each other and the needs of others.

WHAT IS PRAYER? Prayer is simply talking to God and the Saints.

There are Five Types of Prayer:

1. BLESSING and ADORATION---Worship (Mass)
2. PETITION---Special Needs---(Our Father)
3. INTERCESSION---Pray for others' needs.
4. THANKSGIVING---Giving God thanks.
5. PRAISE---Honoring God for His goodness.

Parents, please pray with your child/ren this week Grades K-3, # 1 only; Grades 4-8 as they are responsible for learning the following three prayers as a requirement for their Religion Class.

1. An Act of Faith---O, my God! I firmly believe all the sacred truths which Your Holy Catholic Church believes and teaches, because You have revealed them, Who can't neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.
2. An Act of Hope---O my God! Relying on Your infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain the pardon of my sins, the assistance of Your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.
3. An Act of Charity---O my God, I love You above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because You are all-good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for love of You. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.

WHAT IS PRAYER? Prayer is simply talking to God and the Saints.

There are Ten Prayers that every Child should Know.

1. THE SIGN OF THE CROSS-is the most basic prayer. We should teach our children to say with reverence before and after every prayer.
2. THE OUR FATHER (THE LORD'S PRAYER)-We should pray the Our Father daily with our children. It is a good prayer to use as a short morning and evening prayer.

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3. THE HAIL MARY-children naturally gravitate to the Virgin Mary, learning the Hail Mary early makes it easier to foster devotion to St. Mary and to introduce longer Marian prayers, such as the Rosary.
4. THE GLORY BE-is a simple prayer that any child who can make the Sign of the Cross can easily memorize.
5. AN ACT OF FAITH-HOPE, and CHARITY-are common morning prayers.
6. AN ACT of HOPE-a good prayer for school aged children. Encourage your children to memorize this prayer so that they can recite it before taking a test. While there is no substitute for study, it is good for students to realize that they don't have to rely on their own strength alone.
7. AN ACT of CHARITY-while the primary purpose of an Act of Charity is to express our love for God, this prayer is also a daily reminder to our children to try to develop forgiveness and love toward others.
8. ACT of CONTRITION-an essential prayer for the Sacrament of Confession (Penance). Encourage your children to say it every evening before they go to sleep.
9. GRACE BEFORE MEALS-Instilling a sense of gratitude in our children. Grace Before Meals is a good way to remind them (and ourselves) that everything we have comes ultimately from God. (Consider adding Grace After Meals to your routine as well, to cultivate a sense of thanksgiving as well as to keep those who have died in our prayers.
10. THE GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER- as with devotion to the Virgin, children seem predisposed toward belief in their Guardian Angel. Cultivating that belief when they are young will help to protect them from skepticism later on.

Another form of prayer mentioned earlier is praying the Rosary.

The Rosary is a devotion in honor of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and helps us meditate on the life of Christ. It consists of five decades, before each we recall one of the mysteries, or important times in the lives of Mary and Jesus. There are twenty mysteries.

Praying to the Saints to intercede for us to God.

The following Monthly Devotions can also be used:

JANUARY---THE HOLY NAME of JESUS

JULY---THE PRECIOUS BLOOD of JESUS

FEBRUARY---MONTH of the HOLY FAMILY

AUGUST---IMMACULATE HEART of MARY

MARCH---ST. JOSEPH

SEPTEMBER---OUR LADY of SORROWS

APRIL---THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

OCTOBER---FEAST of the HOLY ROSARY

MAY---THE BLESSD VIRGIN MARY

NOVEMBER---ALL SAINTS and ALL SOULS

(MOTHER'S DAY)

JUNE---FEAST of the SACRED HEART of JESUS

DECEMBER---FEAST of the IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION

\*NOTE---ALL OF THESE PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONS CAN BE FOUND ONLINE.

"HAVE A PRAYERFUL WEEK"