

Father, today we rejoice, because we are not simply working for victory - we are working from victory.

The victory of life, truth, and grace has been won by your Son's death and Resurrection.

Today we hear his voice again.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

I hold the keys of death and of hell. Behold, I make all things new."

Father, we rejoice that we have been made new,

And as we work to renew our culture

We look forward to the great day of his coming,

When every eye will see him, even of those who pierced him,

And every knee shall bend, and every tongue confess, to the glory of God the

Father, JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

Closing Hymn: Prayer of St. Francis (Sebastian Temple)

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.

Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,

And where there's doubt, true faith in You.

Make me a channel of your peace.

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.

Where there is darkness, only light,

And where there's sadness, ever joy.

Oh, Master, grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console.

To be understood, as to understand.

To be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

In giving of ourselves that we receive,

And in dying that we're born to eternal life.



Prayers for Mothers & Fathers Outside the Abortion Center



From Priests for Life,
Lutherans for Life and
US Conference of Catholic Bishops

Introduction

A Prayer of Commitment to the Unborn (Priests for Life)

Almighty Father, we gather here today in repentance,
in resolve, and in rejoicing.

We gather in repentance, because we, Your people, could long ago
have ended child-killing in this nation.

We gather in repentance, for so many of Your people rightly call on You
to act to save the unborn, but fail to realize that You call them
to act to save the unborn.

We gather in repentance, for so many of Your people rightly lift up
their hands and say "Lord have mercy,"
but fail to lift a finger to have mercy on the unborn.

We gather in repentance, because not one drop of innocent blood is shed
upon the land, without every person in the land sharing responsibility for it.

We gather, Lord, in resolve.

We are resolved to reach our goal, not just to *fight* abortion, but to *end it*.

We will stop at no sacrifice and count no cost in defending the unborn.

We resolve that we will continue to challenge public servants who fail
to serve the public yet unborn, and will continue to
challenge voters to elect only those who will advance a Culture of Life.

Finally, Lord, we gather in rejoicing.

We rejoice that You have called us to do pro-life work, not as some
"hobby" to be squeezed in when we have time, but as
the very heart and soul of our quest for justice in this world.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. Let us pray for
children, born and unborn.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon the children and in Your
grace bring them to the fullness of life that You have
promised in Your Son.**

(Silent prayers for the children.)

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. As we remember
the children whose lips never had a chance to speak it,
we pray softly the Lord's prayer.

People: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

Prayer for Changing the Culture *by Fr. Frank Pavone, M.E.V.*

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we come into your presence in
His name.

We have heard the voice of your Son,

And therefore we can make our voices heard.

We have been justified in the blood of your Son,

And therefore we can oppose every form of injustice.

We have repented of our sins,

And therefore we can lead the sinner to repentance.

We have done battle with the power of evil,

And therefore we can have compassion on those still within its grip.

We have been freed from the kingdom of darkness,

And therefore we can bear witness to your Kingdom of Light.

Lord, as we come before you today, we repent, we resolve, and we rejoice.

We repent of every instance in which fear has made us silent when we
should have spoken.

We repent of the ongoing bloodshed in our land,

And for ever daring to think that we can deprive the unborn of protection
but keep it for ourselves.

We resolve that we will work more generously to advance your Kingdom.

Responsive Prayers

Leader: Let us pray for our nation, a nation richly blessed by God, but a nation that tragically sanctions the murder of so many human children.

People: Lord, have mercy upon our nation and change our hearts.

(Silent prayers for our nation.)

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. We pray for the Church, a Church richly blessed by God's grace, but too often sadly silent as the innocent are being slaughtered.

People: Lord, have mercy upon Your Church and change our hearts.

(Silent prayers for the Church.)

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. We pray for women and men struggling with a crisis pregnancy.

People: Lord, have mercy upon them and help them choose life and help us support them.

(Silent prayers for those in crisis pregnancies.)

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers. Let us pray for mothers and fathers who are suffering the aftermath of an abortion. They, too, are its victims.

People: Lord, have mercy upon them and help them find healing in the cross of Jesus and help us share this forgiving love with them.

(Silent prayers for those with post-abortion suffering.)

Opening Hymn:

Here I am (Dan Schutte)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry,
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My Hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

R: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My Word to them.
Whom shall I send?

R: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

It is a sad fact that almost 90% of the women seeking abortions are unmarried and almost 2/3 are raising one or more children without their children's father. Marriage reduces the likelihood of abortion.

Scripture Reading – God's View on Marriage

A reading from the Book of Genesis 1:26-31:

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created mankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 19:5-6; 13-15

[Jesus said] “Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Then little children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Prayer for Husbands and Wives (Based on Tobit 8:5-7)

“Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,
and blessed is your name in all generations forever.
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.
You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support.
From the two of them the human race has sprung.
You said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself.’
[Guide all husbands and wives to be united together]
not because of lust, but with sincerity.
Grant that [they] may find mercy and that [they] may grow old together.”

God sees through America's hypocrisy

Isaiah 29:13-16

The Lord said:

Because these people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips,

while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote;
so I will again do amazing things with this people, shocking and amazing.

The wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.

Ha! You who hide a plan too deep for the Lord, whose deeds are in the dark, and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?”

You turn things upside down! Shall the potter be regarded as the clay?

Shall the thing made say of its maker, “He did not make me”;
or the thing formed say of the one who formed it, “He has no understanding”?

On Behalf of our Community and for Ourselves...

Let us confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Prayer for Life

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank You and praise You for the precious gift of life that You have given to each of Your children. We are deeply troubled that in many ways our culture has lost a reverence for human life and for this we ask for Your mercy. Help us to be aware each day of ways that we can foster and promote a culture of life – for You are the Author of all Life!

Strengthen in our hearts a pro-life attitude and a commitment to support activities in our homes, schools, workplaces, government and society which promote and protect human life in all its beauty; in all of its marvelous stages.

We pray with deep concern for a renewed respect for the unborn – those who will enrich our lives and world with life! Help us to see the beauty of the aged, those born with special needs, and Your people whom society considers “burdens”.

Help us to rid our cities of the violence that claims the lives of both young and old alike. We ask You to bless our efforts a hundred-fold. Amen

What Wondrous Love Is This (Alexander Means)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this, O my soul?
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul.
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on!
And through eternity I'll sing on.

Prayer for Married Couples as a Sign for Our Times

Dear Lord,

We pray for all married couples, that they may be inspired to make their relationship a priority in their lives. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all married couples that they may be a true sign of your love to the world. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all married couples that they may turn to You, Lord, for help with any problems that they face. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all married couples that, with your help, they may lead each other and their family to eternal life. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all fathers and mothers that you may guide them, Lord, to be true leaders of your Domestic Church. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all married couples that they may continue to grow in their love for each other and You. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all married couples that they may abandon themselves to each other and to You. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all married couples that they may empower each other to grow as persons and to grow in their love for each other.

We pray for all married couples that they may live in awareness of the promises they made to each other on their wedding day and the graces that you give to live out their vows. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all married couples that you may help them to be responsible to each other, and to you Lord, for the quality of their relationship.

We pray for all married couples that you may assist them to strive for intimacy in their relationship. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all married couples that you may encourage them to reach out as a couple in sharing their love with the world.

We pray for all married couples that you may help them to be accepting of each other's shortcomings and to work through their differences.

We pray for all married couples that you may help them to develop the habit of openly praying as a couple and as a family. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all married couples that they may value the sanctity of their marriage and live their lives accordingly. **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Litany of Generosity

Leader: Dear Lord, we come before You today to ask You to help us
be more generous. We pray:

Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

All: ... so we may fully appreciate Your many gifts to us.

Leader: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

All: ... so we may give without counting the cost.

Leader: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

All: ... so we may share without expecting something in return.

Leader: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

All: ... so we may know the joy of helping others.

Leader: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

All: ... so we may share all that You have given us.

Leader: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

All: ... so we may hold all our treasures in an open hand.

Leader: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

All: ... so we may recognize Your many blessings in each new day.

Leader: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

All: ... so we may learn the difference between what we need and
what we want.

Leader: Gracious God, give us generous hearts ...

All: ... so we may ever thank You and serve You.

All: Lord, we ask all of this, knowing that You will always give us all
that we need. Please bless the work we do for You today and always.

Amen.

God's Love, exceeding even that of a mother

Isaiah 49: 15-16

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for
the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget
you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;

Prayer for Those who have Lost a Child to Abortion

by Fr. Frank Pavone

Lord of all Life, You have entrusted us to the care of one another,
And called us to be one Body in Christ.
You call us to rejoice with those who rejoice,
And to weep with those who weep.

Hear our prayer today
For our brothers and sisters who have lost children to abortion.
Help us to understand The pain that is in their hearts,
[a pain that may be masked by hard-heartedness,]
Help us to be a living sign to them
Of your welcome, your mercy, and your healing.

Help them to undergo with courage
The process of grief and the journey of healing.
Never allow them to feel alone;
Always refresh them with the presence of Your Spirit
And of their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Console them with the sure hope
That you love and care for their children.
Give them new strength,
That even while they grieve what they have lost,
They may look forward to all the good
That you still have in store for them.

Lord of healing and hope, Give us all the forgiveness of our sins,
And the joy of your salvation.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

Leader: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.”

People: “My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me according to your word!” (Psalm 119:28)

Leader: “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4)

People: “Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress.” (Psalm 31:9a)

Leader: “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.” (John 16:20)

People: “My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.” (Psalm 6:7)

Leader: ““Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work,’ declares the LORD”” (Jeremiah 31:16)

People: “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

Leader: “And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.” (Isaiah 35:10)
“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’” (Revelation 22:20a)

People: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:20b)

A Father's Wisdom to His Children

Tobit 4:3-19

Honor your mother and do not abandon her all the days of her life. Do whatever pleases her, and do not grieve her in anything. Remember her, my [child], because she faced many dangers for you while you were in her womb.

“Revere the Lord all your days, my [child], and refuse to sin or to transgress his commandments. Live uprightly all the days of your life, and do not walk in the ways of wrongdoing; for those who act in accordance with truth will prosper in all their activities.

Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor, and the face of God will not be turned away from you. If you have many possessions, make your gift from them in proportion; if few, do not be afraid to give according to the little you have. So you will be laying up a good treasure for yourself against the day of necessity. For almsgiving delivers from death and keeps you from going into the Darkness. Indeed, almsgiving, for all who practice it, is an excellent offering in the presence of the Most High.

“Beware, my [child], of every kind of fornication.

[I]n pride there is ruin and great confusion. And in idleness there is loss and dire poverty, because idleness is the mother of famine.

Watch yourself, my [child], in everything you do, and discipline yourself in all your conduct. And what you hate, do not do to anyone. Do not drink wine to excess or let drunkenness go with you on your way.

Seek advice from every wise person and do not despise any useful counsel.

At all times bless the Lord God, and ask him that your ways may be made straight and that all your paths and plans may prosper. So now, my child, remember these commandments, and do not let them be erased from your heart.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendor of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and
healing.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.

Amen

Family Commitment Prayer

God, our Father, through the holy Sacrament of Marriage you have
blessed us and bestowed on us the gift of families in different shapes
and sizes. You created the family to be the image of the love and unity
revealed to us in the Blessed Trinity. We commit ourselves to model
that love and unity in our daily lives and in all our relationships.

Guide us on our journey as we read and reflect on you holy Word.
By your Word we are transformed so that, by our witness, we may
become leaven for the transformation of the world.

May the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us through our Baptism, shine
through our interactions within our family and through our encounters
with others.

May all families within our parish become hearers and followers of the Word,
so that our parish family might mirror the love and unity you,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever,

Amen.

Dialog of Sorrow and Hope

Leader: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud
lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused
to be comforted, because they are no more.”

**People: “For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have
you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because
of the oppression of the enemy?” (Psalm 43:2)**

Leader: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud
lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused
to be comforted, because they are no more.”

**People: “I say to God, my rock: ‘Why have you forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of
the enemy?’” (Psalm 42:9)**

Leader: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud
lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused
to be comforted, because they are no more.”

**People: “My eyes long for your promise; I ask, ‘When will you
comfort me?’” (Psalm 119:82)**

Leader: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud
lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused
to be comforted, because they are no more.”

**People: “My soul melts away for sorrow; strengthen me
according to your word!” (Psalm 119:28)**

Liturgy at the Time of Death for the Pre-born

(Fr. Terry Gensemer, Charismatic Episcopal Church)

A Prayer for the Pre-born who will Die today in our Community Abortion Centers

Almighty God, look on these your servants, lying in great weakness, and comfort them with the promise of life everlasting, given in the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Litany at the Time of Death

Since the closest relatives to those about to die have abandoned them today, the Christians who are present come together to join in the Litany.

God the Father, **R: Have mercy on these prenatal children.**
God the Son, **R: Have mercy on these prenatal children.**
God the Holy Spirit, **R: Have mercy on these prenatal children.**
Holy Trinity, one God, **R: Have mercy on these prenatal children.**

From all evil works, from all tribulation,

R: Good Lord, deliver them.

By your holy Incarnation, by your Cross and Passion, by your precious Death and Burial,

R: Good Lord, deliver them.

By your glorious Resurrection and Ascension,

and by the Coming of the Holy Spirit, **R: Good Lord, deliver them.**

We sinners beseech you to hear us, Lord Christ:

That it may please you to deliver the souls of your servants, these prenatal children, from the power of evil, and from eternal death,

R: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please you to grant them a place of refreshment and everlasting blessedness, **R: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

That it may please you to give them joy and gladness in your kingdom, with your saints in light, **R: We beseech you to hear us, good Lord.**

Jesus, Lamb of God: **R: Have mercy on them.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins: **R: Have mercy on them.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world: **R: Give them your peace.**

Lord, have mercy. **R: Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

Where Charity and Love Prevail

(Omer Westendorf)

Where Charity and Love Prevail
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love
By Love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and strength
Now love Him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults
As we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown,
Let all contention cease;
Be His the glory that we seek,
Be ours, His holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells God's Begotten Son;
As members of His Body joined,
We are in Him made one.

In many ways, the battle between the culture of life and the culture of death is a battle over mothers, and how we understand their role in God's plan. As we pray this prayer, then, let us renew our resolve to strengthen, bless, and thank all mothers as they embrace the awesome vocation of accepting and nurturing new life.

A Prayer for Mothers

God of tender love and life,
You compared your love for humanity
To the love a mother has for her own child.

You are the Lord and Giver of Life,
And you knit each of us together
In our mother's womb.

You provide for the world
The example of Mary, your own mother,
Who said yes to life amid her confusion and surprise.

We thank you, then, for our mothers.
Though human, they are also a reflection of you, Lord God.
They are your gift to us.

We pray for all mothers today.
May they realize the greatness of their vocation
And have the strength to live it without fear.
Forgive their sins, and keep their eyes raised up to you.

To those who still make this earthly journey with us,
Give us the grace to love them as we should;
And to those whom you have called from this life,
Give a special place of honor in your Kingdom of endless life.
We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In a culture of life, strong fathers are essential and are an antidote to the fear and isolation that tempt so many mothers to abort. Let us pray this prayer, then, begging the Lord for an end to the culture of death, and thanking him for the gift of fatherhood.

A Prayer for Fathers

Almighty God, you have taught us that you are the Father of us all, And that all fatherhood takes its origin from you.

You protect us from evil
And provide our daily bread.
You are strength and integrity, blessing and the font of life.

We thank you, then, for our fathers.
Though human, they are also a reflection of you, Lord God.
They are your gift to us.

We pray for all fathers today.
May they realize the greatness of their vocation
And have the strength to live it without fear.
Forgive their sins, and keep their eyes raised up to you.

To those who still make this earthly journey with us,
Give us the grace to love them as we should;
And to those whom you have called from this life,
Give a special place of honor in the heavenly kingdom
With you, the Father of all.

We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.