



Praying the Prayers of the Bible



The theme of our sessions for this year has been *Praying the Prayers of the Bible*. Starting with the Old Testament we have discovered that the prayers of characters such as Eliezer, Abraham, Moses, Hannah, David and others can truly be prayers that coincide with many of the life issues we face even today. Praying for success of the day, asking God to go with us as we enter our day's work, asking for wisdom, hope, forgiveness, or just acknowledging the goodness of God are all conversations that you and I can easily have with our God. These encounters with God give us the strength and courage to face the many challenges life presents us each day.

During our time together we read a particular passage from scripture and listen to the prayer included in the dialogue. Then we discuss the story line of the passage and look at the similarities found in our own lives today in the twenty-first century. Below I have given some examples of the prayers of the Bible we have been studying so far. We have all found that it is easy to remember and to pray frequently some of the prayers: Give me success. Go with me. Remember me, Lord. I have sinned. We have seen that a prayer simply stated is easy to recall.

Each weekly session includes, scripture, prayer, music, and an activity—all of which correspond to the prayer theme of the week. At the end of the lesson we hear a message from Jesus which always encourages us to stay close to him, reminding us that he is always with us, loving us, and offering us his forgiveness.

Perhaps your prayer life needs a boost. Dr. Dave Earley's book The 21 Most Effective Prayers of the Bible or Prayers of the Bible by Henry Fehren and Stephen Hartdegen, O.F.M. might be helpful in assisting you in gaining insight into prayers that God is pleased to hear and answer—prayers that could change your life.

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Annual Retreat | 2 |
| Board Members | 2 |
| In Memory of Ruth Frasier | 2 |
| Celebration of the Sanctity of Life | 3 |
| Outreach Christmas Celebration | 4 |
| Christmas Gift Donations | 4 |
| Celebration of Christmas | 5 |
| Business Donors to Fall Auction | 5 |
| Birthday Celebration | 6 |

Mission Statement

Jesus' ministry on earth was all inclusive. We read in the scriptures how Jesus cured the sick, healed the blind, the crippled, and raised the dead to life. Jesus desired that his mission of all inclusive love be offered to all people.

The Watertown Catechetical Board, under the sponsorship of the Catholic Parishes in Watertown, recognizes the importance of the commission by Jesus to bring His love to all people including persons with disabilities.

It is our desire to provide for the spiritual well-being of persons with disabilities by sharing with them opportunities for spiritual enrichment, prayer, faith sharing and fellowship.

A Sample of Prayers of the Bible....

- **Prayer of Eliezer:** "Lord, God of my master Abraham, give me success today and keep your promise to my master." Genesis 24:12
- **Prayer of Moses:** The Lord said to Moses, "I will go with you, and I will give you victory." Moses replied, If you do not go with us, don't make us leave this place. Your presence with us will distinguish us from any other people on earth." Exodus 33: 14-16
- **Psalm 4 (Confidence in God):** "Know that the Lord does wonders for his faithful one; the Lord will hear me when I call upon him." Psalm 4:4
- **Prayer of Solomon:** "Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" 2 Chronicles 1:10

Annual Retreat



Approximately fifty-two people participated in our Annual Fall Retreat held at the SSJ Motherhouse on November 5th. The theme of the retreat was The Power of Prayer. We looked at the story of Moses and saw how prayer was the tool that gave Moses the strength, perseverance, and zeal to lead God's people through the desert for forty years. It was clear that the prayer of Moses was "Stay with me Lord."

After lunch three sessions were attended by the participants. Sr. Bethany SSJ demonstrated how one can use their bodies to pray. Sr. Norma SSJ gave a session on praying with the Psalms both in word and song. Catechist Alice Busler lead the participants through an activity making a Prayers of Thanks box. Each person then filled their box with prayers of thanksgiving. Alice explained to the group how to use the box as a form of prayer.

The day ended with a closing prayer during which participants received a cross which would reminded them to pray every day.



Diana and Susan finish making their Prayer of Thanks box.



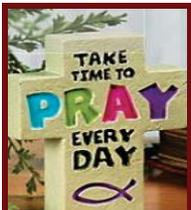
Presenter Sr. Bethany shares how to pray with the body.



Francis and Eliza enjoy lunch.



Catechist Pat Spaziani helps Sheri finish her prayer box.



Cross given to each participant.



Alice Busler guides the ladies in her craft group.



Celina and Nathan join hands in prayer.



Diana listens to Sr. Norma talk about praying with the psalms.

In Memory of Ruth Frasier



May 11, 1931 † November 24, 2014

Her friends knew her as a woman who truly enjoyed life. Her beautiful smile would warm anyone's heart. She was always proud to show you her jewelry which was always the finishing touch the outfit for the day. Her presence in the Special Religious Education Faith Community will truly be missed. We thank God for her life among us and pray that she will now enjoy eternal life in heaven.

May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen

Watertown Catechetical Board Members

- Pastors of Four Parishes
 - Religious Education Coordinators
 - Parish Representatives
- Rev. Donald Robinson—**President**
 Rev. Steve Murray
 Rev. Jonas Tandayu, MSC
 Sr. Diane Marie Ulsamer, SSJ
 Alice Busler—**Committee Chairperson**
 Elizabeth Bamann—St. Patrick's
 Sr. Angelica Rebello, SCC—Holy Family
 Helen Guardino Trimm—St. Anthony's
 Sr. Bernadette Marie Collins – OLSH
 Sandi Butler– St. Patrick's
 Katie Patrick—Holy Family
 Randy Belina—St. Anthony's
 Patrick Henry—OLSH
 Sr. Noel Chabanel Hentz, **Secretary**

Celebration of the Sanctity of Life



PRAYER FOR LIFE

Blessed Pope John Paul II

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world,
 Mother of the living,
 to you do we entrust the cause of life:
 Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers
 of babies not allowed to be born,
 of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
 of men and women who are
 victims of brutal violence,
 of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference
 or out of misguided mercy.
 Grant that all who believe in your Son
 may proclaim the Gospel of life
 with honesty and love to the people of our time.
 Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel
 as a gift ever new,
 the joy of celebrating it with gratitude
 throughout their lives,
 and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely,
 in order to build, together with all people
 of good will,
 the civilization of truth and love,
 to the praise and glory of God,
 the Creator and lover of life.

*Given in Rome on 25 March 1995, the Solemnity of
 the Annunciation of the Lord*



*“We believe in Jesus Christ who is “The Life.”
 And we uphold the sanctity of all human life He created.”*

The members of the Liferight Committee, the Ladies of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and Sister Diane Marie SSJ joined together to plan an evening of celebration of our belief in upholding the sanctity of all human life. A Liturgy was held on October 22, 2014 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church with Father Joseph Christi, MSC as the celebrant. Fathers Robinson, Wiley, and Msgr. Whitmore were also in attendance as concelebrants.

The Liturgy was enhanced by music provided by members of the Transform group. Unfortunately there were very few people in the congregation that night, other than some members of the Liferight program and participants and parents of the Religious Education Program for People with Disabilities. For those of us who attended this event it was a powerful time of prayer and reflection—a time to celebrate the sacredness of all of our lives. We were all created in the image and likeness of our God. He sees us as good.

Several participants of the Friends of Jesus program volunteered to serve as lectors, altar servers, greeters, and gift bearers. Christopher O’Leary did an excellent job proclaiming the first reading from the book of Genesis. Jeffrey Deline and Francis Scovel assisted at the altar as servers. They were very proud to assist Fr. Christi during the Liturgy.

The gifts were presented by Eddie Sayyeau and Kevin Hill along with Bette Hartzell and Richard Doell. Following Communion, Terese Burdick and Anderson Stenard read a poem entitled Sanctity of Life written by Patricia Kubicki. Terese and Andy did a great job getting the message of the poem across to those of us sitting in the pews. The poem was a wonderful reflection for all of us. I would like to share just one verse to give you a taste of the powerful message that was given.

*The sanctity of life given to humanity, has worth beyond compare.
 It’s a precious gift to you and me, for each soul, God does care.
 Our lives means so much, we give our whole heart and soul to You.
 If it were not for Your touch, there would be nothing we could do.*

Following the Liturgy we all joined for a celebration gathering in Dostie Hall where the Ladies of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart presented us with a feast of goodies.

It is our hope to continue this event each year alternating the site between the four Catholic parishes in Watertown. Hopefully, more people will join in this celebration next year. The Prayer for Life expresses well the broad spectrum of all that is included in the meaning of sanctity of life. Let us commit ourselves to pray this prayer frequently and to work daily to help all people come to a deep respect for the sanctity of life.

“It is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop.” Pope John Paul II (The Gospel of Life)



Outreach Christmas Celebration



Catechist Nancy Keefe helps Peter Cullen open his gifts.

Santa brought smiles to many faces of our friends who live in the JRC houses in Dexter, Gaffney Drive, and Sackets Harbor. Sr. Noel Chabanel, Nancy Keefe, and Alice Busler helped Santa make the season bright for our friends.



Margaret Burlingame smiles with Santa. She is also happy to see her picture as "Miss April."



Pablo Falu poses with Santa.

Everyone received a calendar for 2015 with pictures of members of our Religious Education Faith Community. Their bag also had a Christmas Ornament and a Pocket Pack of Kleenex. These gifts were fun and practical.



Derek Davis and Santa give a thumbs up to Sr. Chabanel who is taking their picture. Derek is also proud that his picture is shown on the month of April in his new calendar.

Sister led the people in each house in a short Christmas prayer. Singing Christmas Carols, visiting with Santa, and enjoying the gifts made for an exciting and fun-filled evening.

Loretta Esposito and Maureen O'Donnell, also catechists in the program, celebrated Christmas at the Weldon Drive and Holcomb Street houses.



Peter Anagnostakos shows his favorite picture on his new calendar.



Gloria Calhoun receives her calendar.

Santa poses with Laurie Grieco, Lynda Washburn, and Mary Trembley

Virginia Hill can't wait to open her bag of goodies.

Christmas Gifts

| | | | |
|--|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Mr. and Mrs. James Lafferty | \$25.00 | Nancy Keefe | \$25.00 |
| Clayton Jank | \$200.00 | Nancy Williams | \$100.00 |
| Richard and Anne Warner | \$50.00 | Rodney and Denise Olaen | \$50.00 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Gary Charlebois | \$ 25.00 | Jim Cole | \$500.00 |
| Mr. and Mrs. William Jesmore | \$100.00 | Ted and Mary Mascott | \$200.00 |
| Mr. Dan Ryan (Holy Ghost Preparatory School) | \$100.00 | | |
| Anonymous | \$200.00 | | |

Thank you for your gifts to our program. Your kindness and generosity are most appreciated.

Christmas Celebration



Members of the Interfaith and Friends of Jesus program gathered in Fellowship Hall at the First Presbyterian Church for their annual Christmas Celebration. The evening began with a brief prayer services during which the story of the Nativity was read as the figurines were placed on the prayer table.



Following prayer everyone enjoyed dinner. Meatball subs, salad, chips, cupcakes and ice cream cups were served. We were especially grateful to Janice Phelps for making the meatballs and sauce and to Sarah Schantz, Cathy Deline, Patricia Minter Powell and the IHC Community Service students for serving the meal. We also want to thank JoAnn Patrick for providing us with festive cupcakes.



The hall was nicely decorated thanks to the volunteer services of Patricia Spaziani, Janice Phelps, Cathy Deline and Sr. Noel Chabanel.



Gifts for the participants and teachers were given out by Santa. He also hit the floor with everyone and danced until his energy ran out.



These pictures tell the tale of the night. Needless to say a good time was had by all!



Special Thanks to Area Businesses Who Contributed to the Fall Auction

Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC
 Watertown Savings Bank
 Widrick Auto
 Salon1033
 Home Deli
 Moe's Southwest Grill
 Price Chopper
 Ci Ci Pizza
 Denny's
 Mint Julep Spa and Salon
 Cold Stone Creamery
 Art's Jug/ Sboro's
 Crystal Restaurant
 North Country Hearth & Home

Cutting Image Salon
 Crossroads Dinner
 Harold E. Russel & Sons Inc.
 Texas Roadhouse
 Hampton Inn
 Jefferson Concrete
 Cota Flooring
 Nobel Ace Hardware
 Jake's Lawn Care
 The Willow Cottage
 Cheney Tire
 Sundance Leisure
 Carthage Market
 Pine Cleaners

Pete's Restaurant
 Square Lion
 McDonald's
 Tilted Kilt
 Home Depot
 Cozzi Monument
 Panera
 Starbucks
 Ruby Tuesday
 Morrison's Furniture
 Cole Muffler
 White's Lumber
 Morgia's

Watertown Appliance
 Big Apple Music
 Red Lobster
 Gertrude Hawk
 Clarence Henry Coach
 Cullen Lundy Funeral Home
 Claire Ellsworth-Ames Studio
 Mavis Discount Tire



Thanks for helping to make our Fall Auction a great success!

Birthday Celebration

"Keep me Lord, as the apple of your eye."

This year's Birthday Prayer and Celebration invited us to think about how God sees each of us. We reflected upon the verse above from Psalm 17. At one point during our prayer together we turned to the person next to us and said, "When God looks at you I think he sees...." It was inspiring to hear the responses. Many kind and thoughtful statements were expressed to one another.

At the end of the closing prayer we all sang We Celebrate with Joy. Following the prayer we broke into our small group sessions. Everyone received a craft kit which when assembled became a cross made of apples. In the middle of the cross was the verse, "Keep me Lord, as the apple of your eye."

Our celebration was complete with cupcakes donated by Cathy Deline and JoAnn Patrick. Everyone went home feeling good about themselves knowing that God was watching over them with loving and caring eyes. We all agreed to celebrate each day that we are God's beloved—precious in his sight.



Look What We Have Been Doing...

Pictures from our time together...

