



**Catholic
Education** |



**PILGRIMS
OF HOPE**

**“We must fan the flame of hope
that has been given to us.”**

Pope Francis

April Prayer Service

By Living as Peacemakers

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us."
Letter on the Jubilee Year of Hope, February 11, 2022



Suggested Opening Songs

Prayer of St. Francis – [Prayer of St. Francis \(YouTube Link\)](#)

Peace is Flowing Like a River – [Peace is Flowing Like a River](#)

Lead Me, Lord – [Lead Me, Lord \(Lyric Video\)](#)

Opening Prayer

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Amen.



Litany of Peace

God of peace, your Son has shown us the way to spread peace to ourselves, others, and you.
His life has been our greatest example of selfless love and giver of peace. We ask for your guidance as we remind ourselves to be instruments of peace.

From the desire to control.

All: Deliver me, Lord Jesus and Make Us Instruments of Peace.

From the desire to impress others.

All: Deliver me, Lord Jesus and Make Us Instruments of Peace.

From failing to accept uncertainty.

All: Deliver me, Lord Jesus and Make Us Instruments of Peace

From failing to forgive others.

All: Deliver me, Lord Jesus and Make Us Instruments of Peace

From not accepting my limitations.

All: Deliver me, Lord Jesus and Make Us Instruments of Peace

From wanting more than I need.

All: Deliver me, Lord Jesus and Make Us Instruments of Peace

From not being able to forgive myself.

All: Deliver me, Lord Jesus and Make Us Instruments of Peace

And may almighty God bless us.

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

Let us remain in the peace of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord. ***R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***



Questions for Personal Reflection

The Beatitudes give us a sense of direction and help us to understand the actions and attitudes that will put us on the path of true happiness. They also help us to be more aware of God's blessings in our lives right now. Let us take a few moments of self-reflection as we continue to grow in our faith as peaceful followers of Christ.

Am I incorporating The Beatitudes in all I do and say?

Am I using the gifts, talents and strengths given to me by God, for the greater good?

Am I doing all I can to build meaningful relationships with God, others, myself, and the rest of creation?

How am I connecting to the Holy Spirit to develop peace in my community and within myself?

How am I building bridges and breaking down dividing walls in Jesus' Name?

How am I loving my enemies and praying for them?



Questions for Personal Reflection

Examples of Personal Peace Practices

The Church turns to the Beatitudes for guidance in interpreting and applying the two great commandments: to love God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind; and to love your neighbor as yourself.

How can the Beatitudes be looked upon as God's plan for world unity and peace?

Is it possible to follow these Beatitudes in today's world? How can you incorporate the Beatitudes in your day-to-day journey?

Find a ministry in your community that needs help. Perhaps a volunteer outreach opportunity in your church that builds fellowship with our youth – bringing the beatitudes to life as disciples of Christ.

Prayer of the Faithful

The response to the petition is: ***R. Lord, grant us peace.***

For the Church throughout the world, as we pilgrim together praying for peace and unity.

We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

That world leaders work together to find common goals that respect the dignity of all people.

We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

That peace be the focus among the world's nations and religious traditions.

We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

That through prayer we take time to renew trust and peace.

We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

For solidarity in our global human family, that we may work together to protect those who are most vulnerable and most in need.

We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

For those members of our community and in our families who are ill and in need of healing. May they experience the Lord's presence and find peace and grace through Jesus Christ.

We pray to the Lord. ***R.***

For the intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts...

We pray to the Lord. ***R.***



Closing Prayer

Loving God,
Grant us strength to be people of peace as
we Pilgrim on our journey together. May we
continue to be strengthened by Jesus' light
through peaceful prayer, love and kindness.
God of peace, we seek you and we know
that your love is always at work for us from
the rising of the sun to its setting, through
Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Suggested Closing Songs

Dona Nobis Pacem – [Dona Nobis \(YouTube Link\)](#)

Peace be Still – [Peace be Still \(YouTube Link\)](#)

Glory (Let There be Peace) – [Glory \(Let There be Peace\) \(YouTube Link\)](#)