



## **Thanksgiving Day Family Prayer Resource**

*Because Thanksgiving will look a little different this year, the Ministry & Service Office at Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School wanted to offer a prayer service for your family. Feel free to modify this to suit your needs, picking and choosing parts as you desire. We hope that this prayer service helps to center you in this season of Thanksgiving. May God's abundant blessings be with you!*

### **Gathering**

*Gather everyone together wherever is most comfortable. You may want to light a candle as a symbol of the presence of the Light of Christ among you. For the activity below, each person will need a writing utensil and a piece of paper (that you might want to cut into strips.)*

### **Opening Prayer**

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

God of All Goodness,

We come to you on this Thanksgiving Day aware that our "normal" is turned upside down this year.

We face many challenges and difficulties, and we have some anxieties and fears.

At the same time, we remember that you are the source of all life

and that you still give us many good gifts and blessings, for you look upon us with mercy and love.

In this present moment, help us to be mindful of your continuing care and blessing for each of us.

Open our eyes to see the many good things you have done for us.

Give us hearts full of gratitude as we gather in your name.

This we ask through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen,

### **Scripture**

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. (63: 7-9)

The favors of the LORD I will recall, the glorious deeds of the LORD,  
because of all the LORD has done for us, for he is good to the house of Israel.

He has favored us according to his mercy and his great kindness.

The Lord said: "They are indeed my people, children who are not disloyal."

So he became their savior in their every affliction.

It was not a messenger or an angel, but he himself who saved them.

Because of his love and mercy the LORD redeemed them,

Lifting them up and carrying them all the days of old.

## Reflection and Activity

We all know that it might be difficult to see God's abundant blessings in the midst of a global pandemic. Yet, if we look, they are still there. After all, this is how God has acted throughout history, even in the midst of adversity. When Israel was enslaved in Egypt, God gave the blessing of liberation and freedom. When the people were hungry and thirsty in the desert, God gave them the gift of manna and water from the rock. When humanity was in need of a savior, God sent his Son Jesus to bring us life. When Jesus ascended into heaven, God poured forth the Holy Spirit in order to remain with us and show us His love. And even now, in this present moment, the blessings of God continue to be showered upon us. It is important that we pause to remind ourselves of them even in the midst of Covid.

So, what blessings do you recognize in your life right now? What are you thankful for in this moment?

If you need some ideas of simple things to be thankful for, check out this short video from "Kid President" about 25 things to be thankful for: <https://youtu.be/yA5Qpt1JRE4>

*When you are ready, have each person write down at least five things (25 if you are daring!) that they are grateful for. When finished, each can share some or all of their list. Then, if you wish, you can place them in a "gratitude jar" as a reminder to be thankful for all that God has given you.*

## Closing Prayer - Litany of Thanksgiving

The response is: "We thank you, O Lord."

For the gift of life and the breath that sustains us...

*We thank you, O Lord.*

For the food that nourishes and the drink that satisfies...

*We thank you, O Lord.*

For the love and presence of family and friends, those near and those far away...

*We thank you, O Lord.*

For the beauty of creation and the gifts of our Earth...

*We thank you, O Lord.*

For the communities to which we belong and the strangers we meet along the way...

*We thank you, O Lord.*

For sisters and brothers of all ages, races, nationalities and faith...

*We thank you, O Lord.*

For the faith, hope and love that encourage us and that we share with others...

*We thank you, O Lord.*

For anything else we want to add...

*We thank you, O Lord.*

For the many blessings that fill our grateful hearts...

*We thank you, O Lord.*

## **Final Blessing**

May God, our Almighty Creator, through the intercession of St. Julie Billiart and Blessed Chaminade, bless us and keep us safe. May we run and not grow weary. May we soar as on wings of Eagles. May God hold us tenderly in the palm of His hand. Amen.

May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places, through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

## **Meal Prayer**

*As you gather around the table for Thanksgiving dinner, you may choose to read this prayer, written by Marianist Bro. Gary Marcinowski, SM.*

Lord God and giver of all good gifts,  
we are grateful as we pause to give thanks for this meal,  
and for all the blessings of life that you give us.  
Daily, we are fed with good things,  
nourished by friendship and care,  
feasted with forgiveness and understanding.  
And so, mindful of your continuous care,  
we pause to be grateful for the blessings of this table.  
May your presence bring extra flavor to this meal  
which we have shared in the name of your son, Jesus.  
Amen.