

PRAYER FOR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS ON *THE MASS EXPLAINED*  
**Leader's Copy for Week 1**

SIGN OF THE CROSS

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Humbly and in a spirit of thanksgiving,  
let us give praise and thanks to God for all that he has given us.

All: May God strengthen us through the nourishment we receive at Mass  
in the Word of Scripture and in the Eucharist  
for the journey of life.

READING: Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

SILENT REFLECTION

*A short period of quiet reflection follows the reading*

PRAYERS OF PETITION:

Leader: That our gathering for Mass  
be an aid to unity in mind and heart  
and open us to welcome the Word of God,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That our participation in song  
may help us to know the joy of living in God's presence  
and in harmony with each other,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That we may hear the voice of Christ speaking to us in the Mass,  
as he spoke to his apostles at the Last Supper,  
calling us to feast on his own Body and Blood,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That our journey into a deeper understanding of the Mass  
move us to fuller appreciation for this great gift,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That our personal and parish journey of faith in the Lenten Season,  
and the journey of those preparing for the Easter Sacraments of Initiation  
will be a time of spiritual renewal  
and a worthy preparation for the new life of Easter for us all.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

*Participants may be invited to add other petitions, and all conclude with the above response.*

PRAYER:

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God,  
you have accomplished the work of human redemption  
through the Paschal Mystery of your Only Begotten Son.

Grant that we,  
who confidently proclaim, under the sacramental signs of bread and wine,  
the Death and Resurrection of Christ,  
and who are privileged to share in his own Body and Blood in Holy Communion,  
may experience continued increase of your saving grace  
and be bound together as one family of believers.

We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION:

*Note to Leader: This prayer remains the same each week*

Leader: Let us end in prayer, as we say together:

All: May the Supper God's Son left us  
as he prepared to enter into his saving Death and Resurrection  
sustain our life on earth.  
May our hunger be fully satisfied  
in the everlasting banquet of heaven.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

PRAYER FOR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP ON *THE MASS EXPLAINED*  
**Leader's Copy for Week 2**

SIGN OF THE CROSS

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Humbly and in a spirit of thanksgiving,  
let us give praise and thanks to God for all that he has given to us.

All: May God strengthen us through the nourishment we receive at Mass  
in the Word of Scripture and in the Eucharist  
for the journey of life.

READING: Exodus 24: 3-8

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF PETITION:

Leader: That we may see our gathering at Mass  
as a response to the invitation from Christ himself  
to be gathered by him into the heart of God,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That our attentiveness to the Word of God  
may provide the wisdom and truth we need to guide our lives,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That the rich heritage of our ancestors in faith,  
revealed in the stories of Scripture  
may inspire us to lives of fidelity,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That our journey this Lent into a deeper understanding of the Mass  
move us to deeper appreciation for this great gift,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: For those who journey to life in our Church during this Lenten Season  
to the Easter sacraments of Initiation,  
that they may yearn for union with us at the Lord's table of Word and Sacrament,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

*Participants may be invited to add other petitions, and all conclude with the above response.*

PRAYER:

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God,  
you have accomplished the work of human redemption  
through the Paschal Mystery of your Only Begotten Son.

Grant that we,  
who confidently proclaim, under the sacramental signs of bread and wine,  
the Death and Resurrection of Christ,  
and who are privileged to share in his own Body and Blood in Holy Communion,  
may experience continued increase of your saving grace  
and be bound together as one family of believers.

We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP ON *THE MASS EXPLAINED*  
**Leader's Copy for Week 3**

SIGN OF THE CROSS

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Humbly and in a spirit of thanksgiving,  
let us give praise and thanks to God for all that he has given to us.

All: May God strengthen us through the nourishment we receive at Mass  
in the Word of Scripture and in the Eucharist  
for the journey of life.

READING: Proverbs 9: 1-6

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF PETITION:

Leader: That the prayer we offer at Mass  
be a worthy sacrifice of praise to God  
for the many blessings of our lives,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies and transforms our gifts of bread and wine,  
will transform our lives  
as we seek more fully to be one with Christ and one another,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That we may never take for granted the gift of the Eucharist,  
the Lord's own Body and Blood,  
that nurtures us and brings us to salvation,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That those who cannot share in the Lord's Body and Blood at Mass,  
will know the Lord's love for them and the Lord's presence to them  
on their journey of life and faith,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That the peace, unity and hope we experience at Mass  
will continue to lead us to be examples in our community  
as we seek to build the reign of Christ  
and find ways to bring an end to violence, murder and racism in our community,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That those who seek to join us in our Catholic faith  
and all those preparing for the Easter Sacraments of Initiation  
will find their longings fulfilled in the joy of Easter,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

*Participants may be invited to add other petitions, and all conclude with the above response.*

PRAYER:

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God,  
you have accomplished the work of human redemption  
through the Paschal Mystery of your Only Begotten Son.

Grant that we,  
who confidently proclaim, under the sacramental signs of bread and wine,  
the Death and Resurrection of Christ,  
and who are privileged to share in his own Body and Blood in Holy Communion,  
may experience continued increase of your saving grace  
and be bound together as one family of believers.

We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS ON *THE MASS EXPLAINED*  
**Leader's Copy for Week 4**

SIGN OF THE CROSS

CALL TO PRAYER

Leader: Humbly and in a spirit of thanksgiving,  
let us give praise and thanks to God for all that he has given to us.

All: May God strengthen us through the nourishment we receive at Mass  
in the Word of Scripture and in the Eucharist  
for the journey of life.

READING: Acts of the Apostles 10: 34a, 37-43

SILENT REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF PETITION:

Leader: That our priests, who lead us in prayer in the person of Christ,  
will live lives above reproach  
and lead us as true, wise and compassionate shepherds,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That our deacons, ministers of charity,  
will inspire us, by their caring deeds,  
to grow in concern for and outreach to those in need,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That all those who minister at liturgy  
will be blessed by God as they continue to lead us  
as we offer a worthy sacrifice of praise,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That these weeks of study, reflection and sharing  
may make us always grateful for the gift of the Mass  
so that each Mass at which we pray  
will be a true and worthy sacrifice of praise to God,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

Leader: That those who are preparing for the Easter Sacraments  
will find refreshment and joy in our community of faith,  
especially each time we gather for Mass,  
we pray to the Lord.

All: Lord of life, sustain us.

*Participants may be invited to add other petitions, and all conclude with the above response.*

**PRAYER:**

Leader: Let us pray together:

All: Gracious God,  
you have accomplished the work of human redemption  
through the Paschal Mystery of your Only Begotten Son.

Grant that we,  
who confidently proclaim, under the sacramental signs of bread and wine,  
the Death and Resurrection of Christ,  
and who are privileged to share in his own Body and Blood in Holy Communion,  
may experience continued increase of your saving grace  
and be bound together as one family of believers.

We pray this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

READING FOR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP ON *THE MASS EXPLAINED*

**Leader's Copy for Week 1**

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

They devoted themselves

to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life,  
to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone,

and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common;

they would sell their property and possessions  
and divide them among all according to each one's need.

Every day they devoted themselves

to meeting in the temple area  
and to breaking bread in their homes.

They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart,

praising God and enjoying favor with all the people.

And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

The word of the Lord.

***Leaders: These texts are provided to allow the readers to prepare in advance.  
The proclamation of these passages should be done from the Bible.***

READING FOR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP ON *THE MASS EXPLAINED*

**Leader's Copy for Week 2**

Exodus 24: 3-8

A reading from the Book of Exodus

When Moses came to the people  
and related all the words and ordinances of the Lord  
they all answered with one voice,  
“We will do everything that the Lord has told us.”  
Moses then wrote down all the words of the Lord and,  
rising early the next day,  
he erected at the foot of the mountain an altar  
and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.  
Then, having sent certain young men of the Israelites  
to offer holocausts and sacrifice young bulls  
as peace offerings to the Lord,  
Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls;  
the other half he splashed on the altar.  
Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people,  
who answered, “All that the Lord has said, we will heed and do.”  
Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying,  
“This is the blood of the covenant  
that the Lord has made with you  
in accordance with all these words of his.”

The word of the Lord.

***Leaders: These texts are provided to allow the readers to prepare in advance.  
The proclamation of these passages should be done from the Bible.***

READINGS FOR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP ON *THE MASS EXPLAINED*

**Leader's Copy for Week 3**

Proverbs 9: 1-6

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

Wisdom has built her house,  
she has set up seven columns;  
she has dressed her meat, mixed her wine,  
yes, she has spread her table.  
She has sent out her maidens; she calls  
from the heights out over the city:  
“Let whoever is simple turn in here;  
To the one who lacks understanding she says,  
Come, eat of my food,  
and drink of the wine I have mixed!  
Forsake foolishness that you may live;  
advance in the way of understanding.”

The word of the Lord.

***Leaders: These texts are provided to allow the readers to prepare in advance.  
The proclamation of these passages should be done from the Bible.***

READING FOR LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP ON *THE MASS EXPLAINED*

**Leader's Copy for Week 4**

Acts of the Apostles 10: 34a, 37-43

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak and said:

“You know what has happened all over Judea,  
beginning in Galilee after the baptism  
that John preached,  
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth  
with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good  
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,  
for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did  
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.

This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,  
not to all the people, but to us,  
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,  
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people  
and testify that he is the one appointed by God  
as judge of the living and the dead.

To him all the prophets bear witness,  
that everyone who believes in him  
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.

The word of the Lord.

***Leaders: These texts are provided to allow the readers to prepare in advance.  
The proclamation of these passages should be done from the Bible.***