

Intercessory Prayer

Preparation: Set up a prayer corner with a cloth for the liturgical season (purple for Lent), a cross, a candle and the Bible (if you have these items). Use a bowl/jar as your prayer bowl/jar. Give each child a strip of paper and pen/pencil. Ask them to write down an intention (or two) on their strip of paper—might have to explain or help them think of something so suggest the name of someone they want to pray for, a need they have they want to ask God for, etc. Explain that during the prayer, each person will say their intention out loud as we pray for all our intentions.

Gather at the prayer corner. Light the candle (have one of the children hold the candle for you and rotate who does this each time you pray).

All make the Sign of the Cross

Parent: God, our loving Father, cares for each and every one of us and cares about all our problems and worries and hopes. Trusting in his love, let us tell him about the people and things for which we want to pray today. I invite each one of you to say your intention out loud and put the strip of paper in this prayer jar/bowl. After a person has shared their intention, we all say “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Each person shares their intention and puts it in the prayer jar/bowl, all respond “Lord, hear our prayer,” and passes the jar to the next person.

Parent: Loving God, we bring before you these prayers we’ve said out loud and all the ones in our hearts, knowing that you always hear us and answer us in the way that is best. Amen. And together, we join our voices to pray in the words that Jesus himself taught us (if the children do not know the Our Father by heart, say a line and repeat the line together):

OUR FATHER,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Place the jar at the center of your dining table.

The Angelus (adapted for children)

Preparation: Set up a prayer corner with a cloth for the liturgical season, a cross, a Bible, and an image or statue of Mary (print one if you need to). Give each child a strip of paper and pen/pencil. Ask them to write down one thing they want to ask Mother Mary to help them with this week (give them a few examples—schoolwork, to be nicer to their sibling, to behave better, etc.). Explain that during the prayer, each person will say their one thing out loud as we pray. If children do not know the Hail Mary, either print it out for them or say a phrase and repeat it with them. Tell them that you will pray the Hail Mary 3 times. Once everyone is ready, begin the prayer:

Gather at the prayer corner. Light the candle (have one of the children hold the candle for you and rotate who does this each time you pray).

All make the sign of the cross.

Parent: Mary is Jesus' mother and Jesus wanted to share his mother with all of us so that all of us would have a wonderful and caring mother in heaven we can always turn to for help and who will hear our problems and concerns. Let us honor her today with the words we read in Scripture through which she said yes to God's call to be the mother of our Savior.

Parent: The Angel of the Lord said to Mary that the Holy Spirit would come upon her and she would become pregnant with Jesus, God's Son.

Together:

HAIL MARY,
Full of grace,
The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Parent: Mary responded "I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said."

Together: Hail Mary ...

Parent: And the Word became a human being and lived among us.

Together: Hail Mary ...

Parent: Mother Mary, God entrusted you with the care of Jesus, his only Son and has now entrusted you with the care of all His children. Help us this week, as a loving mother does, with the things we now share with you, and intercede for us before your beloved Son, our Lord and Savior. I invite each of you to share what you'd like Mary to help you with this week. After each person has read their strip, we all respond "Mary, Mother of God, pray for us."

Each person shares their intention and puts it in the prayer jar, all respond "Mary, Mother of God, pray for us," and passes the jar to the next person.

Parent: Let us pray. Lord God, we thank you for blessing us with a wonderful and caring mother in heaven, for her constant care and attention. Make us worthy of such a blessing and worthy of the fruits of Mary's yes, your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Place the jar at the center of your table.

Gratitude Prayer

Preparation: Set up a prayer corner with a purple cloth, a cross, a candle and the Bible. Give each child a strip of paper and pen/pencil. You will also need a bowl or jar. The children will need the prayer card with the Glory Be (printed below). Ask them to write down one (or two) things for which they want to thank God today—give them a few examples such as their family, their pet, their health, food to eat, a nice day, etc. Explain that during the prayer, each person will say out loud what they are grateful. Once everyone is ready, begin the prayer:

Gather at the prayer corner. Light the candle (have one of the children hold the candle for you and rotate who does this each time you pray).

All make the Sign of the Cross

Parent: Good and gracious God, you shower us with all good things and sent us your son Jesus to show us how much you love us. We now want to make the time to remember the blessings you have given us and to give you thanks and praise for them, in particular, for these things we now mention. I invite each of you to read what you want to thank God for today and after each person reads their strip, we all respond “for this we thank and praise you O God.”

Each person shares what they're thankful for and puts it in the prayer jar/bowl, all respond “for this we thank and praise you O God,” and passes the jar to the next person.

Parent: For these and all the blessings you have given us in our lives, we thank and praise you O God. And together, we praise you in the words of the prayer of the Church. Together let us pray the Glory be: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Place the jar at the center of your table.

Prayer of Sorrow/Contrition

Preparation: Set up a prayer corner with a purple cloth, a cross, a candle and the Bible. Give each child a strip of paper and pen/pencil. The children will need the a printed copy of the Act of Contrition (printed below).

Gather at the prayer corner. Light the candle (have one of the children hold the candle for you to light).

All make the Sign of the Cross

Parent: Read the story of Zacchaeus (Lk 19:5-10): “[Jesus] looked up and said to Zacchaeus, “Hurry down, Zacchaeus, because I must stay in your house today.” Zacchaeus hurried down and welcomed him with great joy. All the people who saw it started grumbling, “This man has gone as a guest to the home of a sinner!” Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Listen, sir! I will give half my belongings to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times as much.” Jesus said to him, “Salvation has come to this house today, for this man, also, is a descendant of Abraham. The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Parent: Zacchaeus had been cheating people out of their money. When he met Jesus, he felt sorry for having done this and promised to make amends. This made Jesus very happy. Imagine that Jesus is coming to stay with *you* today. Is there something that you want to say you’re sorry for and make amends for? Let’s take a moment of quiet to think about how we’ve been treating our parents, our friends, our sisters and brothers and quietly ask Jesus to forgive us for any of those things for which we are sorry.

Bow your head and quietly pray for at least a minute. Count if you need to. Then continue.

Parent: Let us express our sorrow for our sins and ask Jesus to forgive us. Our response to each petition is Forgive us O Lord.

Parent: for the times we have been unkind with each other, we pray ...

All: Forgive us O Lord

Parent: For the times we have been impatient or short with each other, we pray...

All: Forgive us O Lord

Parent: For the times we have talked back to our parents, or other adults who care for us, we pray...

All: Forgive us O Lord

Parent: For the times we have lied or fudged the truth, we pray ...

All: Forgive us O Lord

Parents: For the times we didn’t pray or trust in God, we pray...

All: Forgive us O Lord

(add any others you think are applicable to your family/children)

Parent: And together let us express our sorrow for our sins: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

Sign of the cross