

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

During the Season of Advent

God our Father,
so great is your love for us
that you came to live among us in Jesus Christ
and you remain with us in the Holy Spirit.

Guide our discussions and decisions
as we implement this new plan.
Give us an abundance of your love and mercy.

May our work build a community
that boldly proclaims the message of Christ
so that when he returns in glory
he will find us waiting in joyful hope,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

OR

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,
in humility, you came to earth
to be like us in all things but sin.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,
you died and rose, conquering sin and death
so that we might live with you for ever.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,
in your great love
you have given yourself to us in the Eucharist.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,
you will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead.

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ,
you teach us to love in patience
and to forgive as you forgive,
for we will be judged by the same measure which we judge another.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.
Come quickly!**

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

During the Month of January

During the Christmas season:

Lord Jesus Christ,
by revealing yourself to the Magi
you brought all nations to yourself.

We come before you
with our own gifts of faith and time.
We offer them to you
and ask that you transform them
for the sake of your people in our parishes.

May profound peace imbue our deliberations
and may justice flower in our day,
as it does in your kingdom where you live for ever and ever.
Amen.

OR

After the Christmas season:

Reader: Saint Paul wrote: I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning. (I Cor. 1:10-13, 17)

Briefly pause for silent prayer, then all say the prayer (below) together.

All: God our Father,
we belong to you.

Jesus Christ, crucified for us,
we belong to you.

Holy Spirit, Counselor and Comforter,
we belong to you.

May our work bring unity to the Body of Christ
so that we may praise God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—
with full hearts, minds, and voices
for ever and ever.
Amen.

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

During the Month of February

Merciful God,
so great is your love for us
that you have made us your own
through Christ Jesus.

Help us to turn away from sin
and be faithful to the Gospel.
Give us the wisdom to discern
how best your people may serve you today.
Soften our hearts
and make them like the Sacred Heart of your Son, Jesus,
burning with love for you and for our neighbors,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

OR

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;
and 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

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

During the Month of March

During Lent:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are water for the thirsty,
light for the blind,
and life everlasting.

Deepen our thirst for you
so that we may drink fully of the Water of Life.
Lighten our darkness
so that we may be a light for the world.
Give us the strength to die to our own will
so that we may serve you always in peace and joy,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

OR

During Easter:

God our Father,
you led the people of Israel
out of slavery and into freedom,
and your dying and rising forever freed us
from the bondage of sin.

May our work reflect your glory
and our lives proclaim your love.

Give us courage, wisdom, love and compassion
as we meet to discuss our future faith community,
confident that you are here with us.

We ask this through Christ, risen from the dead.
Amen.

DIOCESE OF MADISON

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

During the Month of April

Lord Jesus Christ,
after your resurrection,
your disciples gathered in the Upper Room in fear.
You came to them and offered your peace.
You promised that the Holy Spirit would come to them,
giving counsel, wisdom, and consolation.

In the same way,
we ask that you send the Holy Spirit to us
as we seek to discern the needs of your Church today.
Calm our fears,
give us your peace
and help us always to proclaim the message
that Christ is risen and has conquered sin and death.
Lead us to your kingdom
where you live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

OR

Lord Jesus Christ,
you are the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
Guide us as we meet today:
show us the narrow Way,
lead us by your love and Truth,
and bring us all to Eternal Life,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

DIOCESE OF MADISON

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

During the Month of May

Before Pentecost:

Reader: Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

All: Enter our hearts.

etc. Holy Spirit, Who is equal to the Father and the Son,
Enter our hearts.

Promise of God the Father, **Have mercy on us.**

Ray of heavenly light, **Have mercy on us.**

Author of all good, **Have mercy on us.**

Source of heavenly water, **Have mercy on us.**

Consuming Fire, **Have mercy on us.**

Ardent Charity, **Have mercy on us.**

Spiritual Unction, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit of love and truth, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit of counsel and fortitude, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit of knowledge and piety, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit of the fear of the Lord, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit of grace and prayer, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit of peace and meekness, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit of modesty and innocence, **Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, the Comforter, **Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, **Have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit, Who governs the Church, **Have mercy on us.**

Gift of God the Most High, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit Who fills the universe, **Have mercy on us.**

Spirit of the adoption of the children of God, **Have mercy on us.**

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love.**

-From the Litany of the Holy Spirit

OR

After Pentecost:

I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me:
God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me.

DIOCESE OF MADISON

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

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Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ in breadth, Christ in length, Christ in height,
Christ in the heart of every one who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today through a mighty strength,
the invocation of the Trinity,
through belief in the Three-ness,
through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation.

-From the Breastplate of Saint Patrick

DIOCESE OF MADISON

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

SAMPLE GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

During Advent

For all in our Diocese, that we may be ready messengers of the Lord, always seeking to prepare a way for Him, we pray to the Lord.

For all in our Diocese, that like Saint Mary we may open ourselves fully to God's mysterious plan, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that through our linkage we may seek the Lord and prepare for his return, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that our shared ministry will help us prepare the way of the Lord, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that the merger to take place will better prepare us for the Lord's coming at the end of time, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that the merger to take place will better prepare us for the Lord's coming at the end of time, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that in our upcoming merge we will welcome each other as Christ has welcomed us, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that we may follow the model of Saints Mary and Joseph and place our trust in God, we pray to the Lord.

During Christmas

For all parishes in our Diocese, that with the angels we may proclaim God's glory as we joyfully announce the news that Christ is in our midst, we pray to the Lord.

For the people of our Diocese, that we may offer ourselves as gifts to God, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that this Christmas may be a time of joy and unity, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that we may bring glad tidings as we bear the news that Christ is born, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that this Christmas brings us closer together in Christ Jesus, we pray to the Lord.

DIOCESE OF MADISON

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

During Ordinary Time

For our Diocese, that we may invite others in Christ's name to "Come and see," we pray to the Lord.

For the people of –N- and –N- Parishes, that a true poverty of spirit will guide our merger [linkage] so that we may rely wholeheartedly on God, we pray to the Lord.

For the people of –N- and –N- Parishes, that our merger will enrich our new community, we pray to the Lord.

During Lent

For our Diocese, that this Lent may be a time of purification from all that divides, we pray to the Lord.

For all in our Diocese, that we may seek and accept God's will with faith, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that we may always give witness to God's mercy, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that the radiance of Christ may show forth in our community, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that our hearts may always be open to the will of God, we pray to the Lord.

For the people of –N- and –N- Parishes, that we may see others through the eyes of faith, we pray to the Lord.

During Easter

For our Diocese, that we may boldly proclaim Christ, risen and radiant, we pray to the Lord.

For our Diocese, that this Easter season may be a time of renewed faith, hope and love, we pray to the Lord.

For all in our Diocese, that we may earnestly seek the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord.

For the people of –N- and –N- Parishes, that our hearts may burn as we hear the Lord's word, we pray to the Lord.

DIOCESE OF MADISON

TRUSTING IN THE SPIRIT

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that the Risen Lord will shepherd us in this time of transition, we pray to the Lord.

For the people of –N- and –N- Parishes, that God may use us as living stones to build a renewed community of faith, we pray to the Lord.

For the parishes of –N- and –N-, that the Holy Spirit will enliven our worship of God and love of neighbor, we pray to the Lord.

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ADDITIONAL PRAYER RESOURCES

If you need more prayer services than those provided and would like to create your own , consider using the following template.

1. PREPARE THE ENVIRONMENT WITH A BIBLE AND A LIGHTED CANDLE
2. HAVE COPIES OF MUSIC TO BE SUNG BY ALL
3. OPENING PRAYER
4. CHOOSE A READING FROM THE SUNDAY LECTIONARY
5. REFLECTION AND FAITH SHARING
Sample questions:
What words spoke to you especially today in these readings?
What actions flow from the readings for you?
How were you changed by the readings? New insights? Motivations to change something in your life?
6. GENERAL INTERCESSIONS
7. LORD'S PRAYER
8. SIGN OF PEACE

Selected Sunday Liturgical readings for January-June 2008

Jan. 13	Isaiah 42:1-4; 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17
Jan. 20	Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; I Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34
Feb. 3	Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12
Feb. 10	Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
Feb. 17	Genesis 12:1-4a; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9
Mar. 21	Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41
Mar 9	Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45
Mar 23	Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9
Apr. 6	Acts 2:14, 22-33; I Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35
April 20	Acts 6:1-7; 1Peter 2, 4-9; John 14:1-12
May 1	Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20
May 11	Acts 2:1-11; I Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23
June 8	Hosea 6:3-6; Romans 4:18-25; Matthew 9:9-13
June 15	Exodus 19-2-6a; Romans 5:6-11; Matthew 9:36-10:8