

SOMETHING SPECIAL

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Good and gracious God,
We the parish community of Our Lady of Lourdes, give thanks to you for opportunities, past and present, to proclaim in word and sacrament the Good News of Jesus Christ.
We thank you for the gift of faith, family, and friendships you have given us over the past 75 years.

Open our hearts and minds to you and help us to be good stewards of the gifts you have given to us. Help us to be like Mary, always faithful to you. We pray that your Holy Spirit will guide us as we begin this campaign for the future of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Trusting in your great love for us, help us to move forward with generous hearts so we might continue to serve you.

Guide us that we might meet the future with the faith and conviction of our founders. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.





THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!!

**GENE WALDON
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- *For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.*
- Matthew 6:21

Reflection

As I reflect upon where I want my heart to be at the end of my days here on earth, I emphatically want to be with God. With that goal in mind, I need to allow God to play a larger part today through loving as Jesus modeled for us. Love requires generosity.

Prayer

Good and gracious God, thank you for gift of your Son and the blessings that you have shared with us. Help us to find ways to share these gifts with all that we meet. Please be with our parish community as we draw ever closer to you and grant us the courage to share our blessings with all those that we encounter. We ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- *Now in regard to meat sacrificed to idols: we realize that “all of us have knowledge”; knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up. If anyone supposes he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if one loves God, one is known by him.*
-1 Corinthians 8:1-3

Reflection

How do you show God that you love Him? Through your prayers and your actions? Jesus sends us on a mission to share God’s love to others. What better way to show God’s love than to introduce people to God’s OLOL community.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the gifts and blessings that you have bestowed upon us. Please open our minds and hearts to the needs of others, so we may properly share our blessings with others. We ask this in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- *Each one must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

Reflection

This causes me to pause and consider the many blessings that God has shared with me. As I reflect on the innumerable blessings bestowed upon my family, and me, I ask myself how I should share the joy of these blessings. Sharing requires action.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the gifts and blessings that you have bestowed upon me. Please open my mind and my heart to see the needs of others, so that I may properly share my blessings with others. We ask this in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



- *When he looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, “I tell you truly, this poor widow put more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.” -Luke 21:1-4*

Reflection

Love is the only commodity that the more that you give away, the more you get in return. Jesus showed us love by the ultimate sacrificial love of dying on the cross. How do you show your love to Jesus' Church?

Prayer

Good and gracious God,
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and help us to be good stewards of the gifts You have given to us. Help us to be like Mary, always faithful to You. Amen.

- *Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life. -1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Reflection

God provides for our every need through interaction with others, especially in community. People are attracted to communities that have something to offer and those that are dynamic, welcoming, and inspiring. How would you rate the OLOL community? What is your role in engaging others and inviting others to join our community?

Prayer

Good and gracious God, trusting in your great love for us, help us to move forward with generous hearts so we might continue to serve you. Guide us that we might meet the future with the faith and conviction of our founders. We ask this in Christ our Lord. Amen.



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Reflection

Becoming an essential part of a community requires giving of oneself, creating ownership through encounters with others and sharing time, talent, and treasure. Sharing of oneself creates an indelible bond that is difficult to break. This bond lasts to eternity and reaps benefits long after one leaves this world. We call this bond a legacy. What legacy would you want to leave?

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Reflection

Generosity may be difficult at times, but know that God will provide. We do not always know what lies in store along the road of life, but God does and He will take care of us. We are all blessed with God’s generosity and love. Embrace that love and generosity and be sure to pass it on!

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- *For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.*
–Matthew--6:21

Reflection

As Catholic Christians we are directed to live our lives giving generously. Giving generously could come in the form of giving to Church, to family, to friends, to the less fortunate or to many worthy charities. Whatever it may be that you are drawn to give to, your heart will be full as a result. A full heart makes for a happy heart.

Prayer

Good and gracious God, creator of all that is; only you know how many days we have on this earth. Let us make the most of each day by sharing with others the gifts that you have bestowed upon us. We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- *Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
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Reflection

The many gifts that we have been given are gifts from God. One of the most special gifts is the gift of faith. Sharing the gift of faith with one another is something special. Sharing cheerfully, whether it be faith or material possessions, enriches one's life. Be a Cheerful giver!

Prayer

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Reflection

Some days we can give a lot and be very generous and some days we can only give a little. Giving, whether a lot or a little, is welcome when it is done with the right intention. If one is giving from the heart and with generosity, it does not necessarily matter the amount. We are asked to do what we can and to be sincere in our giving. See if you can make someone's day in just a small way each day!

Prayer

Good and gracious God, open our hearts and minds to you and help us to be good stewards of the gifts that you have given to us. Help us to be like Mary, always faithful to you. We pray that your Holy Spirit will guide us as we begin this campaign for the future of Our Lady of Lourdes. Amen.

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Reflection

We are called to give from a cheerful heart filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for the abundant blessings we have received from God. Giving should be in proportion to what we have received and based on our own relationship with God. Giving is our opportunity to participate with God's plan to meet the needs of His people. It is our humble expression of thankfulness. God delights in those who cheerfully accept the responsibility to participate in His plan to meet the needs of His church here and now.

Prayer

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Reflection

To treasure the temporal “stuff” of this world is to love it with a love reserved for God alone. To treasure the temporal things of this world is folly and will only end in heartbreak. Getting to know Christ and treasure Him above all else is the better choice. Will I fight the good fight grounded in faith or will I be tempted to clutch too tightly to the transient treasures and pleasures of this world? Help me to discern how best to make “thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

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Reflection

All of us possess knowledge. However, sometimes I wonder, is my knowledge incomplete and inaccurate and leading me to draw false conclusions? Is it possible that a little bit of knowledge merely leads to an inflated ego and an unreasonable, inappropriate sense of pride? A small amount of knowledge leads to overconfidence in how much I really do know. On the other hand, love truly builds people up. Only when pride is replaced with love can we truly put love of God and love of neighbor above all else as God truly intends.

Prayer

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Reflection

What difference did the widow’s two cents make toward meeting the temple budget? Very little if anything. The treasurer probably wondered why people threw such small offerings into the treasury. “They are more of a nuisance to count than they are worth,” he probably muttered to himself. That misses the whole point. For one, she gave out of her love for the Lord and not for self-aggrandizement, as did the wealthy in this parable. Secondly, she trusted; she did not know how, but trusted that God would provide. Finally, she gave willingly despite her destitute circumstance as a widow in first century Palestine.

Prayer

Good and gracious God, thank you for the gift of your Son and the blessings that you have shared with us. Help us to find ways to share these gifts with all that we meet. Please be with our parish community. Grant us the courage to share our blessings and draw ever closer to you. We ask this in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- *Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life. -1 Timothy 6:17-19*

Reflection

The wealth of this world is fleeting and temporary at best, but the riches of God that are ours in Christ, are eternal. We should place neither trust in our own sufficiency nor fix our hope on that which will fade away. We are called to place our trust in the Lord first and above all else. Our secure hope for the future comes from total reliance on Christ alone. Our ancestors made a down payment for us expecting that when it came our turn we would build on that foundation and pay it forward for subsequent generations. We live in a world influenced by false schemes and misleading strategies that can cause us to take our eyes off what really matters. The question then becomes, how willing am I to share the gracious provision and blessing I have received.

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Reflection

Have you ever felt like what you have to offer is embarrassingly small and therefore inconsequential? This woman's offering most likely made little or no sound as she dropped it into the temple coffers, yet all of heaven heard the sound. What no one else noticed did catch the attention of God. God evaluates things differently than man does. Do you give from a thankful heart? Does your gift bring attention to yourself? Do you give in gratitude for all blessings received? Do you have the courage to put your faith and trust in God by acknowledging that God shared with you lovingly and willfully? We might well be surprised what God can do with our offerings regardless how small those offerings may seem.

Prayer

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Reflection

Spiritual wealth is long lasting, while material wealth can be fleeting. Putting one's faith and good works into action for others will lead us to the gifts that God can provide. Be generous, share with others, do good works and you strive to be spiritually wealthy!

Prayer

Good and gracious God, Creator of all that is; only you know how many days we have on this earth. Let us make the most of each day by sharing with others the gifts that you have bestowed upon us. We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Reflection

Filling out a Stewardship intention form is a wonderful opportunity to share our time, talents and treasure. Some may be able to give a great deal of treasure, while others may only be able to give a small amount. Others may be able to donate a lot of time, while others can only make a brief appearance. Still others may have the ability to share many talents with the community, while others have less ability to share their talents. Whether the offering is a little or a lot, the offering is giving of one's self for the good of others. What will you do to help make a positive impact?

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- *Each one must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Reflection

When giving a special gift for a birthday, wedding, or other special occasion, sometimes, I get this feeling in my heart that tells me “I GOT THIS RIGHT!! I NAILED IT!” My heart just feels so full of happiness and excitement, I can barely wait for the event to give my gift. Generosity is the gift that really does come completely from the heart, with no strings attached; it is all pure love for the intended receiver.

Prayer

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Reflection

When giving any type of gift, remembrance, or “something special” for the special someone in my life, I like to think through a “what if” moment to the utmost degree, because I want my gift to be oh so special for my dear one receiving it. My hope is that my love for the person receiving comes through as they see the gift.

Prayer

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Reflection

During times that are economically challenging or when gift giving is not easy or convenient, sharing a gift with someone turns the sacrifice to blessing.

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Reflection

The Lord knows our hearts in all matters—giving included! I think it is somewhat odd to consider a blessing coming from a gift, but this Scripture says it is so. Of late, there seems to be so many more requests for generous giving that I feel very overwhelmed and guilty because I do not have the ability to give as much as I would honestly love to give. Praying about this conundrum leads me to realize the power of trusting God to provide, to put the giving in God’s hands, and leave it there—no givebacks, tradebacks, or takebacks, just trust God.

Prayer

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Reflection

Timothy advises that the spiritual life is not about earthly treasures and financial wealth. Instead, the intangible wealth of enjoying what we have when we have it is a humbling mindset to consider.

Prayer

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Reflection

There is a strong connection between generosity and our attitude about life, God, and the Church. We have all heard that it is more blessed to give than to receive; sometimes, it is difficult for us to give because we do not see the need. The important thing is to give whenever you can. Our hearts will be happy and God will be pleased.

Prayer

Trusting in your great love for us, help us to move forward with generous hearts so we might continue to serve you. Guide us that we might meet the future with the faith and conviction of our founders. We ask this in Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Reflection

One does not have to be wealthy to share what they have. What we need is faith to believe that God will provide for us. God does not mandate the amount that we should give but blesses us for our sacrifice.

Prayer

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Reflection

What a blessing to have wealth, a gift from God. It is in how we use our material wealth that provides a spiritual blessing. Balancing our lives materially and spiritually is a key to a meaningful life. What could be more meaningful than sharing part of your wealth with those in need? It would be a blessing to all involved.

Prayer

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- *Each one must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

Reflection

The joy of giving is contagious. We should not give for recognition purposes; we should give because it makes us feel good in our hearts. We give because it is a way to give thanks to God for what He has given us.

Prayer

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- *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. -John 3:16*

Reflection

God gave us his only Son, Jesus, because the world was in need of help. He taught us to give to others as the Father has given to us. Let the lessons of giving be learned and followed.

Prayer

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- *In everything I did, I showed that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus Christ himself: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

-Acts 20:35

Reflection

Giving is a double blessing, the giver for his generosity and the recipient by the gift itself. The blessings of the Lord are everlasting. The more generous the heart, the greater the joy we feel for having done what Jesus asks us to do.

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