

A PRAYER-A-DAY BETWEEN ASCENSION AND PENTECOST

This year our Church calls us to offer a Prayer-A-Day during the time between the Feast of the Lord's Ascension and the Feast of Pentecost. The prayers are directed at us helping us better understand that our communities and families (domestic churches) have a *missionary* character. This *missionary* spirit is a consequence of being a part of Christ's Church. As Christians we take upon ourselves the responsibility to *believe, live, serve, and share* the witness of our faith in Christ with all others. The mission of our parish community is to allow our Lord to enter more deeply into our lives and to carry the Good News beyond our own community.

A BEGINNING PRAYER

Lord our God, spread the light of Your Holy Gospel, that it may shine through us who are baptized, as children of the Light. Grant that the Christian faith may spread in our society, that we may bear witness to Your living presence in our lives and in our parish community; O Lord, hear us and have mercy. O Holy Spirit, bestowing all: You send prophets, perfect priests, teach the uneducated and unite the entire church community. Consubstantial and co-reigning with the Father and the Son, O Comforter, glory be to You!

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

SCRIPTURE READING ... he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit ... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

PRAYER FOR - THE ASCENSION

You, O Lord, ascended into heaven, from where You came. Do not leave us orphans, and may Your Holy Spirit come and bring peace to the world. Show the sons of man the works of your might, O Lord, lover of mankind.

PRAYER - FRIDAY MAY 11th

Take this lighted candle, and strive throughout your entire lifetime to shine brightly with the light of faith and of good deeds, so that, when the Lord will come, you may go forth in radiance to meet Him together with all the Saints, and may enter unhindered into the court of His heavenly glory and reign with Him throughout all the ages. Amen.

MISSIONARY TASK

Find out the date of your Baptism, and the name of the priest, who baptized you. Pray for your godparents, for the priest who baptized you, for your own godchildren, for those that are now preparing for Baptism, and for all those who still do not know Christ.

PRAYER - SATURDAY, MAY 12th

Make the pure light of Your Divine knowledge shine in our hearts, O loving Master. Open the eyes of our minds that we may understand the message of Your gospel. Instill in us the fear of your blessed commandments that we may subdue all carnal desires and follow a spiritual way of life, thinking and doing all that pleases You. For You, O Christ our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies, and we give glory to You, together with Your eternal Father and Your most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

MISSIONARY TASK

Give a copy of the Bible (or write out those passages which appeal to you most) and give it to a friend who does not have a copy, or does not usually read the Bible. In your family circle discuss a passage of the Sunday Gospel or a point in the homily that made an impression on you.

PRAYER - SUNDAY, MAY 13th

All the choirs of the hierarchs, mighty luminaries of the Ukrainian Church! As faithful followers of the apostles and as good shepherds, you you led it along paths of truth and carefully fed it with spiritual food, not hesitating to give up your lives for your sheep. Therefore, together with Saint Josaphat priest-martyr, implore the

Chief Shepherd, Christ God, for the Ukrainian nation faithfulness to His commandments and great mercy for our souls.

MISSIONARY TASK

Ask an elder person to share with you what he remembers or knows about our Church in the underground. Share a book about the martyrs of our Church, or at least speak of them to a friend, who knows little or nothing about them.

PRAYER - MONDAY, MAY 14th

Venerable fathers of the Monastery of the Caves, Anthony the Ukrainian Church, and all the countless righteous ones, who followed in their footsteps, dedicating their lives to God! You shine forth as an example of Christian perfection, and you teach us by prayer and self-denial to model ourselves on Christ-God for the salvation of our souls. Therefore, implore the good God, that we may be made worthy of your intercession, and that together with you, through prayer of Christ and our Ukrainian nation mercy and God's bountiful blessings.

MISSIONARY TASK

Pray for the gift of religious vocations from our parish community, for those who are already serving in the consecrated life, for their perseverance, and blessing.

PRAYER - TUESDAY MAY 15TH

O, Source of wisdom and grace. Open my sinful lips and teach me the manner in which and for what needs I should pray. For You know the great multitude of my sins, but their enormity can be vanquished by Your loving-kindness. Guide my life along your ways, for You govern all of Your wisdom; show me the way in which I should walk, O tranquil Haven of those who are turbulently perplexed. Grant the Spirit of Your wisdom to my deliberations, giving the Spirit of understanding to my ignorance. With the Spirit of Your fear, overshadow my deeds and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

MISSIONARY TASK

Read Mk 1:21-35 and try to see yourself as a disciple, who spends an entire day with his Teacher. Afterwards, spend the next day in the spirit of one who follows Christ.

PRAYER - WEDNESDAY MAY 16TH

The blessed preachers of Christ received the torch of the Holy Spirit; they spoke with divine inspiration, using few words, but rich in meaning. They proclaimed with boldness the doctrines of the Gospel and the traditions of righteousness. Clearly, they have been illumined with truth from on high; The blessed preachers of

Christ received the torch of the Holy Spirit; they spoke with divine inspiration, using few words, but rich in meaning. They proclaimed with boldness the doctrines of the Gospel and the traditions of righteousness. Clearly, they have been illumined with truth from on high; they have made firm the foundation of the faith as a strong mountain.

MISSIONARY TASK

Each day I will through study of the foundations of faith, through prayer, and works of mercy. I will be ready to explain and defend the faith, if someone disrespects or attacks the Church

PRAYER - THURSDAY, MAY 17TH

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MISSIONARY TASK

Discover if in our family, parish, among our friends, parishioners, and people I personally know, there are any who witnessed to Jesus Christ with their life, having undergone persecution in the underground. How does their example speak to me today, how does it inspire me?

PRAYER - FRIDAY MAY 18TH

Having put on the breastplate of faith and having armed yourselves with the cross as a sword, you showed yourselves to be mighty warriors. You courageously opposed the persecutors, destroyed the deception of the devil, and victorious, you were granted crowns. Pray ever in our behalf that our souls be saved.

MISSIONARY TASK

Let us pray accept our different difficulties and challenges in life according to God's way, with joy, knowing that I am not alone, but that our Lord Jesus Christ walks with me and helps me. Let us pray unceasingly for our neighbors (husband, wife, children, grandchildren, friends, and enemies) and carry them to Jesus in our prayers.

PRAYER - SATURDAY MAY 19TH

O Lord, our God, for the salvation of the human race, you sent your Only-begotten Son and God, Our Lord Jesus Christ, look now upon your servants listed for baptism grant them at the appropriate time the bath of rebirth, the forgiveness of sins and eternal garments. Unite them to your Catholic and Apostolic Church and Unite them to your Catholic and Apostolic Church and number them as members of your flock.

MISSIONARY TASK

Sharing with others the joy of salvation in Jesus Christ is the greatest expression of love and our mission in the world. Pray for our missionaries in Eastern Ukraine, in Kazakhstan, in Russia and other areas. Generously support those, who already serve in parish community might join in the mission

PRAYER - SUNDAY, MAY 20TH

Almighty, God, King of Glory, Jesus Christ, You who love the human race with Your whole heart, and in Your providential wisdom You continually care for each nation, look mercifully on our Ukrainian nation, as well as the the United States, the mission entrusted to it (them) by God. Amen.

MISSIONARY TASK

With a new zeal, let us endeavor to share with others our experience of faith and the joy of salvation in Jesus Christ. Our Lord entrusts our parish community with the task of opening human hearts to Him, proclaiming a new life in Christ in our villages, towns, cities, unto the end of the earth.

These ten days of *Prayers* and *Missionary Tasks* are meant to increase our awareness that it is the responsibility of all Christians to bear witness to Jesus Christ in our world. It requires **ACTION** - deeds that testify to our understanding of this!