

# **Prayer and Faith Sharing for *Serving God's People and All Parish Meetings***

## **Outline of Meeting**

**Call to prayer** (1-3 min.)  
**Opening prayer** (1 min.)  
**Scripture reading** (2 min.)  
**Silent reflection** (1 min.)  
**Commentary** – optional (2 min.)  
**Silent reflection** – optional (1 min.)  
**Faith sharing in twos or threes** (7 min.)  
**Large group sharing** (5 min.)

## **Business of Meeting**

**Petitions** (2-3 min.)  
**Closing Prayer** (2-3 min.)

## **Annotated Outline for Prayer and Faith Sharing**

### **Theme**

Choose a theme ahead of time, based on the liturgical readings, agenda of the meeting, current experience in the parish, secular season, issue in the community, etc.

### **Call to Prayer: (1-3 min.)**

A song, a greeting, explanation of theme or a focus question (not necessarily for sharing) to get participants settled into the space and become aware of God's presence.

### **Opening prayer: (1 min.)**

To call upon God's support and give God praise and thanks for blessings and challenges.

Suggested Prayer:

### ***Prayer in Time of Change***

Beloved Jesus, anoint us to do your will.

May the joy of your dwelling in us draw us closer to each other.

**Expand** our vision to recognize your plan;

**warm** our hearts by the flame of your Love;

**open** our lips so that we can speak your Word;

**extend** our arms so that we can embrace each other as your people;

**speak** to us so we can discern the role you have for us, your Body, your Church.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit, empowering us to become vital expressions of growth in your changing Church.

Your Kingdom is now! Help us to discover and live your will. Amen.

Diocese of Albany.  
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**Scripture Reading: (2 min.)**

Choose a passage to read aloud which relates to your theme, the daily readings, or Sunday's Gospel. [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

Suggested Scripture:

Exodus 16:1-4 (How Hard Is Change)  
Jeremiah 29:10-14 (A Future with Hope)  
Matthew 5:3-12 (Beatitudes)  
Matthew 5:13-16, Mark 4:21-25, Luke 8:16-18, 11:33-36, 14:34-35 (Salt and Light)  
Matthew 6:19-21, 25-34, Luke 12:22-34 (Dependence on God)  
Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15 (The Parable of the Sower)  
Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21 (Walking on Water/Focus on Jesus)  
Matthew 16:13-20 (Peter the Rock)  
Matthew 19:16-30, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 12:13-21 (The Rich Man/Fool)  
Matthew 25:14-30 (The Parable of the Talents)  
Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:15 (Go Make Disciples of All Nations)  
Mark 10:35-45 (Christian Leadership)  
Mark 12:41-44, Luke 21:1-4 (Poor Widow's Contribution)  
Luke 6:27-36 (Love of Enemies)  
Luke 6:37-42 (Judging Others)  
Luke 8:43-48 (Your Faith Has Saved You)  
Luke 14:25-33 (Cost of Discipleship)  
Luke 24:13-25 (Walk to Emmaus)  
John 13:1-20 (Washing of the Disciple's Feet)  
John 15:1-17 (Vine and Branches)  
Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-37 (Life in the Christian Community)  
Romans 12:3-8 (Many Parts in One Body)  
Romans 12:9-21 (Mutual Love)

**Silent Reflection: (1 min.)**

A period of silence to reflect on and perhaps reread the passage. Suggested questions to ponder:

1. What in this passage attracts me or draws me in?
2. What causes resistance?

**Commentary (Optional): (2 min.)**

Read and reflect on a short commentary. If reflecting on the Sunday readings, here are some suggested resources:

- [www.ascensioncatholic.net/pages/faith\\_formation/adult\\_faith\\_formation/small\\_christian\\_communities.php](http://www.ascensioncatholic.net/pages/faith_formation/adult_faith_formation/small_christian_communities.php)
- *Quest*, Archdiocese of Hartford <http://www.sccquest.org/quest/quest.html>
- *PrayerTime*, RENEW International <https://www.renewintl.org/RENEW/estore.nsf?OpenDatabase>
- *Exploring the Sunday Readings*, Twenty-Third Publications [www.store.pastoralplanning.com/exsurereforb.html](http://www.store.pastoralplanning.com/exsurereforb.html)
- *At Home with the Word*, Liturgy Training Publications <http://www.ltp.org/p-2077-at-home-with-the-word-2010.aspx>

### **Silent Reflection on Commentary (Optional): (1 min.)**

### **Faith-Sharing – in twos or threes: (7 min.)**

Prepare two or three questions which invite participants to connect the reading to their own lives or to the life of the community. You do not need to cover all the questions – they are there to initiate the sharing. These are questions which will fit every reading...

1. What draws/attracts me in this Gospel? Is there any resistance? Why?
2. How does this passage connect with my everyday life?
3. How is the Spirit calling me to respond to God in prayer/action?

### **Summary of what was shared in twos or threes may be shared with the larger group: (5 min.)**

The leader invites members to share what they may have noticed about what they heard or what they reflected on in the reading or responses to the questions. Be sure not to share what someone else said without their permission.

The leader then transitions the faith sharing into the formation component or the business of the meeting, reminding all to keep the Scripture and sharing in mind as the meeting continues.

### **Business of the Gathering/Meeting:**

Proceed with the agenda items, always reflecting on God's word.

### **Conclusion of Meeting - Response in Prayer/Action: Intercessory Prayer/Petitions (2-3 min.)**

Take a few moments to bring to mind action steps from the business of the meeting. Invite the group to name their own needs or the needs of the parish especially from the sharing and the business of the meeting. When all have voiced their needs, say "For these prayers and all those we hold deep in our hearts..."

### **Closing Prayer: (2-3 min.)**

Use a prayer, blessing or song to send the participants forth to live their faith.

Suggested Prayer:

#### ***Living Eucharist***

Loving God, true source of inspiration and hope,  
bless us on our pilgrimage of faith as the Diocesan family of St. Petersburg.  
Deepen our love and commitment to your Son Jesus Christ in whose mission we share. May we  
continue to be nourished by his Word and  
transformed by the gift of his Body and Blood in the Eucharist.  
Let Christ's presence shine through our lives and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
send us into the world as instruments of mercy and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.  
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray with us and for us.

Diocese of St. Petersburg