

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in December, 2021

Introduction

Leader Mary traveled to help her cousin Elizabeth in her time of need. Knowing that family and friends will come to our aid in time of need is a treasured gift.

Opening Prayer

All God of love, the example of Mary traveling to her cousin, Elizabeth, reminds us of the gift of caring family and friends. Help us to offer such care and hospitality to those we are called to assist. Increase our love through our generosity. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Word of God Luke 1:39-45

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Luke (Pause for silent reflection)

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's. ***The reading is on the reverse side.***

1. What are some examples in your family of outstanding support in time of need?
2. What are some important ways your family reaches out to others during the Christmas season?

Response (Taken from Luke 1:39-45)

Side 1 "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Side 2 Elizabeth recognized Mary as God's holy one. May we be grateful for our Mother Mary.

Side 1 "How does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Side 2 Elizabeth's humility can inspire us to return thanks to God for all of the ways we are blessed with gifts, both daily and in surprising ways.

Side 1 "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Side 2 As we near the feast of Christmas, may our hearts be filled with joy in knowing that Jesus became one of us. We celebrate with profound joy.

Petitions Individuals add special intentions

Closing Prayer

All God of goodness, we are grateful that you chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus. May she pray for us and all families as we prepare for the feast of Christmas, a special time of reaching out in love. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

Luke 1:39-45

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said,

“Most blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

Blessed are you who believed
that what was spoken to you by the Lord
would be fulfilled.”