

Embracing our Present,  
Cherishing our Past,



PRAYER  
PRAYER DEVOTIONAL  
DEVOTIONAL

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God is good — all the time!

Prayer has been and continues to be an integral part of our parish life here at Epiphany. We look to the future as a community of faith and now place our trust in God to guide us as we prepare for our parish's next 50 years.

Members of our community have graciously put together this prayer guide to assist us as we trust in God to bless our capital campaign efforts. Our prayer gives glory to God, expresses our gratitude for God's love and blessings, and asks God's attentiveness to our needs. Praise, thanksgiving, and petition all help us grow in our abiding faith in God with us.

Our parish was established through prayerful discernment and intentional response. The very name of our parish, Epiphany, calls us to a relationship with God that is best expressed in prayer.

We hope this prayer guide will be a blessing for you and assist you as you remember our parish in your prayers.

All the time — God is good!

God bless you,  
Fr. Randy Hubbard

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Epiphany Catholic Church



## HOW TO USE THE DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

1. Use the devotional guide daily for seven days to pray and reflect. The Holy Spirit will guide you when you listen with your heart.
2. At the end of the seven days of spiritual reflection, complete the pledge card with the amount you believe the Holy Spirit is leading you to give.
3. Decide the amount of your three-year pledge that you want to give now. Use the pink envelope marked "Kick-Off Offering" for your first gift of the three-year pledge.
4. Place both the pink envelope with your initial offering, and the completed pledge card indicating your total three-year pledge, inside the parish-addressed mailing envelope.
5. Bring this mailing envelope, with the above in it, to one of the Masses on Pledge Commitment Weekend - May 22/23. The presiding priest will invite you to present the envelope during Mass at the appropriate time.
6. If you know you will be out-of-town on Pledge Commitment Weekend May 22/23, mail your parish-addressed envelope with your pledge card and pink envelope to the parish office.

### Day 1: **BE NOT AFRAID**

*Deposit generosity in your storerooms and it will release you from misfortune.*

**Sirach 29:12**

Many people experience economic problems that do not seem to go away. Others clutch things to themselves in anticipation of an event that may never happen. It seems so easy to allow fear and a quiet greed to smother the generosity of our hearts. People seem afraid that they will not have enough. I have experienced a lot of that financial insecurity in my life. Having lived through putting a loved one in a nursing home and wondering if there will be enough money to take care of all his needs, I found that through prayer and faith God does provide. God did and always will. So I'm convinced that the "pay it forward" attitude is exactly what God intended when God told us to love one another.

#### **Prayer**

*"O gracious God, who so generously lavishes our lives with goodness, create in our hearts a deep center of gratitude, a center that grows so strong in its thanksgiving that sharing freely of our treasures becomes the norm and the pattern of our existence. Remind us often of how much you cherish us, of how abundantly you have offered gifts to us, especially in the hours of our greatest need. May we always be grateful for your reaching into our lives with surprises of joy, growth, and unearned love. Amen."*

— "Used with permission of the author, Joyce Rupp. [www.joycerupp.com](http://www.joycerupp.com)"

#### **Personal Reflection**

1. Take some prayer time to reflect on all the gifts you have in your life. Make a list of all these gifts.
2. Are there people, things, and intangibles in your life to which you cling and which you do not hold freely in open hands?
3. Which ones are you willing to share?

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**Day 4: OPEN MY EARS, LORD**

*Do not let your hands be outstretched to receive, yet closed when the time comes to give back.*

**Sirach 4:31**

This scripture quote causes me to pause and wonder how often this applies to me. Reflecting on the abundance around me, how do I do my part? Am I aware of the times I could give back or give more? There are clichés buzzing in my head; “All I have is all I need” and “You can never outgive the Lord.” Do I only give from my excess? Have I ever given from my substance? How did that play out?

**Prayer**

*Help me Lord to see the many blessings in my life. Those times you have gifted me, but my eyes were blind. How generous you are in all things large and small. Open my ears to hear your voice calling me to share my gifts. Loosen my fists that hold so tightly to what I think of as mine alone. Give me the heart to love as you taught, and share willingly as I am called.*

**Personal Reflection**

1. Ask the Holy Spirit, “What am I being led to do?”
2. Listen.

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**Day 5: WE ARE CALLED**

*He said to them, “Go throughout the whole world and preach the Gospel to all mankind.”*

**Mark 16:15**

In Pope Francis’s encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, he shares with all humankind Christ’s challenge to St. Francis of Assisi in 1205:

*“Francis, go and repair my house which, as you see, is falling into ruin.”*

Note the divine command: “Go and Repair My House!” The challenge the Lord gave to Francis over 800 years ago still applies today. We are to work out together how to share the Good News. We cannot bury or hoard the gifts we are given. We are called not to put our light under a basket, but to put it where all can see. We are to be the Good News in present tense.

**Prayer**

*Lord, because of the virus I miss sitting in church at Epiphany prior to Mass just looking out the window. What a beautiful place to be. Thank you for the reminder of what I often forget: the lives we are given are saturated with beauty and wonder. If only we will notice. The people with whom we live, the places we see most often, the things we pass by without a second thought, they all deserve attention — reverent, grateful, joyful attention. Amen.*

**Personal Reflection**

1. Take a minute to reflect on what I see when I sit prior to Mass.
2. When I hear: “Go and Repair My House,” what do I think of?
3. Am I the Good News as I meet the world each day?

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**Day 6: OPEN MY HEART, LORD**

*If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

**1 John 3:17-18**

We are all so very loved and blessed! How often do we just stop in silence and awe, with open eyes, and see? We need to take in and embrace all that we have as gifts from God. As believers, we want to use these gifts to help others. We have so many opportunities and calls for help.

**Prayer**

*Lord, open my heart to give generously. May our Celebrating Our Future Capital Campaign provide funds for Epiphany's facilities to help us grow. All living things need water, so let our gifts bring a growing, thriving, and fruitful church to worship and praise God with actions and in truth. Amen.*

**Personal Reflection**

1. In what ways do I contribute to our church?
2. Can I do more?
3. Will I do more?
4. Pray for God's guidance.

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**Day 7: THERE IS A RIVER**

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*

**Proverbs 11:24-25**

How can we give something away, yet become richer? Or water something, yet ourselves be watered? Reflection and prayer led us to see that by giving we become richer, not in money but in spirit, personal fulfillment, and awareness of life's priorities and the abundance of our blessings. Made in God's image, we are innately called to humbly give and to build deeper, more meaningful connections with our community. These connections are like a grapevine that we water and prune year after year, patiently waiting for the grapes to grow. Genuine giving of our time, talent, and treasure means that not only will we reap and enjoy the fruits in this life, but future generations will be fed and inspired to continue tending the grapevine. They may even grow the grapevine further, allowing them to feed more!

**Prayer**

*Thank you, God, for this day, for our health, and for the blessings you have given us. We acknowledge the opportunities you provide us to grow and better spread your Word. Guide us to better use our time, talents, and treasures to "water" our community and faith. Please bless our community, make us stronger, happier, more resilient, and allow us to grow in faith. Amen.*

**Personal Reflection**

1. Can you think of an example of someone who has given their time, talent, and treasure? How have their good deeds made them richer?
2. Can you think of someone who has withheld their time, talent, and treasure? Are they satisfied, or are they yearning for more?
3. If I were to give more, would I feel more deeply connected to my community? Would I feel deprived or restricted?

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**Epiphany Catholic Church**

914 Old Harrods Creek Rd. • Louisville, KY 40223 • 502.245.9733  
[epiphanycatholicchurch.org](http://epiphanycatholicchurch.org)