

On The Anniversary



Of A Death

From the Catholic Conference of Kentucky Pro-Life Committee

Notes on Using the Prayer Service

The services in this collection were designed for a variety of settings, and we encourage you to adapt them to your particular needs. The role of the leader can be shared by one or more persons. Some advance preparation such as handouts or candles may be required. Suggested hymns are widely available.

GATHERING HYMN *Come to Me (Weston Priory)*

GATHERING PRAYER

Leader: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

Leader: God of Life, we gather today to honor the memory of (name). We pray for your comfort and compassion. We believe in your promise to be with us always. May we trust in you without reservation, knowing that your love sustains us through all trials.

Heal our weakness and strengthen our faith. Give us the courage to extend your compassion to a grieving world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our brother, savior, and friend, now and forever.

Response: Amen.

ACT OF COMMEMORATION

Leader: We all knew (name) in different ways. I invite each of you to take a moment to describe your connection to (him, her). Tell us your name, your relationship, and share a memory.

[For a deceased or stillborn infant, suggest recollections of the anticipated birth.]

Pause after each contribution for silent reflection.

Leader: Those who have gone before us influence us still. We recall their example. We ask them to intercede for us. Let us reflect on how (name) has been a blessing to us, even in death. I invite you, if anyone is willing, to tell us of a grace received through (name).

Pause after each contribution for silent reflection.

SCRIPTURE

Reading: (*John 6:37–40*) A reading from the Gospel of John.

“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it [on] the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him [on] the last day.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Pause for silent reflection.

LITANY

Leader: Many children of God have preceded (name) into eternal life. That their intercession may bring (him, her) peace and ease our sorrow, we pray to the Lord. Please respond: *Pray for us.*

Leader: Holy Mary, Mother of God. **Response:** Pray for us.

Saint Joseph. (*Response*)

Holy Apostles and Martyrs. (*Response*)

(Name)’s patron saint, Saint (patron). (*Response*)

(Name)’s favorite saints: (name one by one). (*Response after each*)

All holy women and men. (*Response*)

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Many people in (name)'s life preceded (him, her) into eternity. For all of them, we pray to the Lord. Please respond: May they rest in peace.

Leader: For (his, her) parents, (name) and (name), we pray to the Lord.

Response: May they rest in peace.

For (his, her) other departed relatives, (names), we pray to the Lord. (Response)

For (his, her) departed friends, (names), we pray to the Lord. (Response)

For anyone in need of (name)'s forgiveness, we pray to the Lord. (Response)

PRAYER The Lord's Prayer

Leader: In our eternal home there will be no more tears, sorrow, or pain. Filled with faith and hope, **we call on our Father as Jesus taught us.**

Response: Our Father, who art in heaven.... Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: God of Hope, we thank you for the graces of this time spent together in prayer. We believe that (name)'s life has been changed, not taken away. In your providence, increase the harvest of blessings through (name)'s intercession. Forgive any wrongs (he, she) did while among us. Forgive too those who wronged (him, her) or caused (him, her) harm. We whose many trespasses have been forgiven ask this kindness in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord forever and ever.

Response: Amen.

Leader: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another.

Response: Amen.

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