

(Pray in the Spirit often)

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with gratitude, let your needs be made known to God. And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatever is honorable, whatever is true, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is virtuous, if there be any excellence and if anything be worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these. Do everything you have learned from me and the God of peace shall be with you" -- Philippians 4:6-9

Prayer Watch Focus (rev C – 9/8/2010)

(The following prayers can be prayed aloud as part of each prayer watch. You may want to begin by reciting psalms of praise. Here is a short list: Psalms 8, 19, 33, 96, 100, 103, 104, 111, 113, 135, 138, 149)

Beginning Prayer

Dear Blessed Mother Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, please pray with me as I lift up my community to the Father.

Father God, I receive this hour as a gift from you. Please bless those who have prayed before me and hold them in your heart. I undertake this watch as a solemn responsibility on behalf of all my brothers and sisters in the City of the Lord. I will endeavor to be faithful to fulfill the purpose of the watch and to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Dear Holy Spirit, fill me with your Living Water. Lead me and use me to be a source of Living Water for my community family. I desire to be receptive and committed to you personally. You are our founder. Continue to establish your culture and your personality in City of the Lord. Help us to grow deeper in love with the Most Holy Trinity and with each other in true covenant love. I ask you to keep me alert and mindful, and I ask you to hear our prayers as a community. It is our desire to live our lives fully under the Lordship, the protection and the provision of Jesus. We want to live fully, totally and radically for Jesus and to further the coming of his kingdom. Forgive us for all the ways that we fall

short of this commitment. We ask you to remove any barriers that would hinder our prayers or our warfare.

A Binding Prayer for Protection

In the name of Jesus Christ, by the power of His cross and blood, I bind the spirits, powers and forces of the earth, the underground, the air, the water, the fire, the netherworld and the satanic forces of nature. I pray specifically against the strongholds of confusion and control.

I rebuke any curses, hexes or spells sent against us and send them directly to Jesus for Him to deal with as He will. Lord, I ask You to bless our enemies by sending Your Holy Spirit to lead them to repentance.

I bind all interplay, interaction and communication of evil spirits. I claim the protection of the shed blood of Jesus Christ over City of the Lord. Thank You for Your protection, Lord. Amen.

COTL Agreements (Adapted for use in this prayer focus)

1. Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to love, support, serve and honor one another, as brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to conduct our relationships with one another in the “fruit of the Holy Spirit”, according to God’s Word: eager to build one another up in the Lord, quick to forgive and ask forgiveness, to exhort and admonish one another, respectful, upbuilding, and loyal in our speech.
3. Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to handle personal difficulties and disagreements in the way prescribed by the Community.
4. Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to set aside a significant amount of time each day for personal prayer and for reading Scripture as God’s revealed Word.

5. Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to be faithful in our commitments to Community gatherings and activities, and to service in the Community, in the Church and in outreach.
6. Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to contribute regularly and faithfully to the financial support of the Community by contributing at least 50% of my tithe to the Community.
7. Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to respect and commit ourselves to the way of life established among us, especially as set forth by the Covenant.
8. Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to receive gratefully the appropriate guidance of those in the Community who are designated to exercise pastoral care for us as individuals and as members of groups; especially when major changes in lifestyle, vocation or commitments are involved.
9. Lord Jesus, strengthen our resolve to recognize and honor the pastoral guidance of the Coordinators and elected Leaders over our life together and to commit ourselves in a special way to support their office, to encourage them, and to pray for them. *(Pray now for the leaders.)*
10. Lord Jesus, strengthen the resolve of each person to be held to this Covenant and these Agreements, and to hold one another to them.

The Community Prayer

Our Founding Charism...Receptivity and commitment to the person and culture of the Holy Spirit, particularly in covenant love.

"Rise up in splendor! Your light has come; the glory of the Lord shines upon you...They shall call you "City of the Lord" ...And the Lord shall be your light forever; Your God shall be your glory." Isaiah 60

Merciful God and Father,

I come into your presence as a member of City of the Lord. I thank you for calling us together under the lordship of Jesus Christ to be a sign in the world of that City whose builder and maker is God.

I pray for a fresh outpouring of your Holy Spirit on City of the Lord this day--that through the power of the Holy Spirit we will grow in gratitude and love for you and for each other, in faithfulness to our Covenant and in generosity of prayer and service.

I ask you to bless City of the Lord in all its locations, and to safeguard the unity of the body. May your mercy and protection be upon each of my brothers and sisters today, especially those for whom I now pray:

...for families and marriages; engaged couples, singles, single parents, and widowed;

...for all our children, teenagers, and students;

...for couples who wish to conceive, and for pregnant women and their children in the womb;

...for those who are sick or suffering, especially with long-term illness;

...for the Branch Leaders, members of the Council, their families and households;

...for all pastoral leaders, heads of ministries and outreaches;

...for the work of Living Water Retreat Center and Catholic Family Life;

...for our priests and religious, those living a life consecrated to the Lord, and our brothers and sisters pursuing vocations in the Church;

...for those serving on mission or away from the body;

...for those undergoing temptation, doubt, or confusion;

...for our faithful departed and the next member who will die;

...and for the member of City of the Lord most in need of your mercy and our prayers this day.

Through Jesus, who is our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Renewal

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I come before you Lord as a citizen of that city whose builder and maker is God, the City of the Lord. I thank you Lord for giving us a life together and for pouring out your gifts upon us. I repent for clinging to the old and I welcome the new power and new gifts you have promised us in Your Tsunami of Grace. You have chosen us as your people. You have chosen us to be vessels of your love and mercy and as such vessels I ask for you to move in power, to guide us as a body and to give us a fresh revelation of who You are. Help us Lord in our ignorance; strip away anything stopping us from becoming Sons of God. Renew us in the gifts given to us at our baptism. Renew us Father in our four wells of living water for we know we will be held to account for them. Give us a fuller understanding of your Holy Spirit, Worship, Covenant Love and Repentance so that a new wave of Your grace may flow from each and bring forth life in abundance. Grant us the grace so that we may offer our whole lives for Your work because we are called to labor with You. As Your friend I ask for boldness and confidence as I proclaim Your good news.

Prayer for Leadership

Father, you have instituted leadership and authority as a means for guiding, protecting and providing for us. Lord, we ask for grace for our Council, Branch Leaders, support group heads, ministry heads, and the spouses and families of all whom you have called to lead City of the Lord. I ask you to bless all staff members and administrators. I ask you to bless husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, and all who are in roles of family leadership. I ask you to bless Pope Benedict, Bishop (name him), my pastor (name him) and all our church and governmental leaders. Lord, strengthen us as a people to follow the leadership which you have placed over us, and to support it wholeheartedly through encouragement, correction, prayer and openness.

Prayer for Protection and Good Health

Lord Jesus, I ask for your protecting hand to be over all our people. I pray that you will keep us from serious illness, and that you will adjust our

lifestyles where needed so that we can be strong and healthy as we build your kingdom. I ask that you protect us from any form of calamity or accident, and that you help us be prudent, careful and attentive in all our undertakings. I ask you to protect all our homes, cars and possessions from thievery or vandalism, and to protect all our people from any acts of violence. I ask you, Lord, to bring peace to each of our cities, neighborhoods and homes. Protect us when traveling and protect and sustain all those who are living apart from our branches.

Jesus, I bring into your Presence all of my brothers and sisters who are suffering from physical or emotional illnesses (*Pause here to name them*). Just as you healed the paralytic, Lord, please heal all of these loved ones. I place my confidence in your tremendous love. Lord, I ask that you protect us from all the designs of the enemy to hurt or hinder us. I pray specifically against the spirits of... (*name them*). I acknowledge that you are sovereign over every area of our lives. Lord, I trust in you.

Prayer for Our Tithe

Malachi 3:10 ~ *“Bring the full tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house; and thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”*

God, our Father, thank You for who You are – that in Your great love for us, You will never leave nor forsake us, that You will provide for our needs. Father, in Scripture You ask us to bring our full tithes to You, to put You to the test, and that You will open the windows of heaven and pour down Your overflowing blessing on us. Father, help us to breakthrough our present way of thinking about our finances. Renew our minds and hearts with Your truth, fill us with joyful repentance, great confidence and expectant faith in You. Father God, pour down Your favor upon us and bring us to a higher revelation of who You are for us. In Your great generosity, Father, multiply our tithes and offerings to You so that City of the Lord and our families might truly prosper financially beyond our immediate and future needs – more than we could ever ask or imagine – all

to the honor and glory of Your name! With hearts full of gratitude and thanksgiving, Father, thank You for Your promise to us. Amen.

Prayer for Provision

Lord Jesus, I ask you to provide for our physical and material needs, individually and as a people. I ask you to provide well-paying, meaningful jobs for the unemployed and the underemployed in our midst ... (*name them*). I ask that you prosper all of our members who operate a business and those who work in sales with many good customers, clients and accounts. I ask you to bless the finances of the community and all of our branches and outreaches. Lord, I ask you to rebuke the devourer for our sake according to Your Word. Lord, teach us to be provident and resourceful and help us to live in Christian simplicity so that we may expend ourselves and our resources in building your kingdom.

Lord, I ask you to look upon this nation and the nations of the world in Your mercy. Bless those who bless you. Prosper those who cooperate in good will. Subdue those who are enemies of your love. Blessed Mother Mary, Mother of the Universal Church, I pray with you, for all of your children to be brought fully into the heart of your Son.

Prayer for Generations

Lord Jesus, you are the author and finisher of all life. You value us from the moment we are conceived until and beyond the moment we die. Please guard and protect all pregnant mothers and unborn children. Help us to be a people who respect and foster life and especially to be a people who live under the law of love. Help us, Lord Jesus, to be willing and able to have families and to raise children in a way pleasing to you. Give us the fortitude to withstand the spirit of the age and the gentleness to help each child come into their own unique and personal relationship with you. Help each child as they grow towards maturity to make wise life decisions, especially concerning school, career and vocation and protect them in the process of dating, courtship, and marriage. For our single people called to marriage we ask that you bring to our community men and women of virtue who can become worthy spouses.

Help those called to the priesthood or consecrated life to find the right path for the fulfillment of their call. Help each of our singles to find joy in loving and serving you. Strengthen our marriages. Help us to remain fruitful and productive in our later years, living our lives for you. Help us to be a haven for the elderly and a support for those who care for them. Lord Jesus may we be a community for all ages. Help us to sustain our life as a people through many generations. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, please pray for all of us, whatever our state in life, whatever our age, that we live in a manner that would glorify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

City of the Lord Prayer for Children (of any age)
Entrustment of our sons and daughters to the Holy Family

Dear Jesus, Mary and Joseph, we are confident in your love for us. We desire to entrust our sons and daughters to your constant care. Before all the angels and saints and before You, Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament, we desire to place our trust in You.

We give You all of our children, particularly (name those on your heart). Please cover them with the mantle of Your protection, keeping them unspotted by the sins of the flesh. Give them a love for every virtue, especially chastity and prudence. Make them sensitive to the insidious allure of the Ruler of this Age. In the Holy Name of Jesus we bind the interference and influence of the Ruler of this Age. We pull down the demonic strongholds of confusion, mistrust and independence with the mighty weapons of faith, hope and covenant love.

Prepare their hearts, dear Blessed Mother, to hear the call of your Son on their lives, wherever it may lead them. Saint Joseph, please pray that they gain a deepening desire for Jesus, His Word, His Church and the Sacraments.

Holy Spirit you are our Founder. Please help our children grow in love and appreciation for our life together in City of the Lord. Please remove all obstacles that prevent us from sharing this life generously with them and all obstacles that prevent them from receiving the precious gift of our covenant life. Amen

Outreach Prayer

Father, you have not created us for ourselves; you have made us for yourself and for others. Help us as a people to reach out of our life and be a blessing to many. Invigorate our outreach and help us be fruitful in bringing people under the umbrella of your love. Help us to evangelize the lost, to teach those in need of instruction and to serve those made needy by the circumstances of their lives. Keep us from all condescension. Let us love others as you love them. Help us to be sources of healing for the broken-hearted and light for a generation lost in darkness. Help us always to incorporate new people into our life and to exhibit the warm heart of hospitality. Lord, bless and gift all those who are specifically tasked by us in the areas of ministry, mission, music, outreach, evangelization and social service, and help all of us to be conduits of your saving love. Lord, pour out your Holy Spirit on us again, today. Increase the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit in our body. Make us receptive to the Person and the Culture of the Holy Spirit. Help us to be people who are filled with the Spirit and led by the Spirit. I reach out now to the saints, the Apostles, the martyrs and the Church Triumphant, particular the members of our heavenly branch, please pray for us and for our work.

Communication Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the Word made flesh. Your communication is perfectly clear. Lord, help our communications with everyone be clear. Help us to be active listeners as well as clear speakers and writers. Bless especially all official communications of our community, those who receive them and those who prepare them.

Prayer against Terrorism

Father, I recognize that you are in charge of everything that happens. I pray that you will bring our nation into repentance and renewal. I pray also for all those who suffer from violence brought about by terrorists. Lord, protect our military men and women, police and fire personnel and all those responsible for our safety. In the name of Your Son, Jesus, I pray His most Precious Blood as protection over all believers around the world who are persecuted

for the Faith. Gracious Father, hear the prayers of your people. Protect us and those we love. Protect all people of good will. Bring righteousness to our world. Convert the hearts of the oppressors. We pray for your victory and your justice through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, Queen of Peace.

Scripture for protection -- Psalm 16:1-11, Psalm 33:12-22, Psalm 145:9-19, Matthew 6:25-34, Luke 12:6-8, Acts 17:24-28, Romans 8:28-38

Scripture for spiritual warfare – 2 Samuel:2-47, Psalm 17:1, 8-13, Psalm 18:2-4, Psalm 44:1-5, Psalm 55:1-8, Psalm 68:2-3, Psalm 91, Isaiah 13:4-6, Isaiah 66:14-15, Luke 10:18-19

Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

“God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and courage is the Lord, and He has been my savior.” (Isaiah 12:2) Amen.
Alleluia. Amen.”

Conclusion

Dear Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thank you for this time we have spent together. I now hand the prayer watch over. Please bless the person or persons who follow me. Give them the grace to remain faithful to their commitment.