**Give us This Day/Call to Faithfulness**

**Welcome: Joe**

Good evening and welcome to our prayer.

We pray the “Our Father” so often and we hear the words:

 *Give us this day our daily bread*

And so we gather this night to reflect on and to pray for *what we need* ***this*** *day*…

As we remember Mary, the mother of God, in a special way during this month of the Rosary, we look to her example of Faithfulness and we call upon her intercession for the needs of:

 ~Our world

 ~Our country

 ~Our parish

 ~Our families

 ~And for ourselves

Amidst the noise and hectic pace of life,

 we take this time to stop…to slow down

 and, with Mary, listen to the voice of our God, who is ever faithful to us.

 We come to this sacred space

to recall both the blessings and burdens of life…gaining strength through one another and the guidance of the Blessed Mother.

During the prayer tonight, there will be some readings and music and an extended time for meditation.

Please join in singing **\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_\_in the Breaking Bread

songbook…**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**…please stand.

**Scripture: Jack**

**A Reading from the Gospel of Luke**

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, her kinswoman.

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.”

 **The Gospel of the Lord**

**Song: Trish Scalese**

**Please join in singing: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Reading: Polly**

**The following is taken from the writings of Martin Weber**

We find the ultimate example of Faithfulness in the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus. But we need to know that, in truth, faithfulness to God can disrupt one’s life. Mary’s legendary submission to God’s will for her life did not spare her the pain or shame associated with radical faithfulness.

Mary’s fiancé doubted she was telling the truth. Imagine her impassioned appeal to the man she loved: “I wasn’t unfaithful to you or to God—please believe me!” Joseph didn’t. He decided to get rid of her, according to scripture, “Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.”

It took a dramatic visit from an angel to convince Joseph that Mary was telling the truth. Gabriel defended Mary’s faith and her faithfulness.

Meanwhile, Mary’s neighbors in Nazareth may have noticed her swelling abdomen. Sly looks and whispers of gossip would not have encouraged the young mother-to-be. Apparently desperate, Mary went to visit Elizabeth and Zechariah, finding shelter with the only couple in Israel who knew firsthand about angels announcing miracle pregnancies. They, after all, were awaiting the birth of their son, John.

Imagine Mary’s relief upon finally arriving at the home of Elizabeth, who greeted her with a Spirit-inspired affirmation: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” In this meeting between Elizabeth and Mary, we learn some important things for our own relationship with God and our call to faithfulness.

Mary teaches us that our faithfulness to God can be very difficult at times, and might cost us a great deal.

Elizabeth teaches that there might come a time when we will be the one who is called upon to support and affirm the faithfulness in someone else.

And most importantly, Mary and Elizabeth remind us that God is ever faithful to us even when those around us may turn away. God’s faithfulness knows no limits or conditions and carries us when we are most alone.

**PAUSE for about 20 seconds before you begin reading the part in red below.**

**We will now enter into an extended time of meditation. The Blessed Mother reaches out and touches the hearts and many needs of our human family.**

**You are invited to take time to reflect on the scripture and reading on your prayer sheet. In what ways are you being called to faithfulness?**

**If you would like, you are invited to come before the Statue of the Blessed Mother (either standing or kneeling) and offer the prayers of your heart to Mary.**

10-12 minutes There will be silence, then soft music, and a song

**Intercessions: Joe and Jack**

**Sung response:**

**[Trish will sing it once and then have congregation sing it twice. Soft music will continue to play as intercessions are read.]**

We entrust to Mary’s loving intercession the many places and people in need of God’s care:

 **JOE:**

**We remember:**

 ~Those caught in the cycle of addiction and those working for justice in addressing the opiod crisis.

 ~Those places throughout our world struggling in the aftermath of natural disasters.

 ~As we mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we pray for those who have lost their lives to breast cancer, for survivors, for those in the midst of treatment, and for those work in the area of research in finding a cure.

 ~As we mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we pray for all victims of domestic violence, for those trying to break free from dangerous situations, and those who continue to work tirelessly to bring awareness to this serious problem.

**Sung response 2x**

**JACK**

 **We pray for:**

 **~**An end to the violence and unrest in Hong Kong, Haiti, Afghanistan, Palestine, Israel Venezuela, and Syria.

 ~An end to the increasing threats of war and nuclear destruction

 ~~Assistance for refugees, immigrants, and those striving for a better life throughout the world and in particular, those suffering at our Southern Border

 ~As the weather turns colder, those who are homeless and in need of shelter and care,

**Sung response 2x**

 **JOE:**

**We entrust to God’s guidance:**

~Our president, congress, and all world leaders

 ~Those working to ensure healthcare for all

 ~The care of our earth and all its resources

 ~Those who serve in the military, especially those who have died and those injured.

**JACK**

 ~Those who are poor, sick, lonely, or burdened by life

 ~Those who are caregivers

 ~Those who have died

 ~Those prayers we hold within the silence of our hearts

**Sung response 2x**

**Closing: Polly**

**Please stand**

**Let us pray together:**

[SLOWLY]

**Our Father….**

**Hail Mary….**

**Glory Be….**

**Let us offer to one another a sign of Christ’s peace.**

As we go forth this night, let us sing together **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** found in the

**Breaking Bread songbook**… **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Give us This Day**

**Welcome: Joe**

**Song: (Trish)**

**Scripture: Jack**

**Song: sung refrain (Trish)**

**Reading: Polly**

**Time for Meditation: (Trish)**

**Intercessions: Joe and Jack**

**Closing: Polly**

**Song: (Trish)**

# ***Give Us This Day***

October 2019

**A Reading from the Gospel of Luke**

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, her kinswoman.

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.”

**The following is taken from the writings of Martin Weber**

We find the ultimate example of Faithfulness in the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus. But we need to know that, in truth, faithfulness to God can disrupt one’s life. Mary’s legendary submission to God’s will for her life did not spare her the pain or shame associated with radical faithfulness.

Mary’s fiancé doubted she was telling the truth. Imagine her impassioned appeal to the man she loved: “I wasn’t unfaithful to you or to God—please believe me!” Joseph didn’t. He decided to get rid of her, according to scripture, “Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.”

It took a dramatic visit from an angel to convince Joseph that Mary was telling the truth. Gabriel defended Mary’s faith and her faithfulness.

Meanwhile, Mary’s neighbors in Nazareth may have noticed her swelling abdomen. Sly looks and whispers of gossip would not have encouraged the young mother-to-be. Apparently desperate, Mary went to visit Elizabeth and Zechariah, finding shelter with the only couple in Israel who knew firsthand about angels announcing miracle pregnancies. They, after all, were awaiting the birth of their son, John.

Imagine Mary’s relief upon finally arriving at the home of Elizabeth, who greeted her with a Spirit-inspired affirmation: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” In this meeting between Elizabeth and Mary, we learn some important things for our own relationship with God and our call to faithfulness.

Mary teaches us that our faithfulness to God can be very difficult at times, and might cost us a great deal.

Elizabeth teaches that there might come a time when we will be the one who is called upon to support and affirm the faithfulness in someone else.

And most importantly, Mary and Elizabeth remind us that God is ever faithful to us even when those around us may turn away. God’s faithfulness knows no limits or conditions and carries us when we are most alone.

**Time of Meditation**

In what ways are you being called to faithfulness?

If you would like, you are invited to come before the Statue of the Blessed Mother (either standing or kneeling) and offer the prayers of your heart to Mary.

**Sung Response to the Intercessions**

O God, Hear Us; Hear Our Prayer.