**Give us This Day**

**Welcome:**

Good evening and welcome to our prayer.

We pray the Lord’s prayer 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*…

We pray for:

 our world

 our country

 our church, our parish

 our families

 for ourselves

And in a particular way tonight, we pray with 2 of the newest saints of our church. They were canonized last Sunday, October 14th…St. Pope Paul VI and

St. Archbishop Oscar Romero.

Considering the times in which we live…a time of crisis within our church and also within our country and world, the lives of these two holy men shine forth brightly and dispel the darkness. They bear witness to the life of Christ and challenge us in our own journey of discipleship.

Amidst the noise and hectic pace of life,

 we take this time for prayer… to stop…to slow down

 and to listen to God's gentle voice and experience God’s unconditional love.

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

Calling upon the spirit of Saints Pope Paul VI and Oscar Romer, please stand and join in singing our gathering song, #**418**, With All the Saints **#418** in the Breaking Bread Song Book

**Reading:**

**Let us listen to the words of St. Oscar Romero:**

“Each one of you has to be God’s microphone. Each one of you has to be a messenger, a prophet. The church will always exist as long as there is someone who has been baptized…Where is your baptism?

You are baptized in your professions, in the fields of workers, in the market. Wherever there is someone who has been baptized, that is where the church is. There is a prophet there. Let us not hide the talent that God gave us on the day of our baptism and let us truly live the beauty and responsibility of being a prophetic people.”

**PAUSE**

**Let us listen to the words of St. Pope Paul VI**

“[Peace is not merely the absence of war. Nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies. Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called as in the Book of Isaiah "an enterprise of justice." Peace results from that order structured into human society by its divine founder, and actualized by those who thirst after ever greater justice.](https://www.azquotes.com/quote/528867)

The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more urgent. Bringing the message of the Gospel is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize.”

**Reading:**

When Pope Paul VI and Archbishop Oscar Romero were both canonized on the same day a little over a week ago in Rome, it was not the first time their lives converged.

In fact, their paths crossed in significant ways during their lifetime.

In 1977, it was Pope Paul VI who appointed then Bishop Romero as the new Archbishop of San Salvador. And a little over a year later in the summer of 1978, the two men met in Rome. The meeting made such an impact on Archbishop Romero that he made note of it in his diary writing: “It has confirmed me in my desire to serve our people with love.”

One wonders whether or not the Pope worried for the safety of Archbishop Romero. Pope Paul VI died a little over a month after their meeting. And less than 2 years later on March 24, Romero would be dead…assassinated while at the altar saying mass.

It is said that both men were reserved by nature and yet, the circumstances of the times in which they lived thrust them into roles they most likely never could have imagined.

Pope Paul VI assumed the work of the Second Vatican Council after the death of Pope John XXIII. With enormous pressure from opposing sides, Pope Paul VI steered the church through the changes of Vatican II, and reached out beyond the walls of the Vatican to bring the Gospel to the world. He visited six continents and traveled to countries that were often forgotten and neglected. In 1965, he was the first Pope to visit the United States and during his address to the United Stations, boldly proclaimed: No More war; war never again!

Archbishop Romero, leading the church in El Salvador, during violent and dangerous times, reached out to the poorest of the poor. When other Bishops and government leaders urged him to stay out of politics, he became a voice for the voiceless, an advocate for those who were captured, tortured, killed, never to be seen again. Each Sunday, his homilies were broadcast throughout the country and even though he received numerous death threats, he believed that the place of the church needed to be alongside those who were suffering the most.

He stated: “A Church that does not join the poor in order to
speak out from the side of the poor against the injustices committed against them is not the true Church of Jesus Christ.”

 **PAUSE for a slow count of 10 SECONDS**

**We will now enter into a time of reflection. Take this time to consider the following questions:**

How are we, amidst the times in which we find ourselves, responding to God’s voice in our hearts?

How are we offering our lives on behalf of those who are most forgotten and those who most need to hear the message of Christ in their lives?

**What is a prayer intention that you hold within your heart? Through the intercession of Saints Pope Paul VI and Oscar Romero, you are invited to come forward to light a candle for that intention.**

**Intercessions: Joe Darcy**

**Sung response: O God, Hear Us: Hear our Prayer**

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

Through the intercession of St. Pope Paul VI and St. Oscar Romero, we entrust to God’s loving care the many places and people in need of God’s care:

 **We pray for:**

 ~Those suffering from the effects of the recent Hurricanes…especially in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida

 ~Those suffering under the violence in Syria, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Yeman

 ~ Refugees, immigrants, and those struggling to find a healthy and peaceful life for their families.

 ~Those caught in the cycle of addiction

**Sung response 2x**

 **Through the life of Saints Pope Paul VI and Oscar Romero, we remember and pray for:**

~All those who work tirelessly each day for peace and non-violence throughout the world.

 ~The people of El Salvador who continue to suffer with terrible violence in their country

 ~All those who are poor and marginalized and forgotten by society

 ~Those places in our world where suppression and persecution hinder one’s freedom to follow the Gospel of Christ.

**Sung response 2x**

 **We pray for healing for:**

 **~**Survivors of abuse by clergy and for all who have been abused as children

 or suffered other trauma or harm

 ~Church leaders who did not act as true shepherds, as they walk the path of

 Acknowledging their sins, repentance, and conversion

~Those individuals whose faith is shaken during this time of crisis and in

 need of God’s strength and grace.

**Sung response 2x**

 **We entrust to God’s guidance:**

~Our president, congress, and all world leaders

 ~Those running for office in the upcoming elections

 ~The care of our earth and all its resources

 ~Those who serve in the military

 ~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**

**Please stand:**

**Let us pray together the words that Jesus taught us:**

[SLOWLY]

**Our Father….**

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

As we go forth this night, let us sing together #**418**, With All the Saints **#418** in the Breaking Bread Song Book, verses 4, 5, 6