



Notre Dame Morning Prayer December 9-13, 2019

+ = In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

Monday, December 9, 2019 - second week of Advent

The second week of Advent started yesterday. The first candle of the Advent wreath represented hope; the second candle represents peace. When we think of peace, we generally think of the absence of war. The peace God wants for us is much deeper: it is the absence of conflict in our relationships with others and also the absence of conflict in our own hearts.

Let us pray. + Lord, you often said to your disciples, 'Peace be with you.' You are troubled that so often we live our lives in conflict, with others and with ourselves. You desire to be with us and provide us Your peace. Please teach us to understand this gift and to welcome it into our lives. We ask this through the intercessions of the Mother of God: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 - Start of culminating exams

Today, our high school students begin their culminating exams. As the end of the semester approaches, it can be stressful and it is important that we support one another. Helping others can help relieve our own stress as we work together to meet common goals.

Let us pray. + Lord, as we encounter stress in our lives, may we remember Your words: 'Peace, be with you'. You do not evaluate us based on how well we do but rather on how much we respond to Your love and share that love with others. As we work to do well in our studies, may we never lose sight of our deeper calling to be in relationship with You. We pray this together with the words that You taught us: *Our Father*. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. + Amen.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

During this week of Advent when we focus on peace, we can acknowledge that we can't always avoid conflict with others, but we can manage it better if we are at peace in our own hearts. True peace starts with each person finding the goodness of God and then sharing it with others.

Let us pray. + Lord, when we face conflict, help us to turn to You for support. May Your presence in our hearts assure us that no matter what we face, You are with us. Help us to resolve our conflicts, and when they remain, help us to find peace in knowing that You will always love us. We ask this through the intercessions of the Mother of God: *Hail Mary*. + Amen.

Thursday, December 12, 2019 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

Today is the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, one of many titles given to Mary. Guadalupe was a small village in what is now Mexico. In the sixteenth century, Mary appeared there to an Indigenous peasant named Juan Diego, speaking in his native language, and asked that a church be built. So that others would believe, Juan was given a cloak that had an image of Mary imprinted on it, an image that is still venerated by Catholics today. Today is also the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous People. We recognize that our school stands on unceded territory of the Anishinabe First Nation.

Let us pray. + Lord, we thank you that Your message is for all people but that you speak to us in our own language, recognizing our unique needs. You demonstrated Your love for Indigenous peoples of the Americas when your Mother Mary appeared to Juan Diego. May all Indigenous people know Your love and may all of us respect Indigenous cultures and work toward reconciliation. We offer our prayers through the intercessions of Our Lady of Guadalupe: *Haily Mary*. + Amen.

Friday - December 13, 2019 - Dress Down Day

The needs of the world can seem overwhelming, and our efforts to help don't always seem have a great impact. But we need to focus on the needs that are right in front of us, where a small deed, like the warm clothing that was donated during the Sock it to the Cold campaign, has a major impact on those affected.

Let us pray. + Lord, on this Dress Down Day to raise fund for those in our school community who are in need, may we recognize that loving others starts with those closest to us and that simple acts of kindness done by many people can transform a community. We pray this together with the words that You taught us: *Our Father*. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us. + Amen.