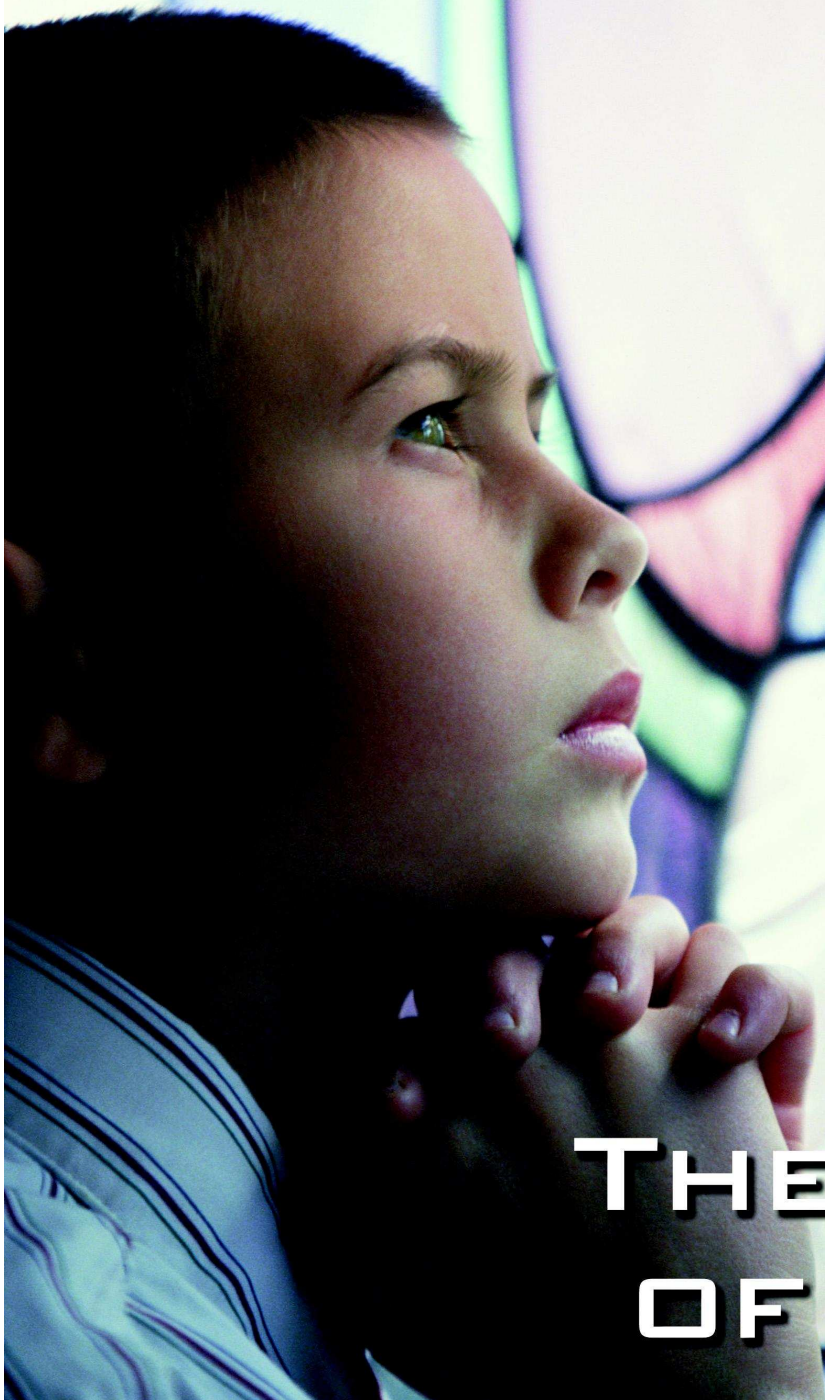


STEWARDSHIP

A FAITH JOURNEY

Stewardship of Prayer



**THE POWER
OF PRAYER**

The Sharing of God's most powerful yet comforting gift

YOUR PARISH NAME HERE

Stewardship of Prayer

“the power of prayer”

Prayer is God’s most POWERFUL yet COMFORTING gift He has given to each of us to share.

I read an article in the paper about prayer being reduced to no more than a comforting gesture with no real intention behind it. That really bothered me. I soul searched and reflected on it. This was wrong. Prayer is a deeply meaningful gift from God to share with others, not a statement made in passing.

From this article the Stewardship team created a Prayer Card which is free at the back of the church. Pick up one or more packets and pass them on. If you offer to pray for someone, write it down and do it. Show the person you are writing it down and offer them a blank prayer card (or as many as needed). If someone offers to pray for you or one of your loved ones, write the name on one of the cards and pass it to them. Please take as many Prayer Card Packets as you want. They are a gift from the Stewardship team.

These are the four most asked questions about prayer. We hope they will be insightful to you.

How do I pray?

It is a matter of the heart. When you pray to God, pray from your inner most heart and speak directly to Him. Just talk to God, He will listen.

When do I pray?

EVERYDAY. When you wake up in the morning just say thank you to the Lord. Pray over each meal thanking

the Lord for that meal, friends and family. Pray when you drive to work, cut the grass, take a walk, go to the gym or beach. Pray any time God comes to your mind. Lastly, pray before you go to bed at night. Just say “Thank you Lord.”

Who do I pray for?

Let your heart be your guide. Yourself, your family , your friends, someone you read about who had trauma in their life, a fellow parishioner. Remember our leaders in the church and our government in your prayers. Write each one down in your prayer card with the prayer intention. Keep it with you and pray daily. As you start to pray each day, pray for yourself; strength to overcome temptation, addiction, guidance for spiritual strength, help with a problem or marriage. God wants your prayers, He will hear you.

Does God really hear and answer prayers?

We can tell you absolutely, however, you be the judge. Start your prayer cards with your special intentions and highlight them as they are answered, either Yes or No. Then reflect on them.

Remember , pray from your heart and soul as an unselfish act of deep meaning. As it states in the Bible “The prayers of a righteous man [or woman] are answered.”

We, the members of the Stewardship team are excited to share with you just a small insight to the Power of Prayer.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

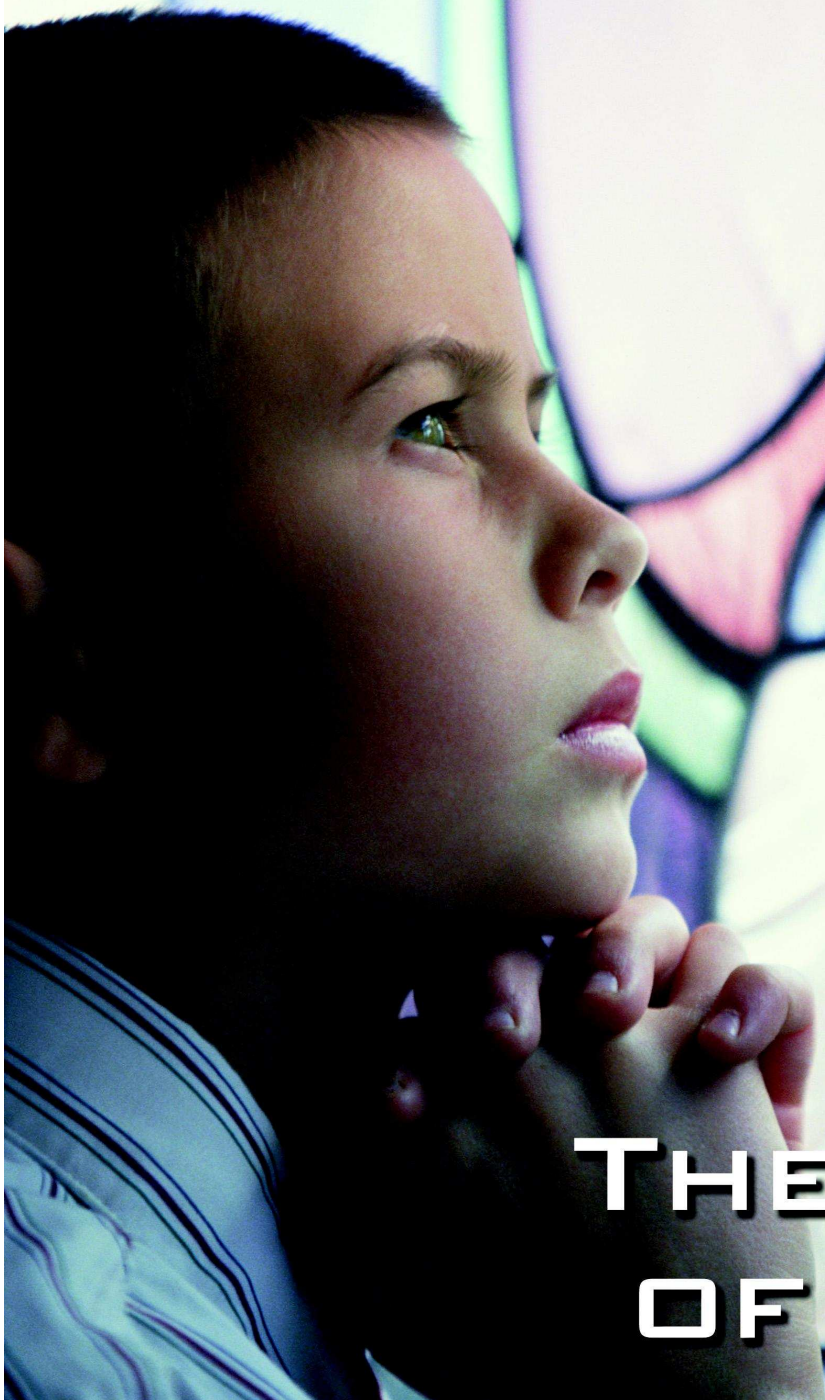
Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;

Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will; That I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him Forever in the next. Amen.

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“An Answered Prayer”

On an icy cold morning in January 1999, our daughter died. I came upon the accident as the ambulance was pulling away. I knew the car that was pinned around the tree. I knew my daughter had died. I called my wife, as my tears flowed, and struggled to drive the short three minutes back to our home.

Our lives had changed forever. We questioned. Why? We couldn't believe it had really happened. Was it reality? It was. We picked up our children at school and prayed. Friends, our priest, relatives all began arriving at our home. Again the question, why? The question haunted us throughout our little sleep, as we had to make all the arrangements to bury our daughter. She was so young with life's total glory ahead of her, graduation from college was only four months away. Why? We could not understand.

Our daughter was only in our lives a short 10 years. She was our first adopted child and came to us at the age of 12. Her mother was dying from a brain tumor and asked our church, St. Peter and the community to find a kind loving family for her daughter, before she died. She chose us, to entrust her most precious life's treasure with. We prayed and prayed for God to help us understand. Why? In the midst of picking the final clothes our daughter would wear, the casket, a gravesite, writing an obituary, in the midst of all this great tragedy, it came to us. In a whisper, in a thought, a warm feeling could be felt. We were being guided, moved, spoken to, God had answered our prayers.

Out of our daughter's death there could be life. People had sent us money, money to be donated to a cause that honored our daughter's life. Brittany's aspirations were to help the needy throughout the world, especially children without families. She had once said, "every child needs the love of a family". We listened to our hearts, and Brittany's Hope Foundation was born. Out of a tragic death could come life to special children waiting throughout the world, through the promise of adoption.