

## Questions for Reflection and Sharing

What connections or new insights did you gain from the readings?

How do you live in the light of Christ?

How does your Family of Parishes bring people together to live Christ's light in your parishes and wider community?

## Intercessions

For what or for whom should we pray?

## Lord's Prayer

## Closing Prayer

Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother,  
Present our prayer of thanksgiving to your Son.  
Beg from Him the graces we need to be faithful disciples  
who follow Him with enthusiasm and joy.  
May our witness to the love of God bear fruit  
in our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts.  
Teach us to be God's joyful witnesses, to radiate Christ in all we do  
so that all people might know, love and follow your Son through  
this life and into the next. Amen.



## Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

From Pope Leo XIV, June 29, 2025

### Reading from Sacred Scripture

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.

For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand.

Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy.

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

(Romans 13:11-14, First Sunday of Advent)

Saints Peter and Paul also challenge us to think about the *vitality of our faith*. In our life as disciples, we can always risk falling into a rut, a routine, a tendency to follow the same old pastoral plans without experiencing interior renewal and a willingness to respond to new challenges. The two Apostles, however, can inspire us by the example of their openness to change, to new events, encounters and concrete situations in the life of their communities, and by their readiness to consider new approaches to evangelization in response to the problems and difficulties raised by our brothers and sisters in the faith.