**Questions for Reflection and Sharing**

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

What words or phrases spoke to you most powerfully

in light of the call to form our parish as a beacon of light?

How might the readings influence our planning for the future?

**Intercessions**

For what or for whom should we pray?

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Prayer**

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**August 2021**

**Opening Prayer**

Let us pray.

(Pause for silent 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.

Grant, we pray, almighty God,

that your Church may always remain that holy people,

formed as one by the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

which manifest to the world

the Sacrament of your holiness and unity

and leads it to the perfection of your charity.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God, forever and ever.  Amen.

**Reading from Sacred Scripture**

A reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke.

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.

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,

“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.”

And Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me

and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,

and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers,

to Abraham and his children forever.”

Mary remained with her about three months

and then returned to her home.

(Lk 1:39-56 Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

**From Radiate Christ**

Will I radiate Christ

so that others can know His goodness and love?

My brothers and sisters,

Christ wants to do so much through us.

Let us take advantage of the opportunity before us

to renew our willingness to let Him.

This letter serves many purposes.

It is a petition that we each seek to know Jesus Christ.

It is an invitation to discover the joy in following Him.

It is a word of encouragement when the road of discipleship

becomes difficult.

It is a proclamation of the beauty

of being a joyful witness by radiating Christ.

As we celebrate together the

good things God has done in our archdiocese,

let us also pray together that He continues to

bless us with His presence and His love,

entrusting ourselves to the care of our Blessed Mother.