



Opening and Closing Prayers

Opening Prayer

Leader 1: Let us pray together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader 2: Gracious God,
We ask for a deepening of the gift of community.
Help us to grow in our love and care for one another during our time together.

Leader 3: We ask for the gift of intention.
Help us to be present in our gathering, and grant us the patience to set other things aside.

Leader 1: We ask for the gift of discernment.
Help us to recognize our gifts and use them for good.

Leader 2: We ask for the gift of strength.
Help us to be strong enough to do what we believe, to be people of our word, to be people of action, and to be examples for others. Help us to be like the great saints who have gone before us.

Leader 3: We ask for the gift of understanding.
Help us to support one another in our journey toward the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Leader 1: For all of these things, and in thanksgiving for the opportunity to come together again, let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father . . .

Closing Prayer

Begin by playing the song or music video “Start a Fire,” by Ike Ndolo.

Leader 1: We ask the small-group leaders to be ready to read their groups’ chosen statements from the “I am doing what I believe when I . . .” posters as part of the prayer after the first Gospel reading. We will let you know when to share you statements. After the second Gospel reading, be ready to share aloud the saint’s name you have chosen for Confirmation.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:13–16

Leader 2: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew:
“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”



Leader 3: God, you call us to follow you, to “live out loud” what we say we believe, to be salt that gives flavor, light in the darkness, a city shining on a hilltop. We ask now that you bless our efforts and renew the fire in our hearts to love you and to love your people. Small-group leaders, please read the “I am doing what I believe when I . . . ” statements from your posters.

Leader 1: God, we are doing what we believe when we offer your love to a world in need.

Leader 2: When we have the courage to do what’s right.

Leader 3: Lord, you send your Spirit, the advocate, to encourage and strengthen us. Open our hearts as we listen to your Word.

All: Amen.

Gospel Reading: John 14:15–20

Leader 1: A reading from the Gospel of John:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you.”

Leader 2: Loving God, you have also surrounded us with guides and guardians, saints and sponsors, friends and witnesses. We pray now with and for them in thanksgiving for the model they offer us in their lives, and in the love they have shown.

Leader 3: We have each chosen a saint as a model of God’s mercy. We will move around our semi-circle and each of you will state your saint’s name aloud. After the name of each saint is stated, we will all answer, “Pray for us.” (*Ask for a volunteer to start, and lead the whole group in responding, “Pray for us” after the saint’s name has been shared.*)

Leader 1: We thank you, Father, for the gift of our sponsors and all who guide us in faith.

Leader 2: We thank you, Holy Spirit, for the inspiration of our patron saints.

Leader 3: We thank you, Jesus, for the witness of our Confirmation team members as they walk with us on our journey to Confirmation.

Leader 1: Before we go our separate ways, let us offer one another a sign of peace. (*While the young people are exchanging the sign of peace, play the song or music video “Scandal of Love,” by Greg Walton.*)

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