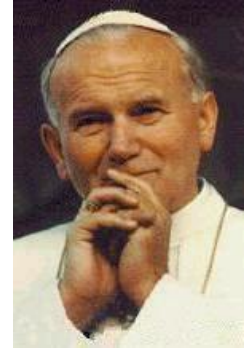


Blessed Pope John Paul II Day

Liturgy of the Word

"Do not be afraid..." (Blessed John Paul II)



Call to prayer:

Today we celebrate Blessed Pope John Paul II Day. Pope John Paul II lived a life that was full of hope. He lived through the Second World War, was an actor, became a priest, and was appointed a cardinal. In 1978, he was elected as the Bishop of Rome, also known as the pope. He traveled the world seeking dialogue among nations and religions, instituted World Youth Day, and beatified and canonized many men and women. He encouraged the faithful to pray, to care for the poor and to celebrate and encourage young Catholics around the world. Let us take a moment to reflect and pray for Blessed Pope John Paul II, and that he in turn will pray for us.

Opening Prayer:

Let us begin by signing ourselves in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
AMEN.

Scripture:

A Reading from the book of Matthew (5:13-16)

'You are the salt of the earth;
but if salt has lost its taste,
how can its saltiness be restored?
It is no longer good for anything,
but is thrown out and trampled under foot.
'You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hidden.
No one after lighting a lamp puts it under
the bushel basket, but on the lampstand,
and it gives light to all in the house.
In the same way,
let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven.
The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Litany for Blessed Pope John Paul II:

Blessed Pope John Paul II, patron of World Youth Day, we ask that you intercede for us and the youth in the world. In particular, keep the students, staff, parents and all of the Toronto Catholic District School Board community in your prayers.

Peter said, *"Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you"* (1 Peter 3:15 — 1st World Youth Day Rome, Italy 1986).

All: Blessed Pope John Paul II, pray for us.

Jesus said, *"As the Father sent me, so am I sending you"*, (John 20:21— WYD Manila, Philippines 1995)

All: Blessed Pope John Paul II, pray for us.

Jesus said, *"I came that they might have life, and have it to the full."* (John 10:10 — WYD Denver, USA 1993)

All: Blessed Pope John Paul II, pray for us.

Jesus said, *"You are the salt of the earth ... you are the light of the world"* (Matthew 5: 13,14 — WYD Toronto, Canada 2002)

All: Blessed Pope John Paul II, pray for us.

Jesus said, *"Go and make disciples of all nations,"* (Matthew 28.19 — WYD Rio, Brazil)

All: Blessed Pope John Paul II, pray for us.

Closing Prayer:

Loving God,
Who sent us Blessed Pope John Paul II
as a model of how to live a holy and blessed life,
May you guide us to follow his example
To celebrate,
To stand up for our faith,
To seek dialogue with all faiths and people,
To be a seeker of Truth,
To treat others with dignity and respect,
To forgive and ask for forgiveness,
To seek You during adverse times,
And most of all: to "Be not afraid".
We ask this, through our Lord Jesus Christ
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God forever and ever.

AMEN.