



“To attain spiritual enlightenment and become a person of recollected interior life, you should take one or the other of holy Scripture and, for as long a period as possible, concentrate on that alone all your power of attention and meditation; then the light of understanding will be revealed to you.” *The Way of a Pilgrim*, Billy, pg. 150

Statement of Intention for Centering Prayer

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier,
alive at the center of our being, we
wish to surrender in love to You.
May our sacred word,

which we will gently pray
when we engage with our thoughts,
be a sign and symbol of our intention to
consent to Your Divine Presence
And Action within.

Sunday's reading for December 16, 2007

Reading I ([Is 35:1-6a, 10](#))

The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.
They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.
Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
with divine recompense
he comes to save you.
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.
Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.

Responsorial Psalm ([Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10](#))

R. Lord, come and save us.
The LORD God keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets captives free.
The LORD gives sight to the blind;
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.
The LORD loves the just;
the LORD protects strangers.
The fatherless and the widow he sustains,

but the way of the wicked he thwarts.
The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations.

R. Lord, come and save us.

Reading II ([Jas 5:7-10](#))

Be patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord.
See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the
earth,
being patient with it
until it receives the early and the late rains.
You too must be patient.
Make your hearts firm,
because the coming of the Lord is at hand.
Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one
another,
that you may not be judged.
Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates.
Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers
and sisters,
the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel ([Mt 11:2-11](#))

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of
the Christ,
he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question,
“Are you the one who is to come,
or should we look for another?”
Jesus said to them in reply,
“Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.
And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”



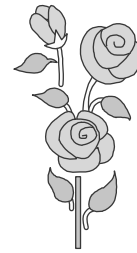


As they were going off,
Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John,
“What did you go out to the desert to see?
A reed swayed by the wind?
Then what did you go out to see?
Someone dressed in fine clothing?
Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces.
Then why did you go out? To see a prophet?
Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

This is the one about whom it is written:
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way before you.
Amen, I say to you,
among those born of women
there has been none greater than John the Baptist;
yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than
he.”

Ending Prayers

My time of prayer is finished, trailing its ashes like an incense stick burned to the end. Quiet my mind before it passes judgment on this prayer, my gift to you. How can I judge its worth - this struggle to still my mind in you, my efforts to feel your presence in my prayer? Only you can judge the simple song of love sung in the noisy chambers of my heart, often drowned by the wail of fear or the sweaty shouts of work that must be done. You, my hidden Father, waited in patience as memories called from the past and future prospects clamored for attention, filling my mind with yesterdays and tomorrows, stealing my sense of your presence. As I prepare to go about my work, may my intention to live in your present moment be the pattern for this day and for my life. With your help may I forever do only one thing at a time - always in communion.



In thanksgiving for the holy space provided to our centering prayer groups, let our intentions include the needs of each pastor of each worshipping community: Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, St. Joseph Catholic Church in Richardson, and Our Lady of the Lake Church in Rockwall

