

St. Joseph's CWL March 9, 2026
Lenten Season of Giving
Prayer Service



“Blessed are the Poor” 2026–2027

Faith Leader 1 – The Cry of the Poor:

Throughout the sacred scriptures God’s compassion is stirred up by the cry of the poor. Beginning with the revelation to Moses in the burning bush we hear God say, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them... So come, I will send you” (Exodus 3:7-8,10).



Faith Leader 2 – This painting seemingly depicts a crowded genre scene in a Dutch village. The various groups of figures composing the scene symbolically illustrate the seven corporal acts of mercy: *to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to give shelter to travellers, to visit the sick, to visit the imprisoned, and to bury the dead.*

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy | Artist Studio of David Teniers the younger | c.1642-3

Faith Leader 3 – “While giving money to charity is a good thing, God expects Christians to do more by giving of themselves to help others,” Pope Leo XIV said. “It is not simply a matter of sharing the material goods we have, but putting our skills, time, love, presence and compassion at the service of others.”



Reader 1 – This Lent, why not extend the scope of almsgiving to incorporate the Works of Mercy? John’s words point the way, “Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” 1 John 3:18 *Reflection by Sister Nancy Wales, CSJ*

Reader 2 – Father Cosmas counsels, “...accept one inconvenience today without complaining, a delay, a correction, an interruption and consciously offer it for someone you love. Turn irritation into intercession. In this way, the ordinary cross becomes a path to extraordinary grace.”

Reader 3 – Turning words into action:

- Share what you have with those who need it, down the street or around the world.
- Share your joy and hope with those whose lives are dry and lonely, and those who are literally without water.
- Stand up for those who are weak and vulnerable.
- Advocate for those whose voices are not heard.
- Help prisoners and those who are confined due to fear, illness, or sadness.
- Make everyone welcome in your heart. Give people simple, decent places to lay their heads.
- Be with people who need you.
- Love and respect the person who has died. *Barbara Molinari Quinby, MPS*

Prayer of Faithful-Intercessions

Reader 4 – Merciful Father, you see the needs of your people. You sent Moses to bring your promised help to them in the midst of their suffering. Send us now, giving us the courage to be your new messengers, bringing new hope, peace and consolation to those whose needs cry out to you. Lord, in your mercy...

All-Hear our Prayer

Reader 5 – Lord Jesus, our hope and consolation, gift us with your own deep compassion and love for those who are in need, whether for food, for shelter, or that that they gain a deeper sense of your great love for all human beings and for themselves. Lord, in your mercy...

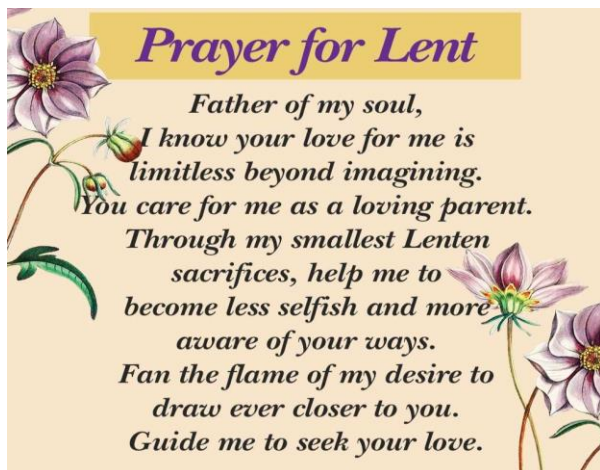
All-Hear our Prayer

Reader 6 – Spirit of Love, you inspire us to be vessels of love, charting paths of connection and becoming builders of a community of service and outreach to our neighbours and to all whom we encounter. Lord, in your mercy...

All-Hear our Prayer

Reader 7 – Most Holy Trinity, use us to reach out to our struggling world in its search for justice and new life. Renew, in us and in all of your creation, the desire to follow Jesus' path, the just path, to renewing the face of the earth. Lord, in your mercy...

All-Hear our Prayer



Prayer All

Reflection by Sister Nancy, CWL Spiritual Co-advisor.