

## **MEN'S SATURDAY PRAYER SERVICE**

### **A Tribute To St.Patrick and Prayer**

**Meeting March 16, 2013**

#### **Call to prayer**

Let's begin as we begin all good things blessing ourselves; in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

As we gather to celebrate the feast of St Patrick let us remember the many Irish people who have greatly contributed to our Church and to our own personal faith journey.

#### **Opening Prayer (from St. Patrick's Breastplate)**

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

I arise today  
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,  
Through belief in the Threeness,  
Through confession of the Oneness  
of the Creator of creation.

#### **Introduction**

Saint Patrick was born in Scotland, in the year 387. At the age of sixteen he was taken captive and brought to Ireland where he worked as a slave. Life was not easy for Patrick as a young man as he worked long hours on the bleak hillside minding sheep.

He relates in his "Confessions" that during his captivity while tending the flocks he prayed many times in the day. "The love of God", he wrote, "and His fear increased in me more and more, and the faith grew in me, and the

Spirit was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as hundred prayers, and in the night nearly the same, so that whilst in the woods and on the mountain, even before the dawn, I was roused to prayer and I felt no hurt from it, whether there was snow or ice or rain; nor was there any slothfulness in me, such as I see now, because the Spirit was then fervent within me."

**Gospel Reading: Reading- Colossians 4:2-6**

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

**Musical Reflection – What If His People Prayed (Casting Crowns)**

*What if the armies of the Lord  
Picked up and dusted off their swords  
Vowed to set the captives free  
And not let Satan have one more?*

*What if the church, for Heaven's sake  
Finally stepped up to the plate  
Took a stand upon God's promise  
And stormed Hell's rusted gates?*

*What if His people prayed  
And those who bare His name  
Would humbly seek His face, yeah  
And turn from their own ways?*

*And what would happen if we prayed  
For those raised up to lead the way?  
Then maybe kids in school could pray  
And unborn children see light of day*

*What if the life that we pursue  
Came from a hunger for the truth?  
What if the family turned to Jesus  
Stopped asking Oprah what to do?*

*What if His people prayed  
And those who bare His name  
Would humbly seek His face, yeah  
And turn from their own ways?*

*He said that He would hear  
His promise has been made  
He'd answer loud and clear, yeah  
If only we would pray*

*If My people called by My name  
If they'll humble themselves and pray  
If My people called by My name  
If they'll humble themselves and pray*

*What if His people prayed  
(If My people called by my name)  
And those who bare His name  
Would humbly seek His face, yeah  
(If they'll humble themselves and pray)  
And turn from their own ways?*

*He said that He would hear  
(If My people called by my name)  
His promise has been made  
He'll answer loud and clear, yeah  
(If they'll humble themselves and pray)  
If only we would pray*

*What if His people prayed?  
(If My people called by my name)  
(If His people would pray)  
(If they'll humble themselves and pray)  
(If My people called by my name)*

## **Sharing for reflection**

It has been said that Christmas is God searching for man while prayer is man searching for God. Prayer is the raising of our hearts and mind to God. It is a gift from God as we are moved to seek him – St. Augustine said “Our hearts are restless until they find rest in thee.”

Prayer was an important part of Jesus’ ministry. We see in the Gospels that he followed a pattern of ministering to others, healing and retreating to prayer. Jesus demonstrated need of private prayer and it is also necessary for us. We must also set aside time, which is "often" and regular, where we can withdraw to a quiet place. We all need to regularly set aside times of quiet where we can be refreshed and receive direction - times of quiet to get alone and pray.

Public prayer is also important. Our service today as an example of that, but we should also consider the Mass, and the other obvious examples. This is also important for our spiritual growth

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## **Thoughts for Sharing/Discussion**

Does prayer allow you to be a blessing for others. How?

What is the goal of prayer?

What are obstacles to prayer?

Do you prefer private prayer or public prayer?

## **Prayers of Intercession**

**Concluding Prayer - Irish Blessing:** May the Lord bless you and keep you. Amen May his face shine on you and be gracious to you. Amen May he look upon you with kindness and give you his peace. Amen

## **Circle - Our Father**