

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
ANNAPOLIS · MARYLAND · ESTABLISHED 1692

40 Day
Prayer Challenge
For Lent 2021

Family Edition



Dear families,

As we enter the season of Lent in 2021, we are still dealing with the challenges of living in a Covid-19 world. I wanted to offer you an easy way to experience Lent at home with each other.

I am offering a 40-day Lenten prayer challenge. As Jesus did for forty days and forty nights, we want you and your family to offer up prayers for a variety of people and things for the 40 days before Easter. Whether it is in the morning, after dinner, or at bedtime, pray and discuss why these daily prayers are needed. Hopefully, this spiritual practice will continue even after Lent.

Please let me know how the conversations go. Send me copies of your child's artwork, and don't hesitate to contact me with questions or comments.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector, St. Margaret's Church

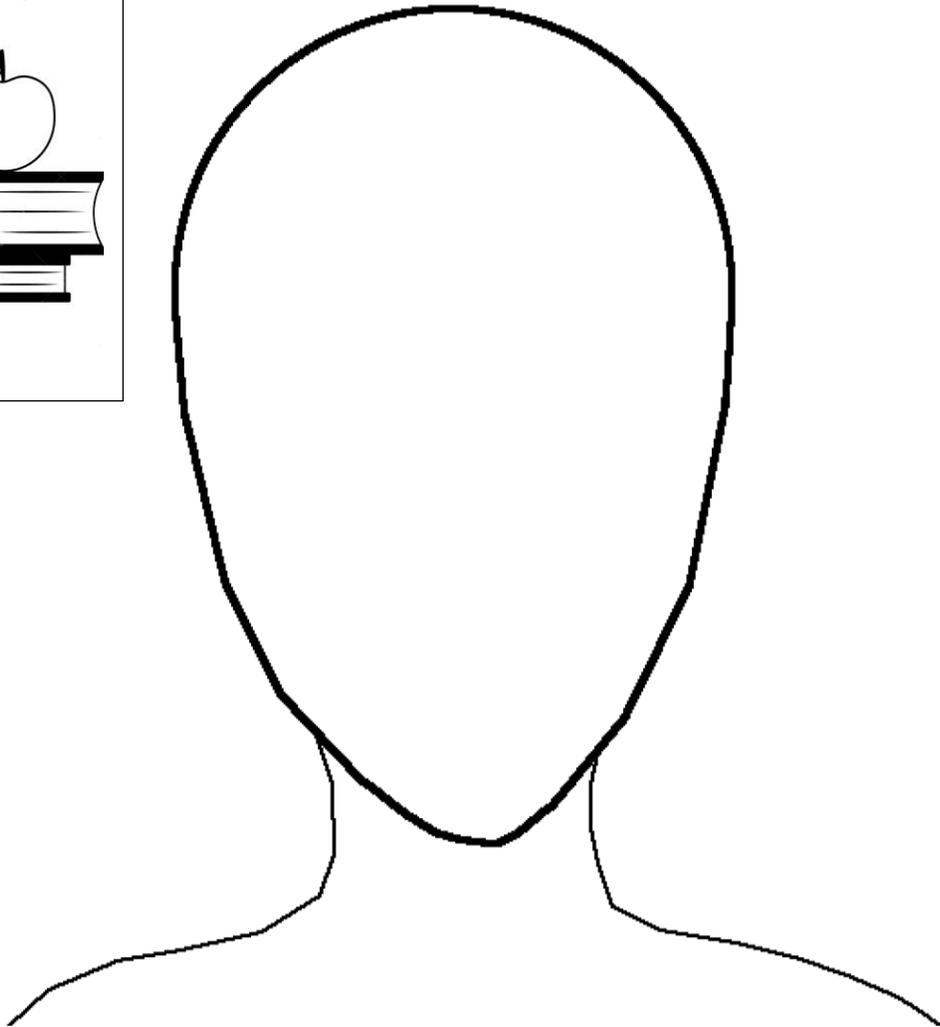
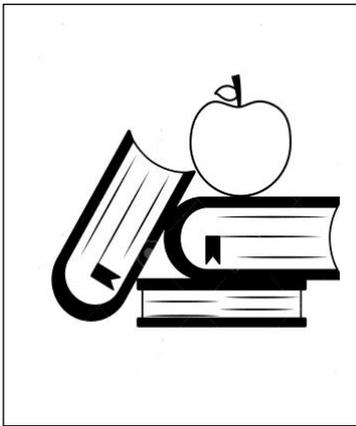
Lenten Prayer Subjects

- 1 For Teachers
- 2 For Doctors and Nurses
- 3 For Pastor Peter and Patti
- 4 For First Responders
- 5 For the Homeless
- 6 For the Hungry Hungry
- 7 For Restaurant/Grocery Store workers
- 8 For the Military
- 9 For Artists
- 10 For those sick with Covid
- 11 For the families of those victims
- 12 For our Leaders
- 13 For our Church volunteers
- 14 For the Mentally ill
- 15 For Neighbors
- 16 For Pets/those who help animals
- 17 For Journalists
- 18 For Friends
- 19 For those fighting Climate Change
- 20 For immigrants
- 21 For help to forgive
- 22 For help to be kind
- 23 For those fighting social injustice
- 24 For those having a tough time
- 25 For the beauty of the Earth
- 26 For our possessions
- 27 For those important to our lives
- 28 For food and farmers/workers
- 29 For our country
- 30 For senior citizens
- 31 For delivery drivers
- 32 For small businesses
- 33 For the Chesapeake Bay
- 34 For our LGBTQ+ friends
- 35 For high school/college graduates
- 36 For those affected by national disasters
- 37 For the unemployed
- 38 For Maundy Thursday
- 39 For Good Friday
- 40 The Lord's Prayer

Prayer for Teachers

Dear Lord, thank you for teachers who work hard to provide students with lessons in the classroom and online. We know it is not easy. It is not the way teachers are trained to help their students learn. Please help them as they continue to work to make online learning fun, effective, and successful. We thank them for their love and hard work for their students. Amen.

Draw a picture of your favorite Teacher

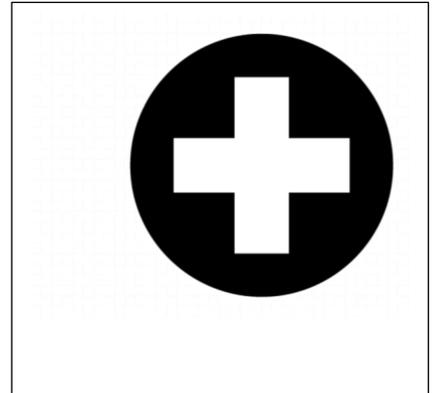
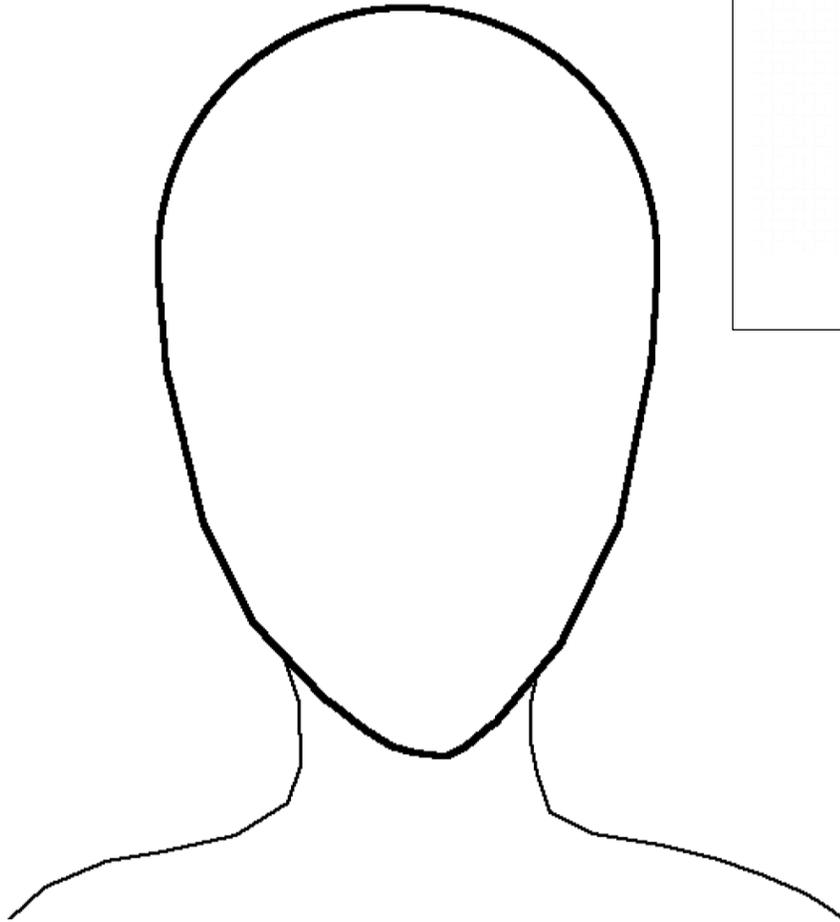


Day 1 - February 17

Prayer for Doctors & Nurses

Dear God, we give thanks for those who care for the sick at this difficult time. We know that in hospitals and nursing care homes, the work of healing is dangerous and challenging, and we thank you for those willing to serve. May your love sustain them, your peace surround them and your Holy Spirit inspire them through the most challenging times. **Amen.**

Draw a picture of a doctor or nurse:

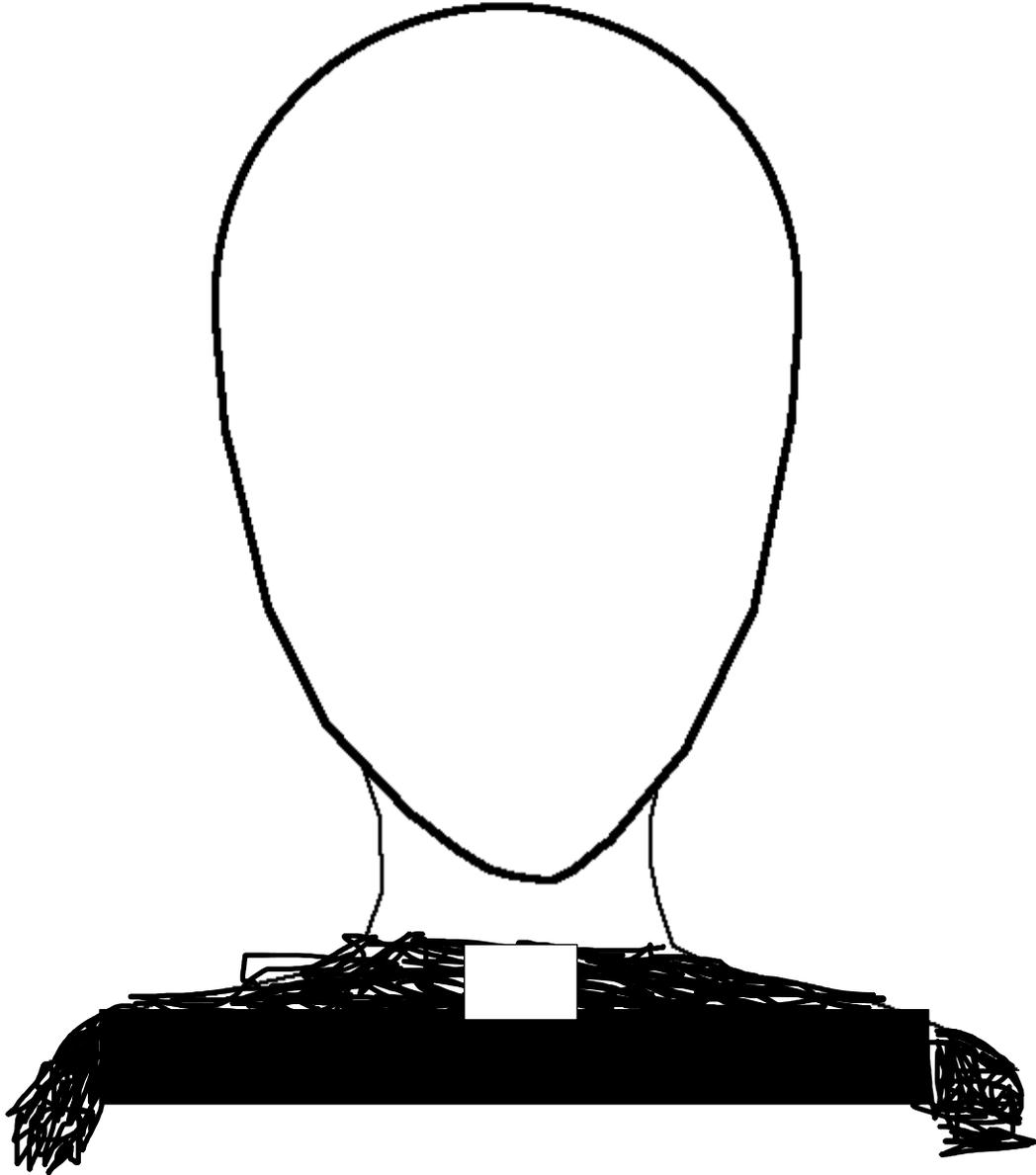


Day 2 - February 18

Prayer for Revs. Peter and Patti

During this challenging time, please protect, nourish and sustain our clergy Pastor Peter and Pastor Patti, and other church leaders. May they find rest, strength, and encouragement in your loving care. Amen.

Draw a picture of Pastor Peter or Pastor Patti:

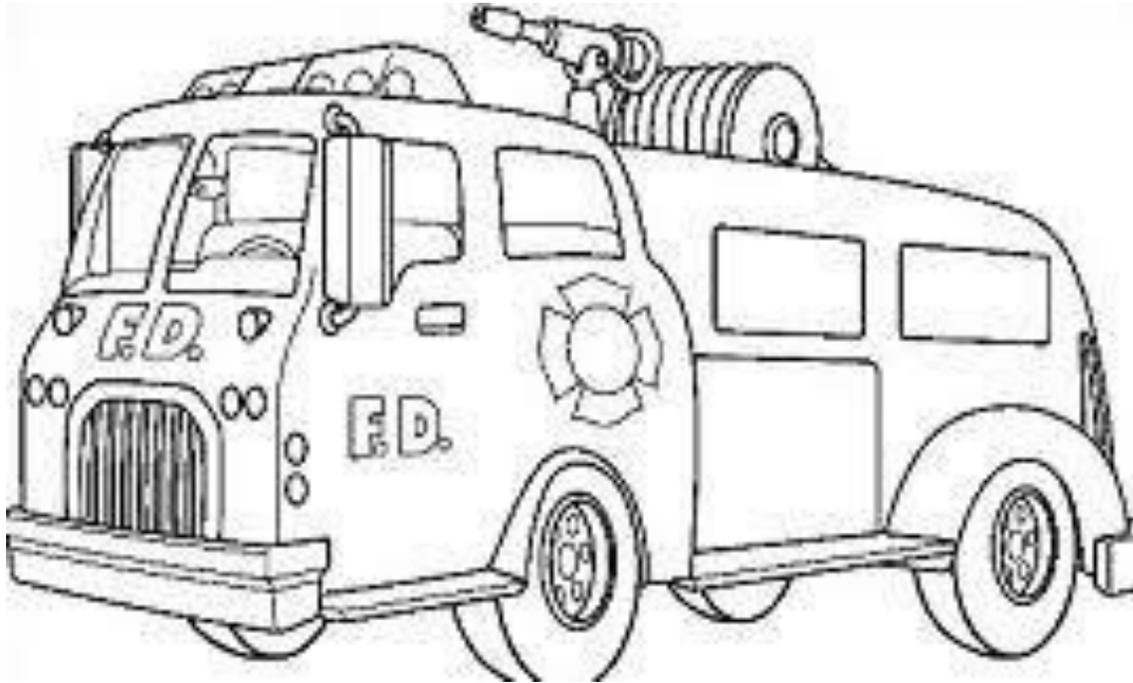
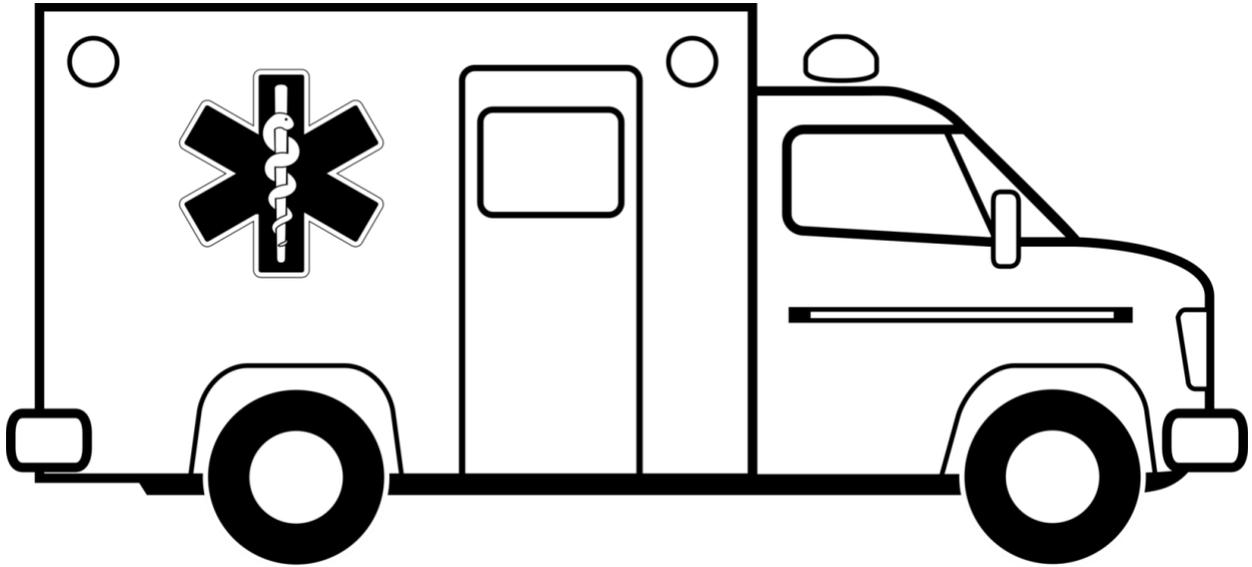


Day 3 - February 19

Prayer for first responders

Almighty God, please give strength all those who are there for us in times of crisis, fear, and hurt. Give courage to the first responders who continue to do this important work they are called to do, looking beyond the risk for the sake of those who need your help and protection. Amen.

Color the pictures:



Prayer for the hungry

Almighty God, it is difficult to see people suffer, especially from hunger. We pray for You to help us give the hungry daily bread today. Provide the food they need to grow and thrive. Pour out Your grace on hungry families, especially parents straining to feed their children. **Amen.**

Draw what you would donate to a food pantry:

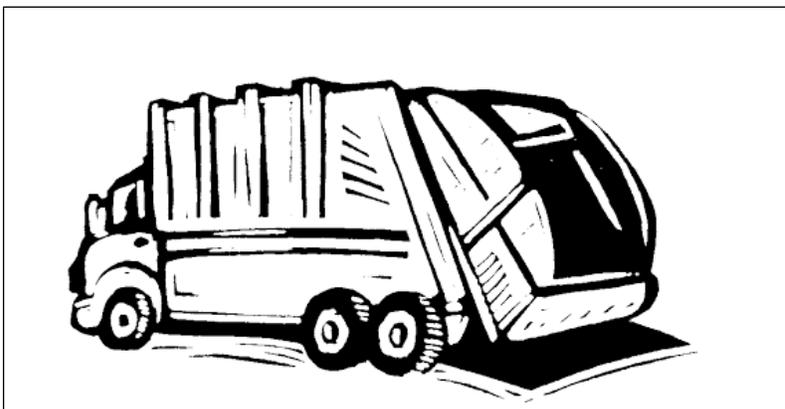


Day 5 - February 22

Prayer for workers

We pray for those who are working right now in stores, in the post office, in trash collection, and delivery services. God, we pray you take care of them. Give them energy. While others are at home, their work demands that they are not. So please, Lord, keep them safe. **Amen.**

List those businesses whose workers provide you with services:



Day 6 – February 23

Prayer for the military

O, God, let those in our military feel your comforting presence so that they can carry out their work with strength and courage and fight fear or discouragement. Thank you, Lord, that You are their God and that You are with them wherever they go. Amen.

Color the military branches:



AIR FORCE



ARMY



NAVY



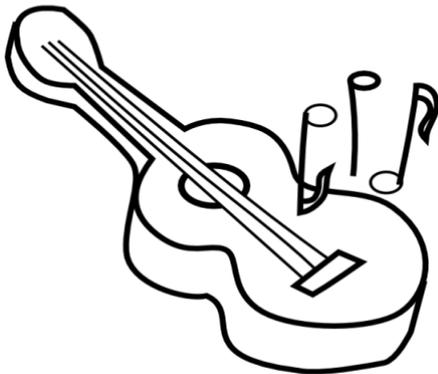
MARINE



COAST GUARD

Prayer for the artists

Dear God, take care of those who work in the arts; painters, musicians, actors, dancers, writers. May they all be taken care of in a time when they can't share their talents with others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

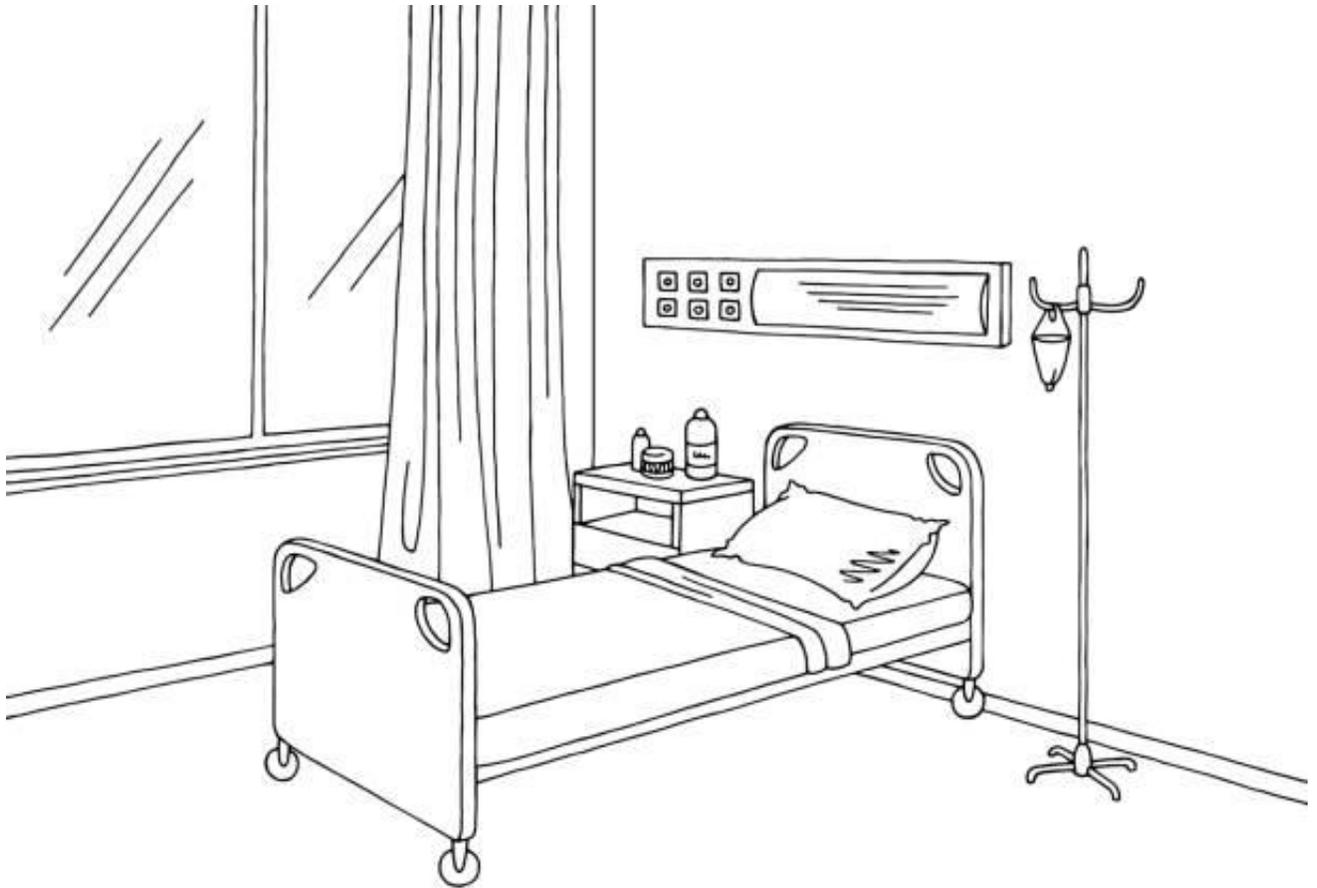


www.coloringpages101.com

Day 8 - February 25

Prayer for those with Covid-19

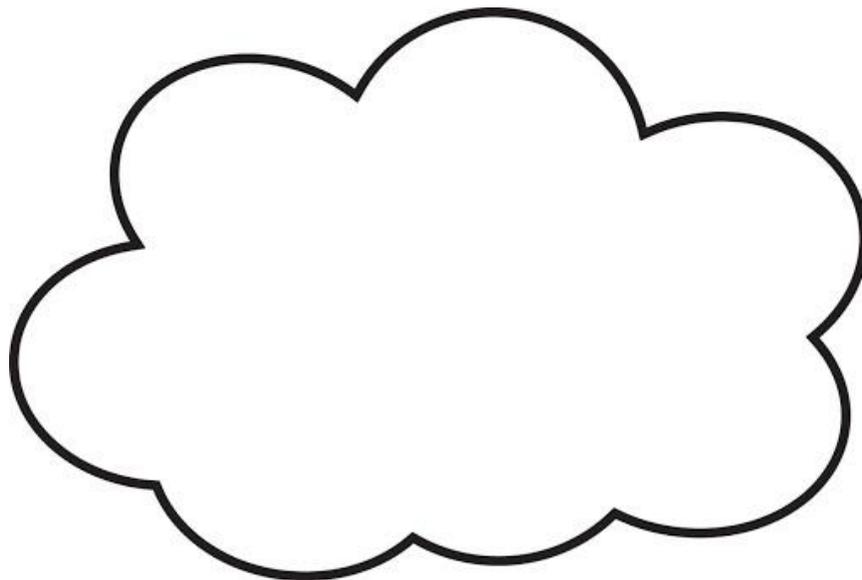
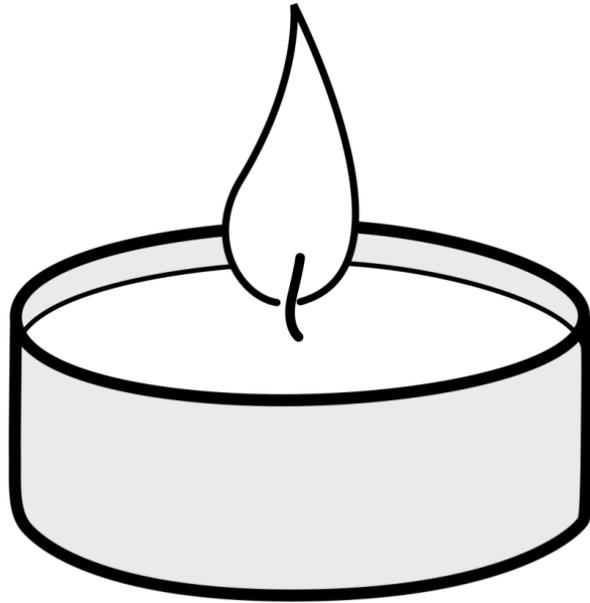
Dear God, heal all who suffer from the Coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. And may their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the virus. Amen.



Day 9 -- February 26

Prayers for the families of the victims of Covid-19

O God, be with the families of those who have died of the virus. May the victims be at rest with you in heaven. Care for their families and friends who grieve. Defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Amen.



Day 10 - February 27

Prayers for our leaders

Almighty God, be with the leaders of all nations. May they work for the good of their people. Give them the wisdom to help prepare for the future and prevent crisis and chaos. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth. Amen.



Day 11 - March 1

Prayers for our church volunteers

Creator God, we pray that all those who volunteer in our churches have patience and understanding, that they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents. Amen.



Prayer for the mentally ill

Loving God, we pray today for those who are sad and confused because of of mental illness, and for their families and caregivers. Look with mercy on all those who feel distress, confusion or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give to them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help. Amen.



Day 13 - March 3

Prayer for our neighbors

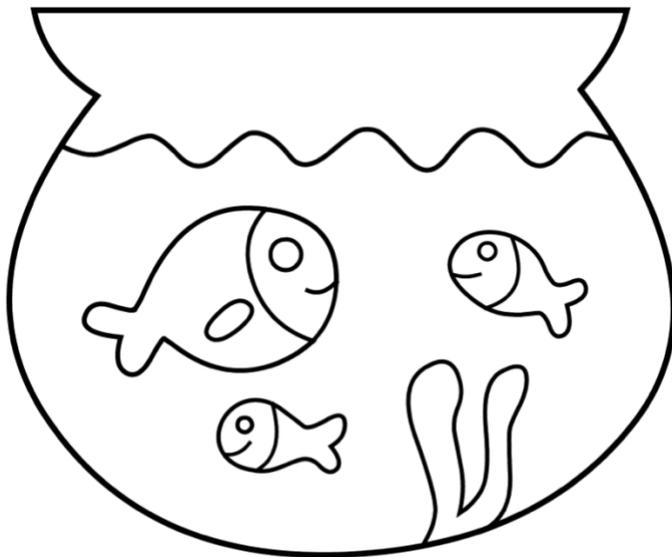
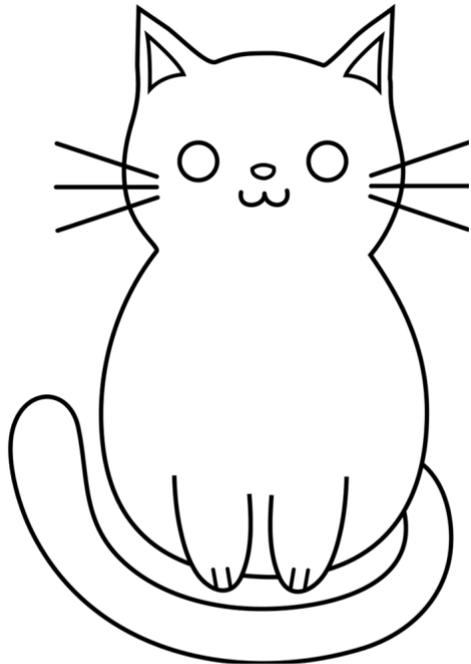
Dear God, we pray for healthy relationships between neighbors to create a loving and compassionate community, Pray that neighbors would learn from each other's differences and find common ground in their community. We pray that the diversity of your people will be celebrated by all neighbors, just as you affirm and love each one of us. Amen.



Day 14 - March 4

Prayer for pets/those who help animals

Lord God, when You created the universe you blessed us with all living creatures. We thank you for the gift of animals who bring us so much joy. Kindly bless all pets of our parishioners and the veterinary staff who care for them. Amen.



Prayers for journalists

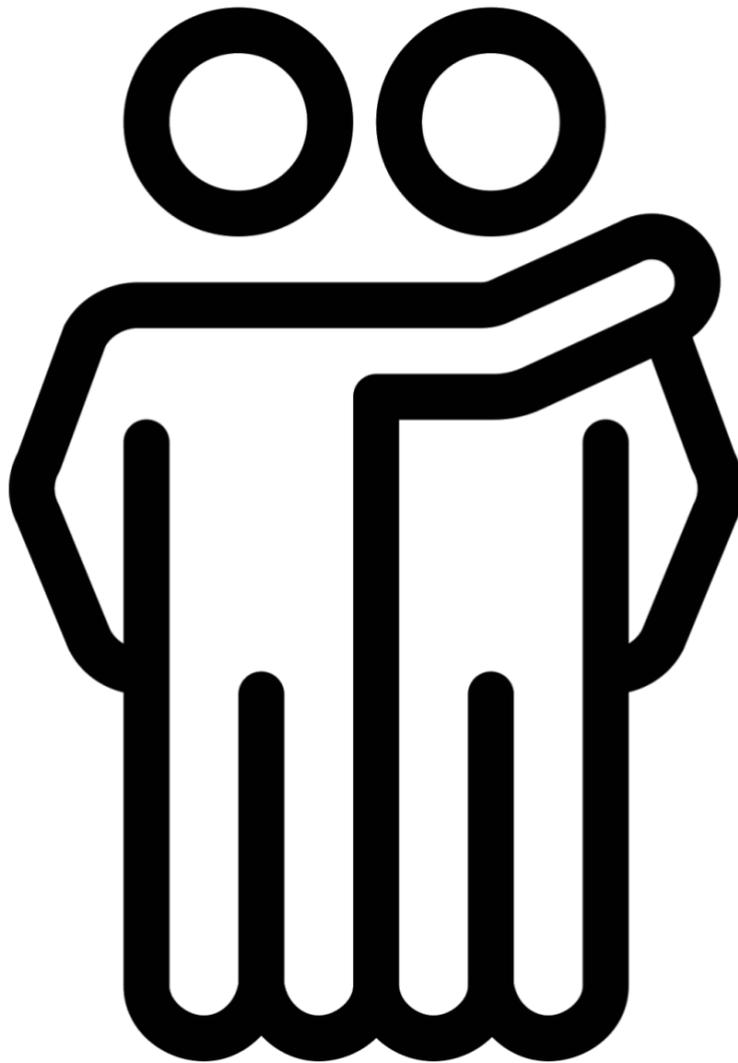
We pray that journalists will do their best to bring light where there is darkness and truth where there is falseness. We pray that You would remove those who desire to report anything less than the truth and to be a service to humanity. We ask you to promote those who will use the power of their words for good and who bring honor to their profession. **Amen.**



Day 16 - March 6

Prayer for friends

Dear God, our hearts are burdened for our friends who are hurting right now. We ask that you would be their comforter, that you would cover them with your infinite grace and mercy, surrounding them in peace during this dark season. We pray for fresh grace, for renewed strength, for your goodness and mercy over their lives today. Amen.



Day 17 - March 8

Prayers for Climate Change

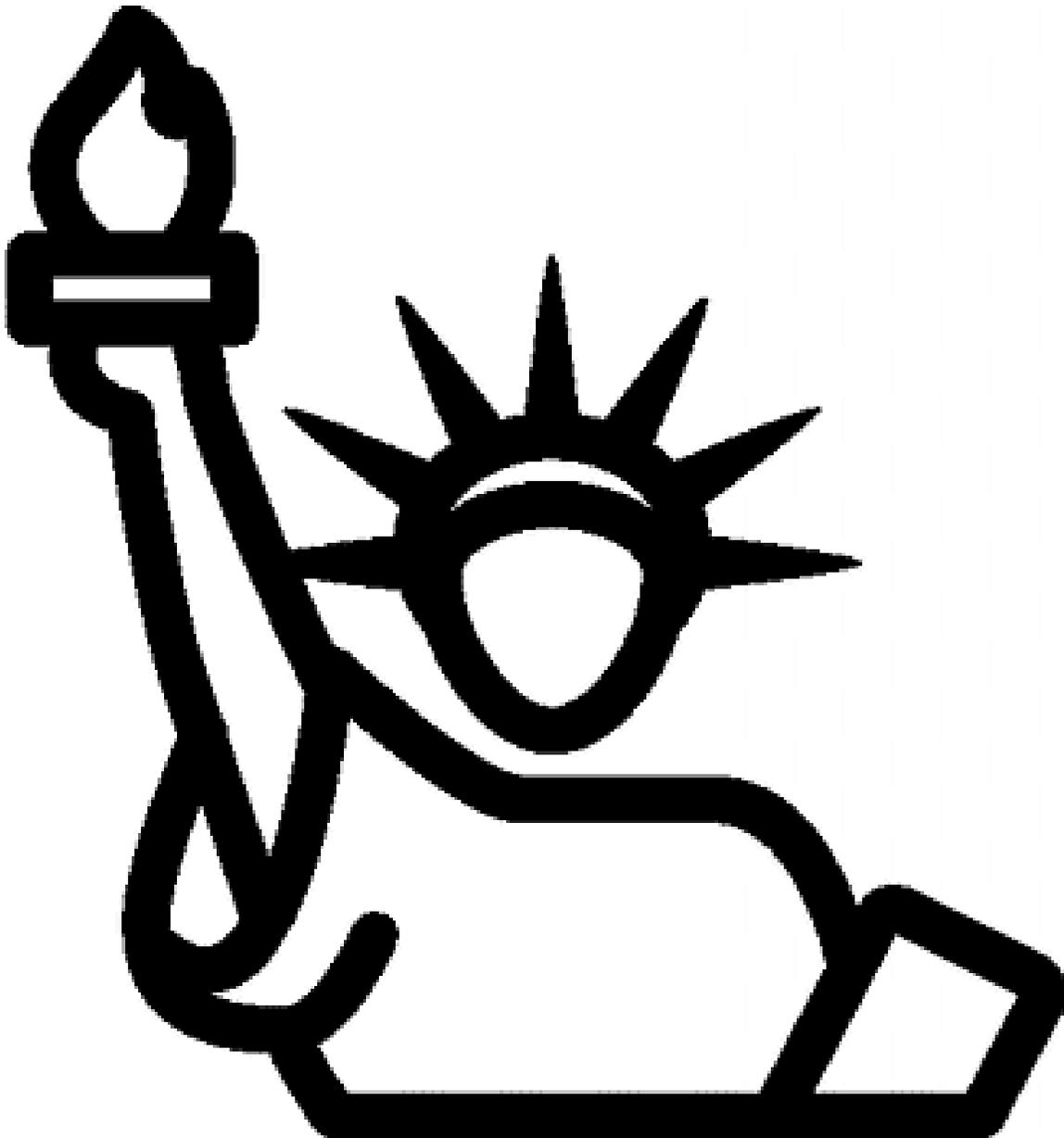
O God, call us to renewal, to stewardship; call us to solidarity to the earth and all its creatures. Give us new vision to see the fragile beauty that remains to us; Give us new spiritual energy to become active in loving the world through our daily life. Amen.



Day 18 - March 9

Prayer for immigrants

We pray that those who seek to make a home in this country may find us welcoming and willing to help them find a path toward citizenship, We pray that our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation may find the wisdom and courage to enact new policies that do justice for our country and for those who would immigrate here. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



Day 19 - March 10

Prayers for help to forgive

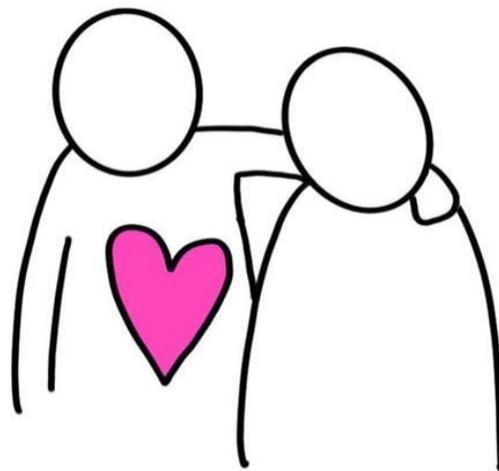
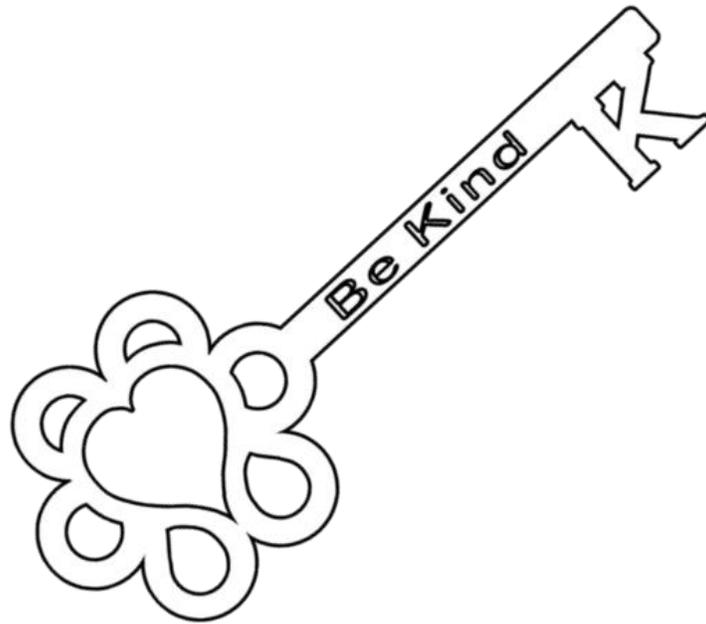
O Lord, help us to forgive. Take the burden of unforgiveness and bitterness away from us. Help us to give up our right to get even. We want to forgive as you have forgiven us. We may not feel like forgiving, but we know with your strength and in your power, we can forgive. We know we need to forgive for real healing to happen. Amen.



Day 20 - March 11

Prayers for help to be kind

Dear Lord, we praise you and desire to be more like You. Help me to treat each person I know as I would like to be treated, and fill me with loving kindness so that my thoughts, words, and deeds flow from Your spirit of unconditional Love. I ask all these things through Christ who strengthens me. Amen.



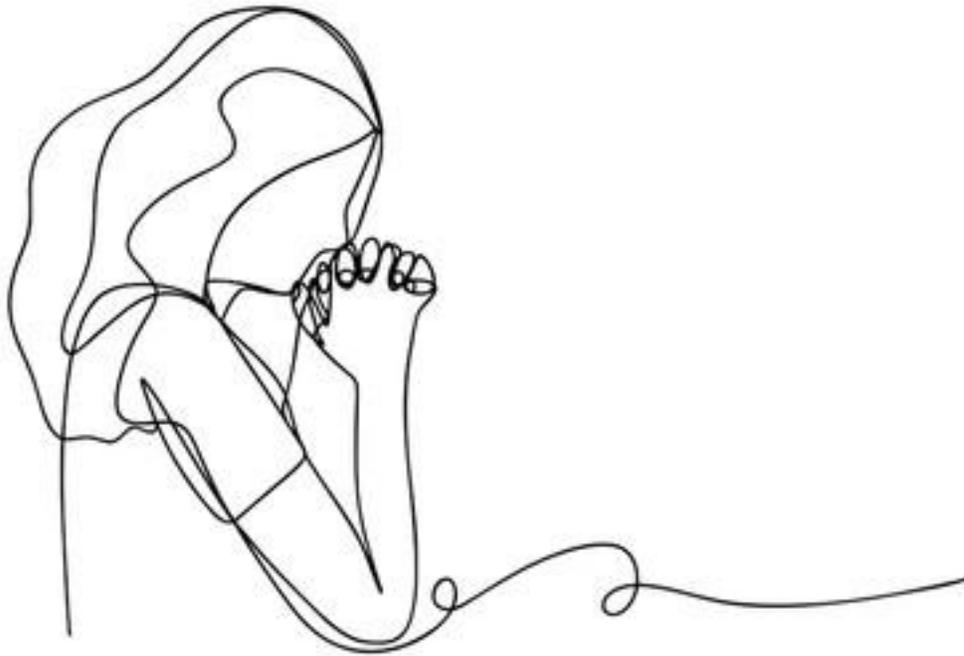
Prayers to improve social justice

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



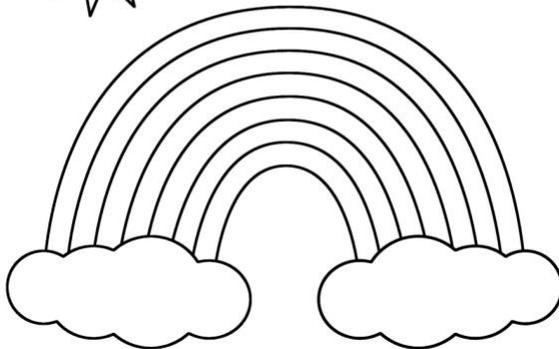
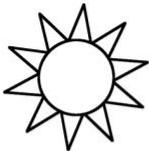
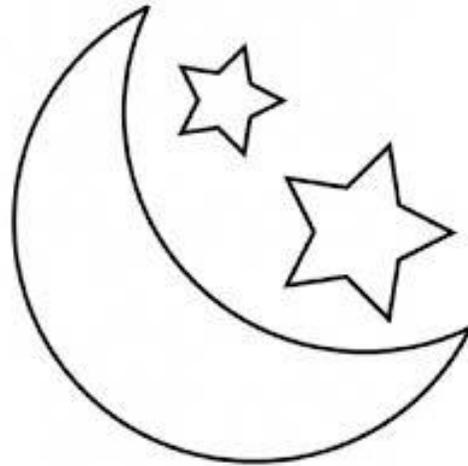
Prayer for those having a hard time

We pray for those who struggle. We pray for those who have lost their jobs. We pray for those whose financial security has gone, who have anxiety around paying rent or providing for family needs. Renew their hope and give them the courage to dream again. Remind them of their value, and fill them with peace. Amen.



Prayers in thanksgiving for nature's beauty

O God, thank You for allowing us to benefit from the beauty of all that Your hand has created. The highest heavens and the earth and everything in it all belong to You. Thank You for all the beautiful and fragrant plants, and for the power and wonder of every animal. Thank You for the seasons and the rains that keep our earth reproducing. Thank You for our seas, forests, and skies. Amen.



Day 24 - March 16

Prayers for our possessions

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have given me a comfortable place to live, the beauty that surrounds me, health, and spiritual wealth to name a few. Through good and bad times, help me to see that I am blessed beyond measure. Amen.



Day 24 - March 17

Prayers for those important to our lives

Thank you for my friends and family. I am grateful to be blessed with a family who loves and supports me. And for those who have died who taught me how to live a worthwhile life, I give thanks. I also thank you for people in my life that have made a positive impact—teachers, coaches, pastors, Sunday school teachers. I am thankful these people were in my life and give to others as they have given to me. Amen.



Prayers for food and farm workers

Dear God, I thank farm workers for their hard work and for their strength. I am grateful for the food farm workers who bring us to food to eat to nourish our bodies. Lord, I also remember the countless farmers across the globe who are going through hard times. And I pray that we for the restaurant owners, the waitresses and waiters, and the food service workers who serve us. Please help us be generous and kind. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.



Day 27 - March 19

Prayers for our country

Lord, please lift up our country and our leaders. Please defend the vulnerable and voiceless and bring justice to those who have suffered injustice. Unify your people, as we cry out to you for our land. Amen.

USA flag and map



Day 28 - March 20

Prayer for seniors

God, we pray that all seniors living alone, in a nursing home or in an assisted living facility know your peace. We pray for their protection. We pray that they would know your presence with them, your power in them, that you can draw them into deeper communion with you. We also pray for your blessing on those who are caring for the elderly that is truly “God’s Work.” Amen.

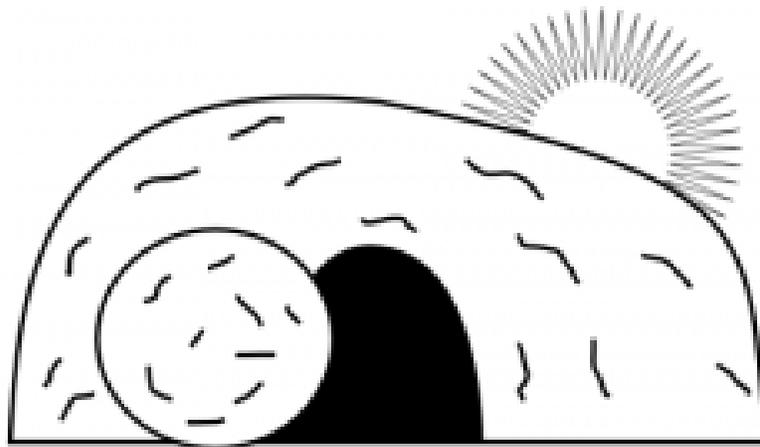
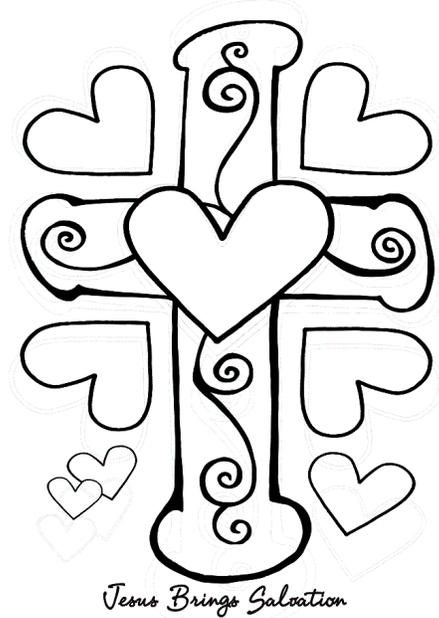
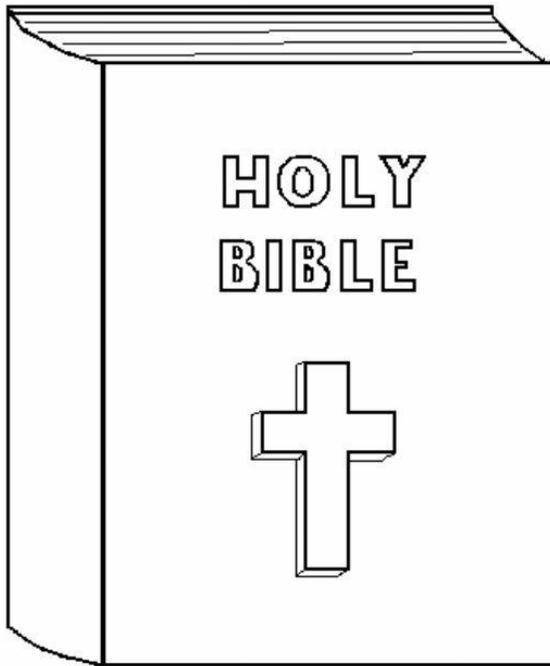


The Medicare program was established to help older citizens.



Prayers of thanks for the Bible

Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible — Your Word. It guides us, comforts us, and provides us hope. It offers us great stories with valuable life lessons and beautiful words to help us appreciate God's love. Amen.



Prayers for delivery drivers

Bless those who professionally travel the roads so others can safely reside at home during this pandemic. Whether mail workers, or truck drivers, or food deliverers, grant these workers are safe as they come in contact with people and handle packages/food coming from many locations. Keep them awake and alert as they navigate routes during a season marked by longer shifts. Amen.



Day 31 - March 24

Prayers for small business owners

Lord, please sustain businesses that rely on customers at a time when the coronavirus has disrupted buying. Please help these business owners and employees who rely on us during these lean times. Enable them to reopen as soon as it's safe to do so. Amen.

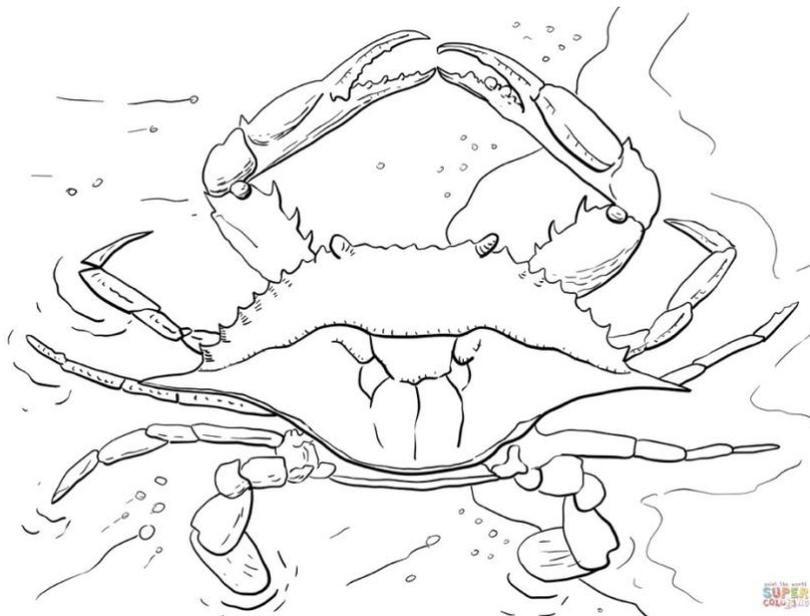
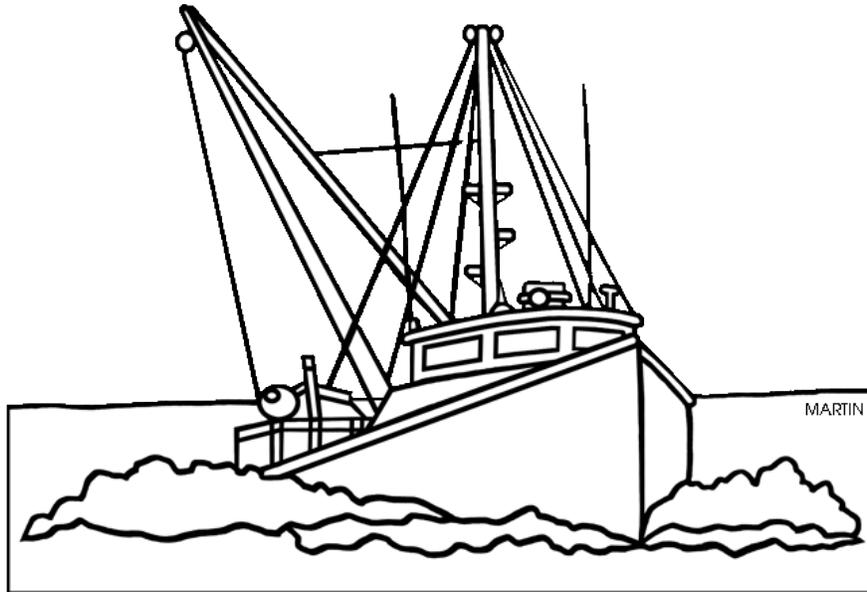


**HELP
WANTED**

Day 32 - March 25

Prayers for the Chesapeake Bay

Dear God, water flows through earth and body, sustaining life in everything: insect, bird, tree, fish, flower, and human. May we protect the sacred waters that unite us all; may our choices reflect love for all life around us. Open our minds and hearts to heal our disconnect from the sacred waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Amen.

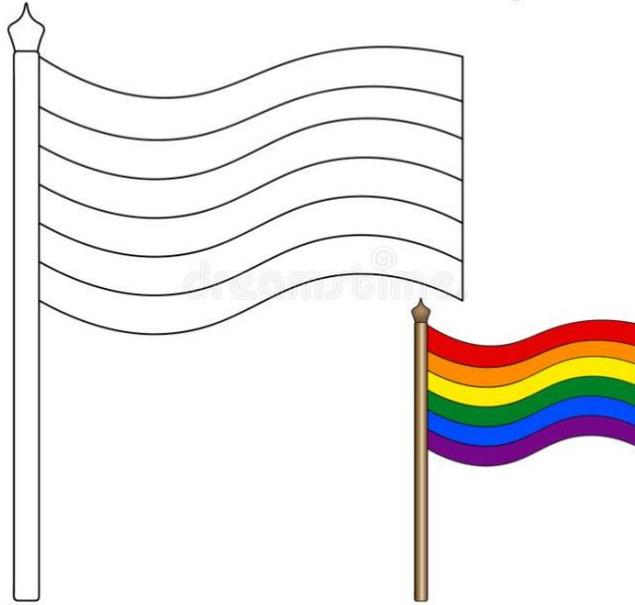


Day 33 - March 26

Prayers for our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters in Christ

Loving God, you invite us to treat each other with respect. We pray for justice for all in our lives and our communities. We are sad that too often the lives, rights, and freedoms of LGBTQ+ people have not been valued in our communities and our society. We ask your blessing as we seek to co-create a world where people are free from injustice, violence, and discrimination. Amen.

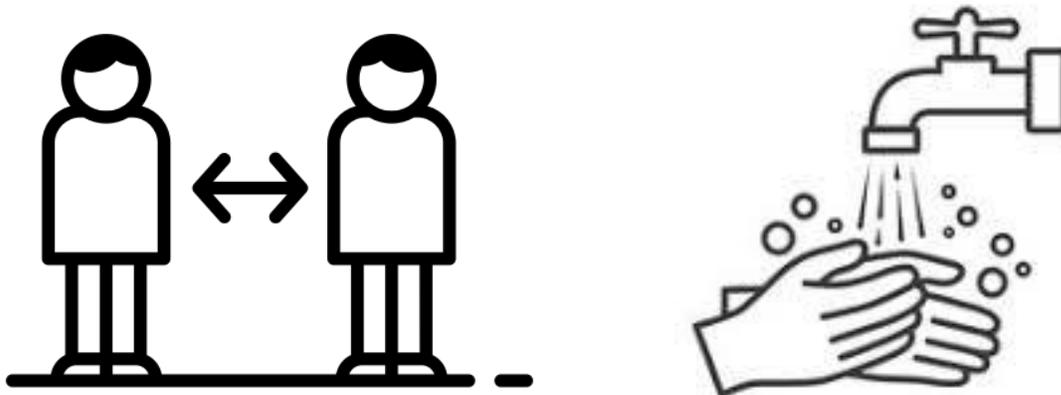
LGBT Rainbow Flag



Day 34 - March 27

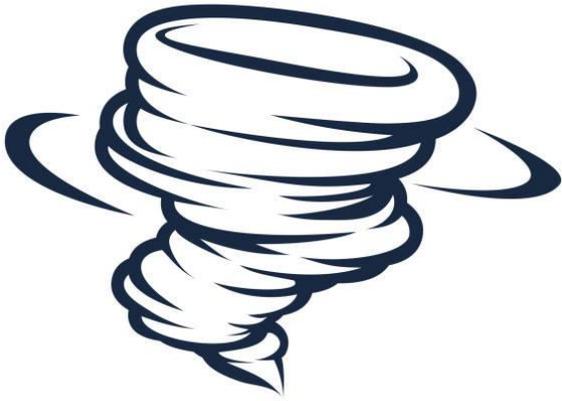
Prayers for high school and college graduates

Dear God, help young people whose dreams, plans, and goals have been turned upside-down. Be with graduates who are missing out on their typical school year and who didn't get the chance to say goodbye to close friends before they head in different directions. Help students deal with such disappointment. Amen.



Prayers for victims of natural disasters

Good and Gracious God, we come to you to pray for victims of natural disasters - hurricanes, snowstorms, tornadoes, fires. Our hearts are heavy with sorrow for their losses of life, shelter, employment and hope. Quiet our minds and voices so that we may be able to hear, speak and do your will, but only after we have lifted these victims up in prayer. Amen.



Prayer for the unemployed

O Lord, we lift those whose incomes have been stopped or reduced, for those whose jobs have been suspended and all who are facing unemployment - across all industries, companies, and positions. Holy one, you sustain all who fall and raise up all who are bowed down. Provide for the families and individuals who are enduring economic hardship. Draw your people together in one supportive and loving community. Amen.



Day 37 -- March 31

Prayers for Maundy Thursday

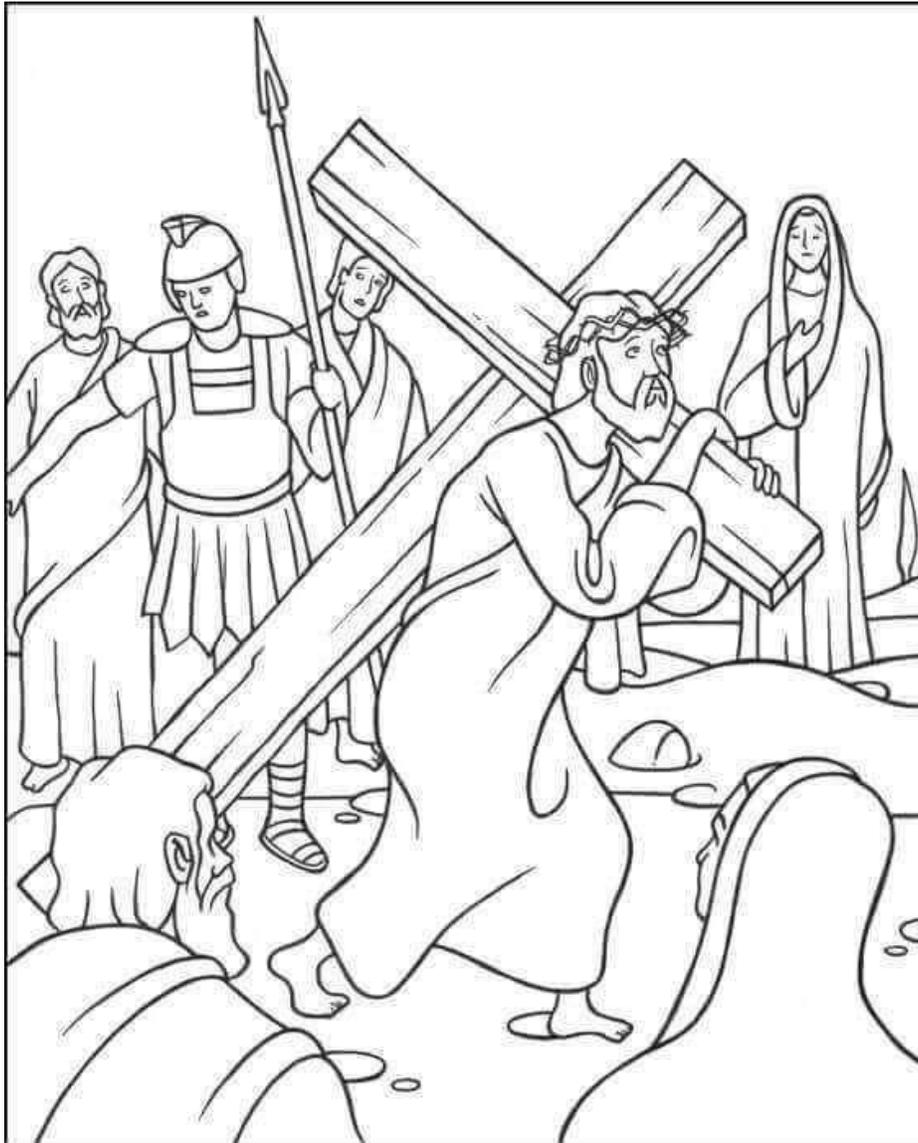
Gracious God, you give us good things to eat and invite us to share with one another. Thank you for the many ways you feed our minds, feed our hearts, and feed our bellies each day. We also know that sometimes we do not share our food, our minds, and our hearts in the ways that you would have us. For the ways we don't give of ourselves, we ask you forgiveness. And for the many ways you sustain us, we give you thanks. Amen.



Day 38 - April 1

Prayer for Good Friday

Thank you, God, for sending us Jesus. And thank you, Jesus, for obeying your Father. Your love for Him is what let you allow others to nail you to a cross - and your love for us is what kept you there. Help us to obey and love like you. Amen.



Day 39 – April 2

Our Father,

Who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who
trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.

- Amen