



***World Day of Prayer for the Sick - February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012***

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Since 1992, February 11, the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, has been observed as the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. This is a good opportunity to give special attention to the needs and witness of the sick in our communities.

*"When the Church cares for the sick, it serves Christ himself in the suffering members of his Mystical Body" (Decree on the Pastoral Care of the Sick, December 7, 1972).*

***Opening Prayer:***

Father, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Prayer of the Faithful for the Sick:***

***R*** - Response is Lord we pray to heal the world.

For the Church: [pause]

May we accept the challenge to respond to the needs of God's people.

We pray to the Lord. ***R***

For all who suffer throughout the world: [pause]

May they experience the peace of Christ.

We pray to the Lord. ***R***

For all who have come today for healing: [pause]

May they be filled with new hope and strength.

We pray to the Lord. *R*

For all who are dedicated to the care of the sick: [pause]

May they receive the grace to continue their ministry of compassion.

We pray to the Lord. *R*

For the families and friends of those who are ill: [pause]

May their faith bring them comfort.

We pray to the Lord. *R*

***Symbolic Action: Blessing for Caregivers***

Almighty God, you are lavish in bestowing all your gifts;

your mercy is without measure,

and the treasures of your goodness without limit.

We thank you for the ministry of pastoral care  
with which you have graced your church.

We thank you for these, your people,  
who faithfully give of themselves in caring for the well-being of others.

Send your blessing upon them;  
shelter them in the shadow of your wings.

May they see you in the faces of those entrusted to their care,  
and may they share your gifts with those in need  
out of love for Christ our Lord who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

