



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

Christmas Season Meal Prayers

Meal Prayer for Christmas Eve and Day

God of unconditional love,
with joy and wonder
we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem,
a name that means "House of Bread."
We honor Mary and Joseph, who found shelter only with animals,
and who laid Jesus in the manger used to feed them.
Who would have expected that one born in poverty and humility
would become abundant spiritual food for people of every generation!

We give you thanks, God of surprises, for the food before us,
and for the spirit of joy and love that we share today.
Bless the gifts which we are about to receive
and all who have harvested, provided and prepared them.

Help us grow in poverty of spirit and simplicity of heart,
that we may live more lavishly
as bread broken for the hungry, shelter for the weary,
and beacons of compassion for all who seek refuge and hope.

We ask this through the Word made flesh,
who offers light and life to all,
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Oración de Gracias para Navidad

Dios del amor incondicional,
nos reunimos con alegría y asombro
para celebrar el nacimiento de Jesús en Belén,
un nombre que significa "Casa del pan".
Honramos Maria y José, que encontraron refugio solo entre los animales,
y quien puso a Jesús en el pesebre solía alimentarlos.
¿Quién hubiera esperado que uno naciera en la pobreza y la humildad
se convertiría en abundante alimento espiritual para cada generación?

Te damos gracias, Dios de las sorpresas, por la comida puesta delante de nosotros,
y por el espíritu de amor y alabanza que nos une hoy.
Bendice los regalos que estamos a punto de recibir
y todos los que han cosechado, provisto y preparado.

Ayúdanos a crecer en la pobreza de espíritu y la simplicidad de corazón.
para que pueda vivir más lujosamente
como pan partido para los hambrientos,
refugio para los cansados
y balizas / destellos de compasión por todos los que buscan refugio y esperanza.

Pedimos esto a través de la Palabra hecha carne,
quien ofrece luz y vida a todos,
Cristo Jesús nuestro Señor. Amen.

Meal Prayer for the Feast of the Holy Family

God ever faithful,
you never cease to watch over and care for us.
We see glimpses of your unconditional love
in the witness given by families of all kinds:

in the welcome of new members,
in respect shown to elders,
in care provided to the sick,
in sacrifices willingly made,
in forgiveness freely offered.

Bless the members of my family, Lord,
and those who have become like family—
whether here present or present in spirit.
And extend your care
to families who are hungry, divided, or grieving.

Bless the food you have graciously provided, Lord.
Help us work to ensure
that members of every family
have a place to live,
enough to eat,
and access to quality healthcare.

Through your Son, Jesus Christ,
who loved his earthly family,
and who continues to love us unconditionally,
now and forever. Amen.

Meal Prayer for New Year's Eve and Day

As a new year begins,
we turn to you, God of endless ages,
for your care extends to people of every generation.
Your love is without end.

On this World Day of Prayer for Peace,
open our eyes to the hostility in our world,
the violence in our communities,
the divisions in our families,
the suffering caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Give us the courage and resolve
to live through our fatigue and anxiety,
to stand with those who suffer and grieve,
and to work for the health and well-being of all.

Bless the food before us today
and bless us with hope throughout the coming year.

We pray through your son, Jesus Christ,
the Alpha and the Omega,
who sings your praise for ever and ever.

Meal Prayer for Epiphany

Loving God,
Though the magi offered extravagant gifts to Jesus,
you call us to share with our brothers and sisters
a far greater gift: your unconditional love.

Keep us always searching for Jesus
in the scriptures, in prayer and worship, and in daily living.
Illuminate every twist and turn of the road ahead,
so that we may recognize more clearly the presence of Christ
in people of every race, age, condition, and way of life.

Whenever we encounter a sister or brother in need,
break open the bread of our hearts,
that we may offer unselfishly
the gifts you have given us to share.

We thank you for the gift of this food,
and for the gift of faith in your Son,
who is the Light of the World
for ever and ever. Amen.

Meal Prayer for the Baptism of the Lord

God of all,
the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River
marked the beginning of his public ministry.
At our own baptism you claimed us as your beloved children
and infused us with the saving grace
that accompanies us through life.
We can never thank you enough for so great a gift.

As the Christmas season draws to a close,
our mission as disciples of Jesus continues on.
As you once guided the Magi by the light of a star,
so illuminate the way ahead by the light of faith.

Nourish us with the food before us
and continue to stir up in the Church the gifts of the Spirit,
so that our lives, marked by compassionate service,
may further your reign of justice, love, and peace.

We ask this through your Beloved Son,
who lives in communion with you and the Spirit,
God for ever and ever.