

---

## Butler County Detention Center Prayer Service 2026

---



Bread of Life Pan de Vida Family of Parishes Social Justice Committee

**Opening Song: Open My Eyes (Bilingual)**

1. Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see Your face  
Open my eyes, Lord  
Help me to see

2. Abre mis oídos,  
que quiero oír como tú.  
Abre mis oídos,  
ayúdame a oír.

3. Open my heart, Lord  
Help me to love like You  
Open my heart, Lord  
Help me to love

.  
And the first shall be last  
And our eyes are opened  
And we'll hear like never before  
And we'll speak in new ways  
And we'll see God's face in places we've never known

.  
4. Yo vivo dentro de ti  
En lo profundo de tu corazón, oh amor  
Yo vivo dentro de ti  
Descansa ahora en mí

Spanish bridge text © 1970, Comisión Episcopal Española de Liturgia. All rights reserved. Text: Based on Mark 8:22–25; verses 1–3 and bridge text, Jesse Manibusan; verse 4 text, Kelly Cullen, OFM. Text and music © 1988, 1998, Jesse Manibusan. Published by Spirit & Song®, a division of OCP. All rights reserved.

**Leader/Presider:** Good morning, and welcome. We gather today as one Church, one family, united in prayer and in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters. We join Catholics across Ohio and the United States to lift our hearts in prayer for all who seek safety, dignity, and belonging. This will be both a time of contemplation and of commitment: a moment to let the Word of God and the witness of our saints - St. Oscar Romero and St. Frances Cabrini-shape how we pray, what we believe, and how we live.

Today, our prayer takes the form of the Romero Rosary: Mysteries of Compassion and Mercy, interwoven with the Cabrini Pledge. Through these mysteries, we will meditate on Christ's compassion for the poor, the exiled, and the forgotten, and ask for the grace to become instruments of that same mercy in our own communities. The Cabrini Pledge, which we will pray near the end of our service, reminds us that prayer must always lead to action—that faith and solidarity are lived in how we welcome, protect, promote, and integrate all who seek refuge among us.

In their recent pastoral letter to immigrants, the Bishops of Ohio remind us of the real fears and uncertainties so many endure each day. They write: "It pains us to hear that our brothers and sisters, even those with lawful immigration status, live in fear of going to work, worshiping at the local parish, or participating in community events. Daily routines now needlessly bring angst of the unknown and the threat of being detained... We regret that our nation's immigration system has failed to offer predictability and stability to those living as law-abiding residents and supporting themselves and their families... [we seek] compassion to move our hearts and motivate

policymakers to recognize [the] circumstances and contributions” of immigrant families. ~Catholic Bishops of Ohio-Letter of Solidarity with Immigrants

**Leader:** We bring those brothers and sisters into our prayer this morning. We remember that their stories - stories of courage, displacement, and perseverance are part of our shared human story. We also pray that compassion might take root in us-that our communities may be places of refuge and hope for all who journey far from home.

So let us still our hearts, and call to mind those for whom we pray- I invite everyone to turn towards the detention center before we begin. Let us remember all of those people who are currently being held before we pray together the Mysteries of Compassion and Mercy. (Pause briefly before inviting participants to begin the opening prayers of the Rosary. After the pause, ask everyone to turn back to begin our prayer.)

**All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Leader:** We gather to pray for all who journey in search of safety and belonging. May our hearts be moved by compassion and our lives reflect mercy. Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

**Leader:** Let us recite the Apostles Creed together:

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen**

**Leader:** Let us say the Our Father

**All: 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.**

**Leader:** Let us say the Hail Mary for an increase in hope.

**All: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, Pray for us sinners, now and out the hour of our death. Amen.**

**Leader:** Let us say the Hail Mary for an increase in love.

**Leader:** Let us say the Hail Mary for an increase in peace.

**All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen**

### **Scripture Reader 1:**

The 1st Mystery of Compassion & Mercy: Jesus Calls Matthew the Tax Collector

(Matthew 9:9-13) A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” He heard this and said, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

**Reflection Reader 1:** Reflection from the words of St. Oscar Romero (June 11th, 1978 Homily)

What is mercy? Mercy is the most perfect expression of love. It is love as surrender, as forgiveness, as justice, as living in peace with others. Mercy is not the pride of the Pharisees who despise the outcasts; rather, it is the embrace of God who, though, super-rich, has come to seek out both the poor and those who don't want to sit down and eat with them. Mercy is goodness expressed in deeds and not in words. All of us understand mercy better because we've all done some small act of mercy for others, and above all because we've all been the recipients of mercy. If God had not been merciful to us when we fell into so many sins, where would we be? If God did not have the mercy to forgive us before he died, where would we go? And perhaps also in our human relationships we've known many acts of mercy done by us or done for us. Blessed are those whose lives have been filled with many merciful acts! That is what God desires!

**Prayer Leader 1:** The intention for this decade is for migrants, refugees, and all other strangers in our midst, that they may find strength in our concern for justice and feel the warmth of our love.

**All: Pray the Our Father**

**All: Pray the Hail Mary (10 times)**

**All: Pray the Glory Be**

**Prayer Leader 1:** (Concluding Prayer): Heavenly Father, thank you that, through your Son, you call us to yourself, even while we are sinners. As we seek your mercy, help us also to be missionaries of mercy to others by our compassion and forgiveness. Widen our hearts so that we do not place limits on how and where the Holy Spirit is at work. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Prayer Leader:** Holy Mary, Mother of God

**All- Pray for Us**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Oscar Romero

**All: Pray for Us**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Frances Cabrini

**All: Pray for us.**

**Scripture Reader 2:**

2nd Mystery of Compassion and Mercy: The Woman Anoints the Feet of the Lord Jesus

(Luke 7:36) A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

A Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus said to him in reply, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days' wages[b] and the other owed fifty. Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?" Simon said in reply, "The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven." He said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said

to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” But he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

**Reflection Reader 2:** Reflection from the words of St. Oscar Romero (September 24, 1978 Homily)

In Jesus’ time the respectable folk kept pointing at the woman even when she was weeping for her sins: “Look, if he were really a prophet, he would realize who that woman is who is touching him.” But Christ came to her defense: “She is no longer a sinner for she has loved much and she has repented of her faults; she is already Saint Mary Magdalene.” The sins of the past no longer count; they dissolve. That’s why Christian justification is called rebirth...All those who repent of their faults leave behind the evil of their past lives as if shedding an old skin and donning a new one; they now have nothing to do with what was left in the past! Think of how the butterfly is born again as it leaves its cocoon and becomes a new creature. Blessed be God! This is the generosity of God. We cannot understand it because all we know is how to utter the cruel words, “I forgive you, but I don’t forget.” That is not Christian. God forgives and forgets.

**Prayer Leader 2:** The intention for this decade is for migrant workers, that they may labor in safe and just conditions, and that we who benefit from their labor may be truly grateful for what they provide.

**All: Pray the Our Father**

**All: Pray the Hail Mary (10 times)**

**All: Pray the Glory Be**

**Prayer Leader 2:** (Concluding Prayer): Heavenly Father, You love so much that you sent your Son to bring us new life by his cross and resurrection. Help us, who are in need of forgiveness, and have been forgiven so much, to refrain from grudges, blame, and revenge, and to instead to love generously and compassionately in return. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

**All: Amen**

**Prayer Leader:** Holy Mary, Mother of God

**All: Pray for us**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Oscar Romero

**All: Pray for us**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Frances Cabrini

**All: Pray for us**

**Scripture Reader 3:**

3rd Mystery of Compassion and Mercy: The Lord Jesus Encounters the Rich Young Man

(Mark 10:17-22) A reading from the Gospel of Mark:

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.’” He replied and said to him, “Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to [the] poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

**Reflection Reader 3:** Reflection from the words of St. Oscar Romero (October 14, 1979 Homily)

Christ had more to say to the young man: “You are lacking one thing.” Now Christ was challenging the natural goodness that people have. It is not enough to be good; it is not enough to refrain from doing evil. Christianity is something very positive and not simply negation. There are many people who say, “I don’t kill. I don’t steal. I don’t

hurt anybody.” That’s not enough. You’re still lacking much! The young man’s goodness was still deficient, and it became clear when Christ told him what he was lacking: “Go, sell what you have, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then, come, follow me.” Sadly, the gospel says that the young man’s face fell and he went away sad because he was very rich. It is not that Christ had a grudge against the rich, nor is it true that the Church or the Church’s preaching rails against them. That is not the case. We have just said that Christ “looked on the young man with love,” and because he loved him, he taught him the true way.

**Prayer Leader 3:** The intention for this Decade is for all Catholics, that God inspire them to take action in their local communities to support and protect migrants and to advocate on their behalf.

**All: Pray the Our Father**

**All: Pray the Hail Mary (10 times)**

**All: Pray the Glory Be**

**Prayer Leader 3):** (Concluding Prayer) Heavenly Father, we desire to follow your Son, and to be captured by his gaze of steady love. Help us to overcome the obstacles which prevent us from giving ourselves more fully and freely to the Lord Jesus. Teach us to love every person, no matter what their situation in life happens to be. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Prayer Leader:** Holy Mary, Mother of God

**All: Pray for us**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Oscar Romero

**All: Pray for us**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Frances Cabrini

**All: Pray for us**

**Scripture Reader 4:**

4th Mystery of Compassion and Mercy: The Lord Jesus Meets the Woman Caught in Adultery

(John 8: 1-11) A reading from the Gospel of John:

Then each went to his own house, while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So, what do you say?” They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again, he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So, he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin anymore.”

**Reflection Reader 4:** Reflection from the words of St. Oscar Romero (March 23, 1980 Homily)

When this woman was caught, the Pharisees and scribes were debating how she should die, whether by stoning or strangulation or some other way. Thus, they said to Jesus, “This woman was caught in adultery. Our law says she should die. What do you say?” In other words, they were asking him, “How should we kill her?” Jesus was not concerned about the legalistic details. Calmly rising above the malice of those trying to entrap him, he began to write on the ground, like someone scribbling notes on a piece of paper. The crowd kept insisting until Jesus responded with cleverness and wisdom, “Let the one among you who has no sin be the first to cast a stone.” He

touched their conscience. They were witnesses of the deed, and according to the ancient laws the witnesses were to throw the first stones. As they examined their own consciences, however, they realized that they were witnesses of their own sins. Thus was the woman's dignity saved. God does not save sin, but he does save the dignity of sinners, and here we have a perfect case. Converting the woman is much better than stoning her. Forgiving her and saving her is much better than condemning her...Look closely at this gospel so as to learn something of how considerate Jesus is with the other person. He always sees the person, no matter how sinful, as a child of God, an image of the Lord. By giving true primacy to human dignity, Jesus is the source of peace. People feel they matter to Jesus, who has no sin and no need to repent. Returning to him with sincerity is the greatest joy a human being can have.

**Prayer Leader 4:** The intention for this decade is for our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they may grow in their awareness of the issue of migration and become a voice in the public square calling for greater protections for these populations.

**All: Pray the Our Father**

**All: Pray the Hail Mary (10 times)**

**All: Pray the Glory Be**

**Prayer Leader 4:** (Concluding Prayer) Heavenly Father, Your Son reveals divine mercy and compassion to every person. Help us to be compassionate, as you, Father, are compassionate. May we seek forgiveness for our own sins and not judge others. Open us to receive the power of your healing, and to be instruments of healing for others. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Prayer Leader:** Holy Mary, Mother of God

**All: Pray for us.**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Oscar Romero

**All: Pray for us**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Frances Cabrini

**All: Pray for us**

**Scripture Reader 5:** 5th Mystery of Compassion and Mercy: The Lord Jesus Teaches about the Prodigal Son and the Forgiving Father

(Luke 15: 11-32) A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

Then he said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So, the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The

servant said to him, ‘Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, ‘Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.’ He said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’”

**Reflection Reader 5:** Reflection from the words of St. Oscar Romero (March 16, 1980 Homily)

I would like us just to sit in silence and remember that the story of that son is our own personal story. Each of you and myself as well, can see in the parable of the prodigal son something of our own history...The God of love invites us to live in his house, but we capriciously and crazily run away, trying to enjoy a life without God, which is sin. Even so, God patiently waits until the day when his son returns home. When the son, overcome with misery and abandoned by others, remembers that there is no greater love than God’s, he returns. Though the son expects to find God resentful and rejecting, he finds him instead welcoming him with outstretched arms, ready to throw a party to celebrate his return.

**Prayer Leader 5:** The intention for this decade is for all policy makers in our nation: that the Son of God, who became human, will help them understand the great dignity of human persons, and support legislation that better protects vulnerable populations in our midst.

**All: Pray the Our Father**

**All: Pray the Hail Mary (10times)**

**All: Pray the Glory be**

**Prayer Leader 5:** (Concluding Prayer): Heavenly Father, you have given us the freedom to accept or reject your love for us. Help us to always say, yes, to your love, shown to us in your beloved Son Jesus. When we stray from you, bring us back with your compassionate, patient loving. Give us generous hearts towards those distant from you and your Church, and in need of mercy. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Prayer Leader:** Holy Mary, Mother of God

**All: Pray for us**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Oscar Romero

**All: Pray for us**

**Prayer Leader:** St. Frances Cabrini

**All: Pray for us**

Concluding Prayers of the Rosary

**All: Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears! Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God—that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

**Prayer Leader:** Let us pray: O God, whose Only Begotten Son, by his life, death, and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin, we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Proclamation of the Cabrini Pledge:

**Prayer Leader:** The Cabrini Pledge is a prayerful declaration inspired by the life and witness of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, patron saint of immigrants. Rooted in the Gospel call to honor the dignity of every human person, it invites us to stand in solidarity with migrants and refugees—recognizing in their faces the image of God. The pledge reminds us that authentic discipleship requires both compassion and action, transforming fear into mercy through prayer, encounter, and civic engagement. As a gathered community, we will recite this pledge together, bilingually, as a public expression of our shared commitment to be “keepers of hope” in the spirit of Mother Cabrini.

**ALL: I PLEDGE...**

**To affirm, in word and deed, the inherent dignity of every person, regardless of immigration status or country of origin, seeing each as a child of God before all else.**

**To engage with Scripture and the Church’s social teaching, reflecting on the role of migration in salvation history, the history of the United States, and the history of my own family.**

**To listen and learn about the circumstances facing migrants and refugees, including those in my community, with an open heart and mind.**

**To seek opportunities for encounter, so as to grow in deeper understanding and communion that leads to an authentic solidarity with those in need.**

**To consider what it means to be a good neighbor and how I am called to reflect the love and hope of Christ to others.**

**To encourage civic dialogue that places the human person and the sanctity of families at the center of policymaking, especially toward the end of meaningful immigration reform.**

**To join with Pope Leo in praying for all migrants and refugees as fellow travelers on the journey to our true homeland.**

**ALL: Amen**

**Prayer Leader:** (Closing prayer/Final Blessing) Lord Jesus, when you multiplied the loaves and fishes, you provided more than food for the body, you offered us the gift of yourself, the gift which satisfies every hunger and quenches every thirst! Your disciples were filled with fear and doubt, but you poured out your love and compassion on the migrant crowd, welcoming them as brothers and sisters. Lord Jesus, today you call us to welcome the members of God's family who come to our land to escape oppression, poverty, persecution, violence, and war. Like your disciples, we too are filled with fear and doubt and even suspicion. We build barriers in our hearts and in our minds. Lord Jesus, help us by your grace, To banish fear from our hearts, that we may embrace each of your children as our own brother and sister; To welcome migrants and refugees with joy and generosity, while responding to their many needs; To realize that you call all people to your holy mountain to learn the ways of peace and justice; To share of our abundance as you spread a banquet before us; To give witness to your love for all people, as we celebrate the many gifts they bring. We praise you and give you thanks for the family you have called together from so many people. We see in this human family a reflection of the divine unity of the one Most Holy Trinity in whom we make our prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**Prayer Leader:** May the Lord bless us with hearts that welcome the stranger, protect the vulnerable, and proclaim the Gospel of Life.

**ALL: Amen**

**Closing Song: City of God**

*Awake from your slumber!*

*Arise from your sleep!*

*A new day is dawning  
for all those who weep.*

*The people in darkness*

*have seen a great light.*

*The Lord of our longing  
has conquered the night.*

**Refrain:** *Let us build the city of God.  
May our tears be turned into dancing!  
For the Lord, our light and our love,  
has turned the night into day!*

*2. We are sons of the morning;  
we are daughters of day.  
The One who has loved us  
has brightened our way.  
The Lord of all kindness  
has called us to be  
a light for his people  
to set their hearts free.*

**Refrain**

*3. God is light;  
in him there is no darkness.  
Let us walk in his light,  
his children, one and all.  
O comfort my people;  
make gentle your words.  
Proclaim to my city  
the day of her birth.*

**Refrain**

*4. O city of gladness,  
now lift up your voice.  
Proclaim the good tidings  
that all may rejoice!*

**Refrain**

*Text: Dan Schutte, b.1947*

*Tune: Dan Schutte, b.1947; acc. by Robert J. Batastini, b.1942*

© 1981, OCP