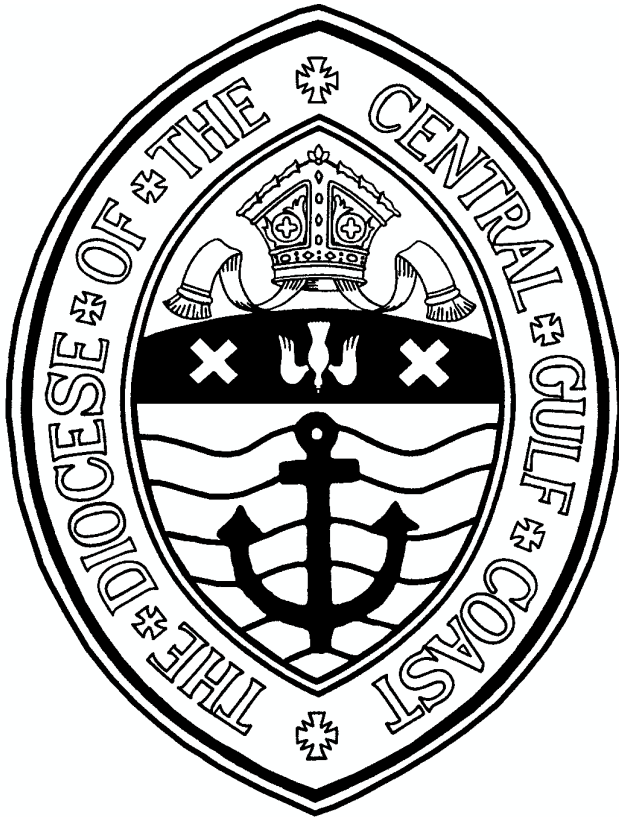


Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
Cycle of Prayer for
Prisons, Prisoners, Staff, Their Families and the
Victims of Crime Everywhere



2023 - 2024

Welcome! God be with you and all who pray! This booklet is a result of the work and ministry of the Commission on Prison Ministry in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. It is hoped that it will provide a way into prison ministry for those who would like to heed the words of Jesus in **Matthew 25:34-40**: *Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'*

It seems very clear to us, from the words in Matthew's Gospel, that prison ministry is an important part of the Kingdom of Heaven's drawing near and that all of us, as Baptized members of the Body of Christ, are called to that ministry. Unfortunately, not all of us are able to visit prisons ourselves because of various reasons, but all of us can PRAY and this booklet is designed to help in that effort. Please incorporate these prayers and intentions into your parish's Prayers of the People during worship and in your own daily prayers as well. We have included several prayers in an effort to keep this effort always fresh but please feel free to write your own prayers as well and we hope that you will share them with us.

We have attempted to include all major incarceration facilities in our diocese but it is possible that we have omitted some either in error or in ignorance. If we have, we ask your forgiveness in advance and we hope that you and your church will be able to use this prayer plan as your entry into ministry to those who have been shut away and those who watch them and the families of all involved.

May God's blessing be with you always,

The Commission on Prison Ministry.

Prayers for prisoner and prisons, guards, staff, and victims of crime everywhere.

A Daily Prayer for Justice and Mercy

Jesus, united with the Father and the Holy Spirit, give us your compassion for those in prison. Mend in mercy the broken in mind and memory. Soften the hard of heart, the captives of anger. Free the innocent; parole the trustworthy. Awaken the repentance that restores hope. May prisoners' families persevere in their love. Jesus, heal the victims of crime. They live with the scars. Lift to eternal peace those who die. Grant victims' families the forgiveness that heals. Give wisdom to lawmakers and to those who judge. Instill prudence and patience in those who guard. Make those in prison ministry bearers of your light, for all of us are in need of your mercy! Amen.

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Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for all who are captive in prison and for those who are affected by or involved in their imprisonment. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love, prisoners, their families, friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ, in his strength and his spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Lord, Please hear our prayers. Please watch over those we love who are in jail, touch their souls while they are there, give them insight into Your ways, so that they may learn and grow. Give them a desire to seek you and break whatever chains of the past that binds them and give them HOPE to know you have a BETTER plan. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Father of Mercy, the secrets of all hearts are known to you alone. You know who is just and you forgive the unjust. You alone are the Almighty Judge. We are not worthy of judging anyone. Your mercy is enough for sinners. Hear our prayers for those in prison. Give them repentance and let them believe in you. Give them patience and hope in their sufferings, and bring them home again soon. Comfort their near and dear ones. Let them trust in Jesus Christ and live with hope. Amen

BCP pg. 826 - *For Prisons and Correctional Institutions*

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice.

Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison,

O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. *Amen.*

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless, the destitute and the oppressed

For the sick, the wounded, and the crippled

For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair

For the sorrowful and bereaved

For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger

That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Loving God, your Son knew what it is like to be a prisoner.

Help us to remember those in prison, for whatever reason,

Without judging and without condemning,

believing that no-one is beyond your grace and forgiveness.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please make your prayers for the inmates, staff, victims of crime everywhere, and their families at each of these institutions rather than for the institutions themselves.

Weeks beginning Sunday,

Feb 12, 2023	Apalachee Correctional Institution, East Unit & West Unit, Sneads, Florida
Feb 19, 2023	Bay Correctional Facility & Juvenile Facility, Panama City, Florida
Feb. 26, 2023	Blackwater River Correctional Facility, Milton, Florida
Mar. 5, 2023	Calhoun Correctional Institution, Blountstown, Florida
Mar. 12, 2023	Century Correctional Institution, Century, Florida
Mar. 19, 2023	Graceville Correctional Facility, Graceville, Florida
Mar. 26, 2023	Gulf Correctional Institution, Wewahitchka, Florida
Apr. 2, 2023	Holmes Correctional Institution, Bonifay, Florida
Apr. 9, 2023	Jackson Correctional Institution, Malone, FL & Jackson Juvenile Offender Correctional Center, Marianna, Florida
Apr. 16, 2023	Northwest Florida Reception Center & Annex, Chipley, Florida
Apr. 23, 2023	Okaloosa Correctional Institution, Crestview, Florida

Please make your prayers for the inmates, staff, victims of crime everywhere, and their families at each of these institutions rather than for the institutions themselves.

April 30, 2023	Santa Rosa Correctional Institution, Milton, Florida
May 7, 2023	Walton Correctional Institution, De Funiak Springs, Florida
May 15, 2023	Atmore Community Work Center, Atmore, Alabama
May 21, 2023	Camden Work Release, Camden, Alabama
May 28, 2023	Easterling Correctional Facility, Clio, Alabama
Jun. 4, 2023	Elba Work Release, Elba, Alabama
Jun. 11, 2023	Fountain / JO Davis Correctional Facility, Atmore, Alabama
Jun. 18, 2023	Holman Correction Facility, Atmore, Alabama
Jun. 25, 2023	Loxley Work Release, Loxley, Alabama
Jul. 2, 2023	Ventress Correctional Facility, Clayton, Alabama
Jul. 9, 2023	L.I.F.E. Tech Transitional Center, Thomasville, Alabama
Jul. 16, 2023	Federal Correction Institution & Camp, Marianna, Florida
Jul. 23, 2023	Federal Prison Camp, Pensacola, Florida REAP Re-entry Program, Pensacola, FL
Jul. 30, 2023	Barbour County Jail 24, Clayton, Alabama
Aug. 6, 2023	Clarke County Jail, Grove Hill, Alabama

Please make your prayers for the inmates, staff, victims of crime everywhere, and their families at each of these institutions rather than for the institutions themselves.

Aug. 13, 2023	Pike County Jail, Troy, Alabama
Aug. 20, 2023	Conecuh County Jail, Evergreen, Alabama
Aug. 27, 2023	Baldwin County Jail, Bay Minette, Alabama
Sept. 3, 2023	Crenshaw County Jail, Luverne, Alabama
Sept. 10, 2023	Covington County Jail, Andalusia, Alabama
Sept. 17, 2023	Coffee County Jail County Complex, New Brockton, Alabama
Sept. 24, 2023	Choctaw County Jail, Butler, Alabama
Oct. 1, 2023	Dale County Jail, Ozark, Alabama
Oct. 8, 2023	Geneva County Jail, Geneva, Alabama
Oct. 15, 2023	Henry County Jail, Abbeville, Alabama
Oct. 22, 2023	Houston County Jail, Dothan, Alabama
Oct. 29, 2023	Butler County Correctional Facility, Greenville, Alabama
Nov. 5, 2023	Monroe County Jail, Monroeville, Alabama
Nov. 12, 2023	Mobile County Metro Jail, Mobile, Alabama PASCO Home, Re-entry, Mobile, Alabama
Nov. 19, 2023	Washington County Jail Chatom, Alabama
Nov. 26, 2023	Wilcox County Detention Center, Camden Alabama

Please make your prayers for the inmates, staff, victims of crime everywhere, and their families at each of these institutions rather than for the institutions themselves.

Dec. 3, 2023	Bay County Jail, Panama City, Florida
Dec. 10, 2023	Calhoun County Jail, Blountstown, Florida
Dec. 17, 2023	Gulf County Jail, Port St. Joe, Florida
Dec. 24, 2023	Escambia County Jail, Pensacola, Florida Escambia County Jail, Brewton, Alabama
Dec. 31, 2023	Jackson County Corrections Facility, Marianna, Florida
Jan. 7, 2024	Holmes County Jail, Bonifay, Florida
Jan. 14, 2024	Okaloosa County Jail, Crestview, Florida
Jan. 21, 2024	Santa Rosa County Jail, Milton, Florida
Jan. 28, 2024	Walton County Jail, DeFuniak Springs, Florida
Feb. 4, 2024	Washington County Jail, Chipley, Florida
Feb. 11, 2024	Apalachee Correctional Institution, East Unit & West Unit, Sneads, Florida
Feb. 18, 2024	Bay Correctional Facility & Juvenile Facility, Panama City, Florida

© The Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast Commission on Prison Ministry

This booklet is dedicated to the memory of The Reverend Norman Bray, member of the Commission, who was instrumental in putting it together and seeing that it was published. In his ministry Fr. Norman always kept the verses from Matthew 25 in the front of his mind. His presence will be missed by all who knew, worked and worshiped with him, but especially by those in FCI - Marianna where he had a special ministry.