

Lenten Prayer Vigil for Chichipate

Thank you for being part of the prayer vigil. In this basket you'll find some cloth woven in Guatemala, votive candles, a candle holder, and this page of prayers.

You'll also find a collection of Reflections that are given to all delegates who are going to Guatemala and a photo album of pictures from the last St. Thomas delegation to Chichipate. We're including these to give you a sense of what sisterhood with Iglesia Santo Domingo de Guzman has meant to people at St. Thomas.

The Mission Committee invites you to use the cloth and candle to make a place of prayer in your home and to pray daily during this week. You can use these prayers, prayers from the photo album or the Reflections, or your own prayers.

We'd like to share pictures of this Vigil with our friends in Chichipate so, if you're comfortable with that, please send a picture to Pamela Smith [narthex@baba-yaga.org]. If you want to, you can include people in your household in your picture.

Don't forget to return the basket to the Welcome Table next Sunday, including this page of prayers. Thanks again!

Praying for Chichipate –

Because we are sister parishes, when we pray for Iglesia Santo Domingo we discover that we're also praying for St. Thomas. Despite our different cultures and situations, it turns out that our greatest hopes and deepest longings are congruent – they match up. That's what sisterhood means and it is reflected in these prayers. Please choose what prayers feel right to you and make them yours.

A Prayer for Healing of Creation

Stir up your power, O God, and save your good creation. Forests fall, rivers flood, crops fail, and the air is thick with so much burning. Free us from the powerful who destroy the air, water, and land. Free us from desires and choices that feed their power. Frustrate their violence, expose their lies, disrupt their schemes, and strengthen people everywhere who serve and protect the earth. Pour out your justice that rolls down like mighty waters, in the name of our savior and brother Jesus. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Farmers

Creator God, you made a world where, used wisely, lands, waters, plants and creatures can meet the needs of everyone. Bless all farmers, their animals, and the land that feeds us all. Protect farmlands and ranches from drought and flood. Grant that everyone may have a fair portion of the harvest and accept our gratitude in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Peace

God most mighty, God most merciful, our sacred stories tell us that you help and save your people. You are the fortress: may there be no more armed conflict. You are the harvest: may there be no more hunger. You are the light: may no one die alone or in despair. We pray for all who suffer from violence. With your mercy, bind up their wounds, restore their bodies, and heal their hearts. Show us how to change this broken world, strengthen those who seek equality for all, remind us daily of your faithfulness, and save us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Our Children

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to love and care for our children as they grow in years and understanding. Walk with them in life, protect them from danger, and keep the evil one from obstructing their path. May they work beside us to build a world with good work, good food, and fair laws for everyone, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Our Elders

Blessed are you, O Lord our God; from everlasting you are our home in every generation. We give thanks to you for the elders among us. Our hearts treasure their wisdom, faith, and love. Bless them, O God, as they are a blessing to us. Embrace them with your Spirit and relieve them from suffering and grief. Let them live in fullness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Sisterhood

Merciful and gracious God, grant that the people of Iglesia Santo Domingo de Guzman and St. Thomas Lutheran Church always walk together in sisterly love. Help us to offer a shared witness to Christ in lives built on faith and hope. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may show forth your tender faithfulness and prepare the way of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**