



Final Blessing



May the God of Judith be with us to make us bold and good, and give shape to all our dreams. May the blessing of courage be upon us.

May the God of Ruth be with us to bring us peace in troubled times, to comfort and console us. May the blessing of friendship be upon us.



May the God of Mary be with us to fill our hearts with listening love, to grace us with peace. May the blessing of fidelity be upon us.

May our Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us now and for all time. Amen.

Good and gracious God, may You bless us with these gifts, and may we, in turn, be a blessing and give the blessing to all those we encounter.

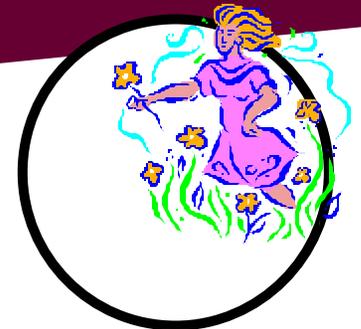
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*Designed by Les Miller and Melinda Rapallo
York Catholic District School Board*

International
Women's
Day
Celebration

*A Celebration
of Women*



Prayer for Women

Leader: Our biblical story is rich with the stories of strong women. Many of these women are ancestors of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. You are invited to reflect and listen to the voices of your ancestors—those who have influenced you.

God of our past and of our future, it is our privilege to join with all creation in praising You, our wondrous God.

All: We gather as a people who cherish the memories that are ours who claim a common history as a sacred gift.

Leader: In ages past, You chose a people to give them a future, full of promise.

All: In our day, You continue to call us to share in Your plan for us.

Leader: And so, with hearts full of love and gratitude, we join with Mary, a woman of great faith, as we offer our praise.

Whether it is a role of prophet, judge, matriarch, or liturgical psalmist, the women of the covenant shared a common pattern of relationship with God. Grounded in deep prayer, liturgical observance, celebration and communal sensitivity, these women moved out to speak and act in ways which turned around the Hebrew community both historically and perceptually.

In the true fashion of rebels, they made war on faithlessness, hopelessness and narrow-mindedness. They questioned, searched, changed and led their families and their nations into new understandings of relationship with God and with one another.

-Ann Johnson
Miryam of Nazareth



Be with us, Mother of Jesus...

Mary's Ancestors

Let us now listen to the voices of Mary's Ancestors*.



1. Eve
2. Miriam
3. Jael
4. Judith
5. Ruth
6. Esther



*see appendix for readings

Litany of Mary

Response: *Be with us, Mother of Jesus*

Woman of confidence, woman of hope,
woman of strength. Response.

Woman of integrity, woman of truth,
woman of prayer. R.

Woman of justice, woman of faith,
refugee woman. R.

Mother, listener, mother minister, mother
teacher. R.

Mother of a missing child, mother
of a sick child, mother of the one
risen to life. R.

Mother provider, mother
sustainer, mother reconciler. R.

Servant of God, disciple of Christ,
surprise of the Holy Spirit. R.

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Hail Mary

Let us, together, pray the Hail
Mary.