DCCW Prayer Service: Seasons of Faith and Thanksgiving

Diocese of Salt Lake City Council of Catholic Women

Saturday, November 7, 2026

Welcome

Leader: Good morning.

Now the leaves have fallen, and Thanksgiving is just around the corner. It is a time for us to look back with gratitude. We are women of every season, gathered from the Northern, Salt Lake, Wasatch, Southwest and Eastern deaneries, from many parishes and many places, but one Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Whatever season you are in today, you are not walking alone.

Last Sunday, the Church celebrated All Saints, honoring the holy men and women we know by name and the many more known only to God. Most of them were ordinary people who loved, served, and trusted God deeply. The following day, on All Souls, we prayed for the faithful departed, trusting that love and prayer keep us united even beyond death. That is the communion of saints: the whole family of God, in heaven and on earth, bound together in Christ.

Today we gather as Catholic women, part of that same family, living out our faith in our own seasons and in our own ordinary ways.

Let us begin in prayer.

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

> Lord of every season, we thank you for bringing us together in friendship and service, and are grateful for the saints who walk with us. Open our hearts to your gifts, and to one another. Amen.

A Time for Everything, A Time to Give Thanks

Leader: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

Side A: There is a time for friendship, when a woman sits beside us and listens.
Side B: Thank you, Lord, for the friends we have.

Side A: There is a time for joy: a baptism, a wedding, music and laughter.
Side B: Teach us to celebrate with our whole hearts.

Side A: There is a time for family, when the house is loud and the table is full.
Side B: Thank you, Lord, for the families you have given us.

Side A: There is a time for love that serves: the meals, the rides, the rosaries, the phone calls.

Side B: Bless the hands that do the work no one sees.

Side A: There is a time for harvest, when we count our blessings and see what God has grown through us.
Side B: Thank you for every woman who said yes.

Side A: There is a time to rest, when we need to be carried.
Side B: Let us be carried by one another, and by you.

All: He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Seasons

Leader: We are women of every age and stage. We began as daughters, girls, then teenagers, full of questions and hope. We grew into young women, and then, each in our own way, into wives, mothers, caregivers, and friends, and many of us into grandmothers and great-grandmothers, holding the next generation in our arms. Like the seasons, our lives have turned: the green of spring, the long warmth of summer, and now the gold and quiet of autumn.

Along the way we hoped, we laughed, we loved, we lost, we prayed, and we began again. We gave up our sleep, our plans, and sometimes our dreams so that someone else could grow, and we found that giving of ourselves left us richer, not poorer.

All: In serving others, we discovered that the hands that help are also the hands that are held.

Leader: As Thanksgiving approaches, we picture our tables, some filled with family and friends, others with an empty chair. We give thanks for the lives we've been given, those who have walked beside us, and for God's presence the entire way.

All: Gratitude helps us see that what we have is enough, making a simple meal a feast and an ordinary day a gift. Lord, thank you for every season, our families, and the women gathered beside us.

Remembrance

Leader: Memories bring back special moments, the unforgettable ones: a wedding day, a child's first steps, a song on the radio, a laugh we can still hear. Memories also help us hold on to those we have loved and lost.

All: This morning we remember those close to us and those we have lost.

Leader: There is a time to mourn. God does not ask us to hurry through it. We are allowed to grieve, to remember, and we are allowed to be held.

Side A: For the friends who stood beside us through every chapter of our lives,
Side B: we give you thanks, Lord.

Side A: For the memories that make us laugh through our tears,
Side B: we give you thanks, Lord.

Side A: For the holidays and the chairs we wish were filled,
Side B: comfort us, Lord, and fill our tables with your peace.

Side A: For the quiet mornings when the house is too still,
Side B: hold us, Lord, in your tenderness.

All: Gracious God, you gave us the people we love, and you gave us time together. For their laughter, their faithfulness, and the ordinary days we shared, we thank you. Teach us to carry their love forward.

Pause to reflect

Renewal, Strength and Solidarity

Leader: Grief is not the end of the story. We are here because someone lifted us when we could not stand.

Side A: We have held on, not by our own strength,
Side B: but by God's strength, shared among friends and family.

Side A: Where one is weary, let another encourage.
Side B: Where one is grieving, let another listen.

Side A: Where one is beginning again,
Side B: let us walk beside her, in friendship and in solidarity.

Side A: For every sister who has lifted us,
Side B: we give you thanks, Lord.

Leader: Now turn to the sister beside you and say, "I am here with you, and I thank God for you."

Closing

Leader: As we go into this week, may we carry the trust of the saints: that every moment belongs to God, and that we are never meant to walk alone.

All: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Merciful God, through joy and sorrow, you are our comfort. Thank you for the gift of each other, for loved ones who walk beside us, for the memories we hold close, and for the blessings we have today.

Give us hope for the seasons still to come, and the courage to meet them together. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

End of Meeting Closing Prayer:

Lord of all seasons, as we end our meeting, we thank you for this time together, for the friendships, the laughter, and the work we have shared.

Walk with us as we go home to our families and parishes. Bless the women of this Council, and every family and parish we serve. Give us wisdom, courage, and love, and grateful hearts in everything we do. Keep us close until we meet again.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.