

# THE COLLECT

The Collect, read by the presider, literally collects all our prayers together. A Collect is written to be read aloud.

- At the beginning of the Collect is a short explanation of the celebration or memorial.
- Then the assembly is invited to pray.
- Everyone prays in the silent pause that follows. That is why the pause must never be left out.
- The presider then “collects” these prayers together and prays aloud.
- The Collect has a clear structure:  
**You:** First we address God to whom we pray.  
**Do:** Next we ask God, please, to do something for us.  
**Through:** We make our prayer, “Through Christ our Lord.”  
 All respond, “Amen.”

Look at the examples below, then write your own Collect for your school patron or a special saint. Read your collect aloud once you finish to see if it sounds the way you want it to.

	<b>Saint Joseph (March 19)</b>	<b>First Day of Autumn (September 23)</b>	<b>Your School Patron</b>
<b>Explanation</b>	Today we remember Joseph, husband of Mary and father of the Holy Family.	Autumn begins in September. The cycles of the earth reveal the beauty of all creation.	
<b>Invitation to Prayer</b>	Let us pray that, in our own families, we will imitate his faithfulness to God’s call.	Let us pray that we will appreciate and care for the environment in which we live.	
<b>Pause</b>	<i>(pause)</i>	<i>(pause)</i>	
<b>You *</b> <small>(see Page 2 for some ideas)</small>	God, our Father,	God, our creator,	
<b>Do</b>	with the help of Saint Joseph’s prayers and good example, bless our families today.	as we see the changes in the world around us, we give you praise for the changes you bring about in our heart.	
<b>Through</b>	Through Christ our Lord. Amen.	Through Christ our Lord. Amen.	



**\* How will you address your prayer to God?**

Read the list below of different ways to address God.  
Choose one to use in your Collect or create your own.

- God, our light in the dark
- God, ever faithful and true
- Lord, our strength and our joy
- Creator, source of all life
- God of majestic glory
- Our Father in Heaven
- Almighty and eternal God
- Lord God of all the ages
- God, our provider
- God, good and kind to all
- Holy Lord, saving Light
- Lord, our way to peace
- Defender of the poor
- Living, loving, and merciful God
- God, our rock and sure foundation
- Gracious God, source of unity

