

Prayers for Hurricane Katrina Disaster

O God our refuge and strength, comfort all who suffer, help all the victims of the hurricane disaster in the southern United States. Comfort them in their sorrow and mourning. Restore their hope and sustain them in their suffering. Give strength to all the health care workers, and all who are working to rebuild what was destroyed. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

Amen

Lord Jesus, we pray for the victims of hurricane Katrina. All who lost their lives, all the survivors who lost loved ones, especially all the children who have lost their parents. While on earth, you went doing good and healing many. Today we ask you to heal all who are suffering, restore their health, and give them comfort and strength as they begin to rebuild their lives. We commend the souls of the departed to your merciful care.

Amen

Lord, we ask you to help all the victims and families to survive this disaster. Be with them and comfort them. Open our hearts to help them get food, medicine and shelter. You are a loving God and want your people to be comforted. Let your will be done.

Amen

Lord, together with the Church everywhere, we pray for the victims of the hurricane disaster. Let us express our solidarity with the people in the southern United States whose lands are so devastated. Move us to provide emergency aid to the people most affected. May we work together to lessen the suffering of all.

Amen

Loving God, we are the gift of your compassion! Each of us, looks to respond to the needs of your people, especially the victims of the hurricane disaster. Today, we open our hearts to the working of your Spirit, who strengthens and empowers us to be compassionate persons. May our words, beliefs and actions be the healing presence our brothers and sisters in the southern United States need at this time. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

A PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

O God, we remember when the disciples of Jesus were terrified after a long night on a turbulent sea. When they cried to you for help, you stilled the sea and brought them safety.

We ask now that you comfort and still the hearts of those suffering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. We pray for those who have been displaced and who cannot return to homes destroyed or lost in the storm. We pray for those whose lives are lost and for those who grieve the loss of a loved one. We pray for those who need food, water and basic shelter. We also pray for those who are attempting to offer help and relief to victims. Help us all to be Christ-like in our compassion and outreach.

While we wonder why such devastations can occur, we know that our names are written in the palm of your hand. Let your loving grace wash over those who now face bleak futures, especially those in poverty. Calm their hearts and let them experience the solidarity of the human community. Hold them close and help us witness to your love through our aid and support. Amen

"Schools to believe in!"

LITANY FOR THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

God of compassion,

We pray for those whose lives have been changed forever because of Katrina. For the broken mother in New Orleans who had to choose which members of her family could go into a small rescue boat and who had to be left behind on a rooftop. And for all the mothers in the devastated areas whose hearts are broken by their families' suffering,

Have Mercy, O God

For the elderly couple who lost their home in Mississippi only to find out that each of their children's homes were also destroyed. And for all families who lost their homes.

Have Mercy, O God

For the children in Gulfport, who were waiting for their father to join them as a safer site after he called to tell them he was on his way, and who are still waiting to hear what happened to him. And for all those whose loved ones are missing and unaccounted for,

Have Mercy, O God

For the son in New Orleans who helped his disabled mother to the attic of their house only to see her disappear in the rising water, And for all who saw loved ones perish.

Have Mercy, O God

For the tens of thousands of people in poverty who could not leave the region because they had no car, no money, and no place to go. And for all the people who are now refugees without enough food, water and basic supplies.

Have Mercy, O God

For all who will be assisting the victims of Katrina,

We thank you, O God.

For all those who are giving in to temptations to profit from tragedy,

Transform their spirits, O God.

Help us to respond to the pain of those who are suffering. Help us to be generous in providing short-term relief efforts that affirm the dignity of the human person. Help us also to support efforts for long-term building of homes, communities, jobs, and lives through just policies that provide people-centered development. Make us mindful of the need for environmental policies that protect the lands and seas you have created so that all children of God may live in security and peace. **AMEN**

"Schools to believe in!"