

**Homeroom Prayer Leaders
Feast of St. Ursula
October 21, 2010**

(Enter the classroom, say the Pledge with the class, then invite the teacher to light your candle.)

Good Morning. (Pause)

Long ago there lived a young woman whose name was Ursula. She was known for her beauty throughout her father's kingdom. As was the custom, she was promised in marriage to Ethereus, a pagan prince who did not believe in God. Ursula did not want to marry. She asked her father for permission to postpone the wedding so she could make a pilgrimage (which is a long trip) to Rome.

Ursula traveled during those dangerous times with 11,000 other women. Some women were young, some old, some healthy, some not, some even spoke different languages. But Ursula loved and cherished them all for their bravery and friendship no matter what they looked like or how difficult they made the trip. Each one had a gift or talent to share.

In a dream, Ursula was warned by an angel that she and her companions would face great dangers but if they remained faithful, God would give them the grace to accept the crown of martyrdom. Ursula considered it to be a privilege to lay down her life for her belief in Jesus.

It was Ursula's tremendous faith, courage and devotion to the teachings of Jesus that made such a great impression on St. Angela Merici, who devoted her life to the example of this great Saint. Our school is named for St. Ursula whose feast day is today, October 21.

(Pause)

Let us offer our prayers of petition.

The response is: Lord, hear our prayer. (Have students repeat this.)

St. Ursula, who remained true to the teachings of Jesus, help us have the courage we need to follow God's call to do what is right.

We pray to the Lord. Response; Lord, hear our prayer.

St. Ursula, friend to so many, help us to be kind to all our classmates, our families, our teachers and neighbors, regardless of our differences.

We pray to the Lord. Response; Lord, hear our prayer.

St. Ursula, committed to Jesus, help us to trust in God's will for us.

We pray to the Lord. Response; Lord, hear our prayer.

St. Ursula, who put others first, help us to reach out to all who are in need; the lonely, the discouraged, the sick, and the forgotten.

We pray to the Lord. Response; Lord, hear our prayer.

God, our Father, we bring these petitions to you. With the help of St. Ursula's intercession, we believe that you will hear and answer all our needs, even the secret desires of our hearts, because you love us and want us to be happy. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen

(Pause)

Today for the blessing let us turn to the new picture of St. Angela that has been installed in this classroom. We ask that everyone please raise your right hand toward the image of St. Angela as we pray.

Lord God, you beautify your Church with the rich variety of your saints. May this picture of St. Angela, foundress of the Ursulines, be a constant reminder to us of her love and devotion to you. And may we continue to follow her example to love one another.

And may Almighty God bless us all (make sign of cross) in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Sprinkle holy water on students or pass it around.)