**Prayer before Basketball Games**

Bless this court before our game,

We ask, Lord, in your holy name.

Help our bodies to be strong,

And to play fair, avoiding wrong.

Keep us free from injury

And humble in our victory.

Let us play and have some fun.

We ask you and your holy Son. **Amen**.

Dear Lord, thank you for this opportunity to use our athletic gifts. Please help us to remember that the score is never more important than the person or the team.  Help us to remember that everyone here is our brother or sister in Christ.  May we all have fun and be safe.   **Amen**.

Dear Lord, give us the strength and courage to show team spirit and to always encourage our teammates, to be polite whether we win or lose, to try our best and to have fun playing the game. **Amen**.

Dear Lord,

You have blessed us with many gifts and talents.

We thank you especially for the ability to participate in sports today.

Help us to play in a Christ-like manner.

Help us to play in a way that fosters good will and teamwork.

Help us to play to the best of our abilities.

Win or lose, we hope to have fun, make friends and celebrate life.

**Amen**.

Please bless today‘s game, our opponent, our team, and all watching our play. Thank you for the opportunity to compete and bring out the best in each other. May we play hard and fair. Please keep everyone safe from injury and harm. We pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

God, Let me play well but fairly,

Help me to learn something that matters once the game is over.

Let competition make me strong but never hostile.

Always let me help my opponent up.

Never catch me rejoicing in the adversity of others.

If I know victory, allow me to be happy; if I am denied, keep me from envy.

Remind me that sports are just games.

If through athletics I set an example, let it be a good one.

**Amen**

Almighty God, you created humanity in your image and delight in our talent, skill and flair: give us grace to celebrate the achievements of our fellow men and women. Give determination and equity to competitors, gratitude and charm to winners, grace and mercy to those who do not come first, and thankfulness and admiration to observers; that in all our best efforts your creation may be glorified. **Amen**.

God of all life, we rejoice in your presence with us. Hear our prayers for those who live in pain, for those whose ambitions have been thwarted, and for who have no hope; have compassion on those who live for worldly glory; and lead many from darkness into your marvellous light, that, in communion with St. Rita and all your saints, the world may give you praise in the name of Jesus, who has won for us the victory. Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

For our sports teams this season, we pray for safe play, a fair playing field, and good fortune.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**

For focus on the court, help us to stay centered during our play and perform to the best of our abilities.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**

For fun on the court, help us to enjoy ourselves and remember that the act of play is meant to be fun.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**

For good team communication on the court, help us to work well together.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**

For fairness of play, we pray that we accept our mistakes and play with a spirit of fair competition.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**

For the opportunity to play our sport, we thank you for the abilities you have given each athlete, as well as the chance to engage in recreation that we enjoy.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**

For the bodies, minds and spirits of each member of our team, help us to make decisions both on and off the field/court that promote health and give us strength.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**

For your presence among us Lord, help us to represent your spirit in our play.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**

For strength and agility, help us to play with skill and capability.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**

For leadership both on and off the field/court, help us to respect each team member‘s personalities and contributions to the team.

We pray to the Lord. Response: **Lord, build our team.**