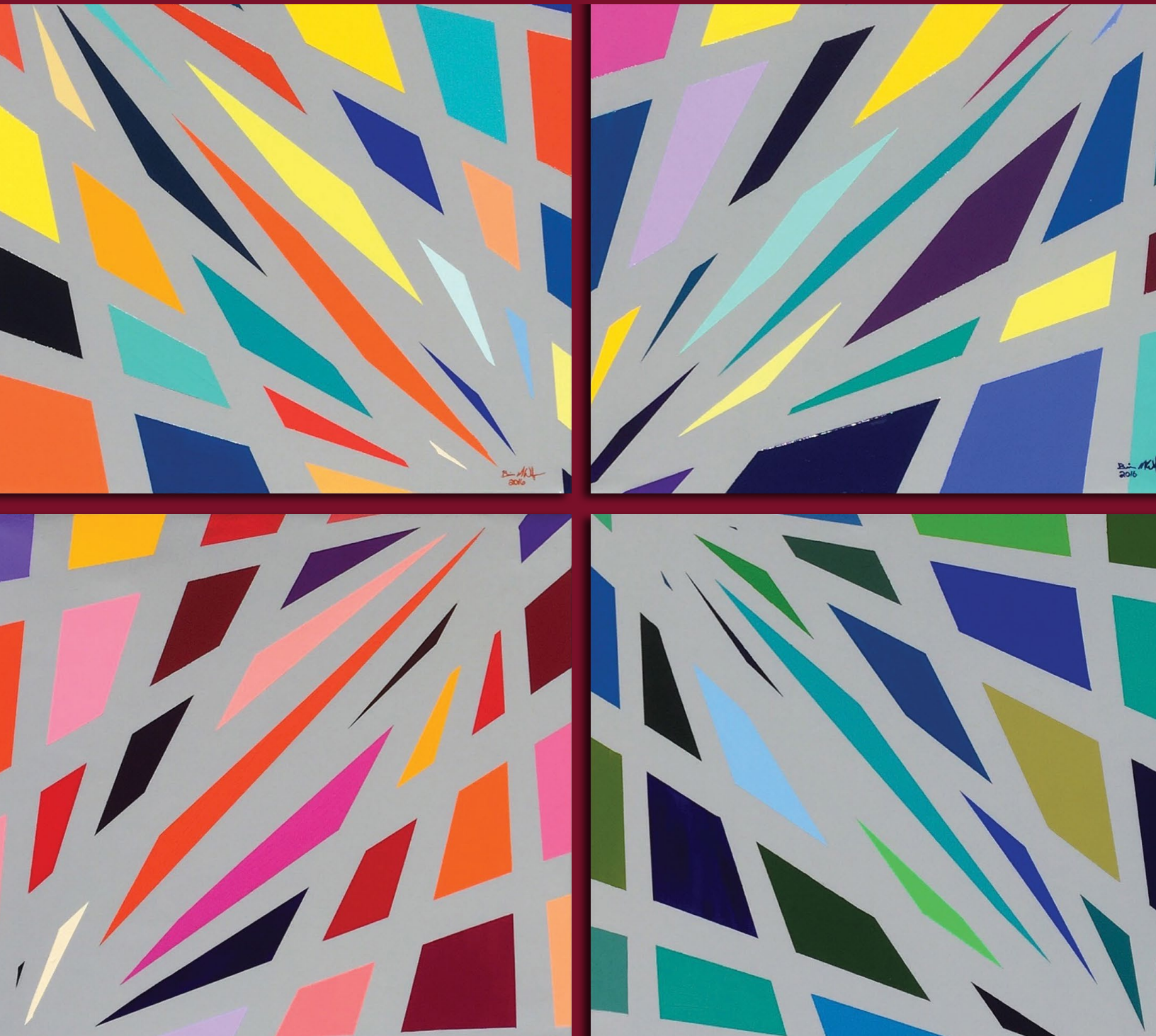


# Prayer of the Faithful



2021

# PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL 2021

*Resource for Sundays, Feasts, Holidays,  
Weekdays, and Church Events*

Year B

November 29, 2020–November 27, 2021

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## INTRODUCTION

In this workbook, brief formulas are provided for the priest celebrant or another minister to use as the introduction to the Mass. In the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM), we read, “The presiding Priest...[may] give the faithful an introduction to the Mass of the day (after the initial Greeting and before the Penitential Act)” (31). On Sundays, the rite of blessing and sprinkling of holy water, or the Penitential Act and a litany in praise of God’s mercy usually follows.

For the Prayer of the Faithful, a distinction is needed between the role of the priest celebrant and that of the leader of the intentions. The celebrant invites the assembly to participate in the Prayer of the Faithful and concludes with a prayer. A deacon, cantor, lector, or member of the faithful states the intentions (GIRM 71). The same person should not be both presider and leader. Moreover, we suggest that the leader of the intercessions be someone other than the reader. The Prayer of the Faithful is part of *The Roman Missal*, not of the *Lectionary for Mass*.

Musical assemblies should be invited to sing the response to the Prayer of the Faithful in a simple, inviting way, in keeping with the tradition of the Roman Rite. Several Mass settings include intercessions, and this moment in the liturgy is often an opportunity to honor the multilingual nature of our assemblies by using, for example:

“Escúchanos, Señor/Lord, Hear Our Prayer,” by Fr. Juan Sosa (Spanish, English)

“Exaudi Nos/Hear Us, O Lord,” by Rufino Zaragoza, OFM

(Filipino, Spanish, English, French, Latin)

“Hear Our Prayer,” by Bob Hurd (English)

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord,” by Rufino Zaragoza, OFM

(Spanish, Filipino, Vietnamese, English)

“O God, Hear Us,” by Bob Hurd (English)

“Te Rogamos, Señor/Lord, Hear Our Prayer,” by Mark Purtill (Spanish, English)

If singing helps assembly members take part more fully, it fulfills its purpose. If singing reduces participation of assembly members, the music may be too complicated or otherwise unsuitable for the assembly.

## The Categories of Intentions

Intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful fall into four categories: A) the needs of the universal Church; B) public authorities, and the salvation of the whole world; C) people burdened by any kind of difficulty; and D) the local community of faith, represented by the assembly. At least one intention from each category is to be included. Writers and leaders of the Prayer of the Faithful should become familiar with 69–71 in the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Revised* (2010). It is available from OCP (ed. 30108143).

The intentions in these categories should reflect the creative freedom and character of the local church: “The intentions announced should be sober, be composed with a wise liberty and in few words, and they should be expressive of the prayer of the entire community” (GIRM 71).

**A** *The needs of the universal Church.* This category includes petitions for the pope, bishops, and pastors of the Church, missions, Christian unity, and vocations to the presbyterate and religious life. Some examples are as follows:

That our Bishops, Presbyters, and Deacons  
grow in their love for the body and blood of Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord:

For apostles of Christ who bear witness throughout the world,  
and for missionaries in foreign lands,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That preachers in our Church  
preach what they believe and practice what they preach,  
let us pray to the Lord:

For God’s people,  
loved by God as a bride is loved by her husband,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That all the people of all churches  
come together in one Spirit, one Lord, and one baptism,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**B** *Public authorities and the salvation of the whole world.* This category includes petitions for peace, leaders of government, good weather, the safety of crops, elections, and the resolution of economic crises. Some examples are:

That men and women in positions of trust  
seek justice and peace in all they do,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That our country become a place where people of all races  
are truly equal and at home,  
let us pray to the Lord:

For civil servants in every land,  
for firefighters, paramedics, police officers, and road builders,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That people of every nation  
use natural resources more wisely, and treat creation more respectfully,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That nations never again wage war on one another,  
and that people never again terrorize one another,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That the harvest of the season be abundant,  
and the produce of the earth be plentiful,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**C** *People burdened by any kind of difficulty.* This includes those burdened by poverty or any other tribulation—the persecuted, the unemployed, the sick and infirm, the dying, prisoners, and exiles, among others. Some examples are:

For children at risk,  
and for all God’s little ones,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That all the sick, especially those suffering alone,  
experience the love and support of others,  
let us pray to the Lord:

For the poor, the hungry, and the homeless,  
especially those who have lost hope,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That the blind see, the lame walk, and the deaf hear,  
let us pray to the Lord:

For all the unemployed and underemployed,  
let us pray to the Lord:

For those who hunger to be fed,  
and those who are fed, but hunger for justice,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That all whose lives are in danger, especially those unborn,  
receive strength and safety,  
let us pray to the Lord:

- D** *The local community of faith represented by the assembly.* This includes those in the Church preparing for baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, orders, and marriage; it also includes pastors, an approaching church mission, and deceased loved ones. Here are some examples:

That those preparing for baptism  
find Christ's wisdom in this community,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That this church  
be a haven for all in need,  
let us pray to the Lord:

For the young people of our community,  
and for all members of this church,  
let us pray to the Lord:

For those who have died from hunger, neglect, or abuse,  
and for our loved ones who have passed from our midst,  
let us pray to the Lord:

Note that the sequence of the categories is always the same: universal Church, world affairs, special needs, local church.

Greater flexibility is appropriate for ritual celebrations like weddings and funerals. General intentions should never be completely omitted, but the emphasis should be on the celebration itself (GIRM 70).



## Structure

The intentions of the Prayer of the Faithful are usually expressed in one of three forms:

- 1 The full form (“For ... that”), which announces those to be prayed for and what is to be prayed for (as on the Epiphany of the Lord: “For the leaders of nations, that they respect religious freedom”)
- 2 A first partial form (“That ...”), which mentions the favor to be requested, referring in only one word to the persons prayed for (as in the final section of the Litany of the Saints: “That all Christians celebrate unity around the table of the Lord”)
- 3 A second partial form (“For ...”), which announces only those being prayed for (as in some litanic forms in both the East and the West: “For the unity of all Christians around the table of the Lord”). See DOL 239:1901.

The full form of the intentions (“For ... that”) usually works better if reduced to one of the partial forms, either “For ...” or “That ...” Partial forms are less susceptible to wordiness, which works against the clarity and flow of the prayer. Partial forms are also less susceptible to a “hidden agenda.” For example, in “For members of all Christian traditions, that they learn to dialogue more honestly with each other,” “learn to dialogue more honestly” implies that they have not done too well so far. The purpose of the petition is not to point out the negative side of behavior but to emphasize a positive approach.

All intentions within one set of Prayer of the Faithful should use the same form. For example, if the first intention begins with “For,” all the intentions that day should begin with “For.” A consistent pattern encourages a fuller, more confident response from the assembly.

Intentions from the assembly can be collected in a book like *Hear Our Prayer* (OCP edition 11824). These petitions should be reviewed in advance for proper structure and appropriateness.

## THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

December 8, 2020

### INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION

As Mary was conceived without sin to bear God's Son,  
so we are reborn sinless in baptism.  
In faith and wonder let us approach this mystery.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, loving son of loving mother, Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, Son of God, Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, true light of faith, Lord, have mercy.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

#### *Priest Celebrant*

In union with the Mother of God,  
we place our needs in God's loving hands.

#### *Deacon or Lector*

- A** For the Church of Christ,  
that it keep Mary, our Mother ever in thought, action and prayer,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- B** For the nations of the world,  
that they come to know the peace of Christ through the intercession of Mary,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C** For all who suffer persecution,  
that Christ in his mercy free them,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- For babies in the womb and people on death row,  
that their lives be respected and spared,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D** For all in our greater parish family who  
endure lives of desolation and loneliness,  
that they receive comfort and consolation,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- 
- 

#### *Priest Celebrant*

Lord God, you blessed Mary with the fullness of grace.  
Help us to find your grace in our lives.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## SAINT JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

December 9, 2020

### INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION

Saint Juan Diego is a model of the humble evangelizer;  
he was an instrument of the Church's mission to proclaim good news to all.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise the lowly. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you reveal your kingdom to the poor. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you call us to humility. Lord, have mercy.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

#### *Priest Celebrant*

Through the intercession of Saint Juan Diego,  
we humbly bring our needs to our God who is faithful  
and does not abandon us.

#### *Deacon or Lector*

- A** That our bishops  
listen deeply to God's call to build up our Church  
and guide us in the ways of humble service,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- B** That those in positions of authority  
take seriously their responsibility to care  
for the poor and vulnerable in our midst,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C** That indigenous peoples of our world  
be treated with dignity, as children of God,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
That those who suffer poverty  
have their hungers satisfied through the efforts of people of faith,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D** That in the spirit of Juan Diego,  
we faithfully place ourselves  
in the loving care of the Blessed Mother,  
let us pray to the Lord:

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#### *Priest Celebrant*

Loving and merciful God, you care for the poor;  
listen to the needs of your people born of humble hearts.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS):** December 24, 2020  
**AT THE VIGIL MASS**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION**

Today we gather to watch for the one who comes to save us.  
He is Jesus the Savior and Emmanuel—God with us.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you fill us with joy by your birth among us. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you come for all people. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you are the Savior of the world. Lord, have mercy.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Priest Celebrant*

With hearts full of expectation,  
we place our needs and concerns before our heavenly Father.

*Deacon or Lector*

- A** For Church and civil leaders,  
that their words and their example lead all to Christ, the Savior,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- B** For parents and grandparents,  
that their faith and love be their greatest gift to their children,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C** For children, particularly those in poor or homeless families,  
that they feel Christ's love through those around them,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- For expectant mothers,  
that they give birth safely and care for their children joyfully,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D** For all gathered here around Christ in this holy place,  
that the mystery of Christmas lead us to greater love of God and neighbor,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- 
- 

*Priest Celebrant*

Loving God, you sent your Son as part of King David's house and line.  
Listen kindly to our prayers  
and shower blessings upon us and the generations yet to come,  
through Christ our Lord.

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS):** December 25, 2020  
**AT THE MASS DURING THE NIGHT**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION**

With our hearts wide open,  
we celebrate the birth of our Savior.  
Let us ask for the grace to be faithful to him.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you are Wonderful Counselor. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you are Prince of Peace. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you are mighty God. Lord, have mercy.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Priest Celebrant*

In this night when we celebrate the coming of Jesus, the light of the world,  
we come, full of confidence, to present our petitions.

*Deacon or Lector*

- A** For our Holy Father and all pastors,  
that their words and lives always light the path to Jesus,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- B** For the leaders of this city and state,  
that they always seek the peace that Jesus came to bring on earth,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C** For families who are unable to be together on this holy night,  
that they may be comforted in knowledge of shared faith,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
For young people, here and throughout the world,  
that they seek always to do good as beloved children of God,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D** For us here tonight and all Christians in the world,  
that we find Jesus even when he comes in unexpected ways,  
let us pray to the Lord:
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*Priest Celebrant*

Merciful God, you sent your Son as our Emmanuel, God-with-us.  
Listen to our prayers and grant us what we need to be true disciples,  
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS):**      December 25, 2020  
**AT THE MASS AT DAWN**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION**

We come seeking Christ like the shepherds  
and with them glorify and praise God for the good news of Jesus' birth.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you came to show us God's mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you called us in baptism to live justly. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you invite us to seek you with Mary and Joseph. Lord, have mercy.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Priest Celebrant*

Today is born our Savior.  
Let us pray that God's light shine over all.

*Deacon or Lector*

- A** For the Church celebrating throughout the world,  
that the dawning of Christ's birth be a reminder of his abiding presence  
and an inspiration for service to humanity,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- B** For the leaders at all levels of society,  
that justice be tempered with mercy and a care for all God's children,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C** For the nations upon which this great day dawns,  
that peace be the common goal for all peoples,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
For those who seek for meaning in their lives,  
that the child of Bethlehem may be the answer to their quest,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D** For this community of faith,  
that our love for one another  
will comfort those who find themselves far from home,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- 

*Priest Celebrant*

Loving God, you revealed your mercy by sending us your Son.  
Listen to our prayer and keep us faithful to our baptismal promises.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS):** December 25, 2020  
**AT THE MASS DURING THE DAY**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION**

God's love and fidelity are fulfilled through Jesus.  
Let us celebrate with thanksgiving and joy.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you are the Promised One. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you are the Light of the World. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you are the Word-made-Flesh. Lord, have mercy.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Priest Celebrant*

God speaks a saving word to us in Jesus, the only begotten Son.  
The Lord hears what we ask for ourselves and the whole world.

*Deacon or Lector*

- A That our Holy Father and all Christian leaders,  
through word and action, reveal Jesus as the light of the world,  
we pray to the Lord,
- B That leaders of nations, states, and cities  
show the compassion of God in their dealings with one another,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C That children listen to Jesus and follow his example,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
That prisoners, the sick, the lonely, and those suffering from addiction  
find companionship and support from those around them,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D That the members of this assembly receive Jesus with open hearts,  
let us pray to the Lord:
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*Priest Celebrant*

Loving God, today you speak to us through your Son Jesus.  
In his name we place before you these petitions and those in our hearts.  
Listen to us in your mercy, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 2, 2021

### INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION

Let us come into the presence of the Lord Jesus,  
whose saving light shines on all believers.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

#### *Priest Celebrant*

God who gives us light for our path also listens to our prayers.  
With confidence, let us pray.

#### *Deacon or Lector*

- A For the Church,  
that those consecrated to service be a leaven for all,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- B For all nations,  
that the darkness of war and injustice be overcome by the light of Jesus,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C For those burdened with addictions,  
that they be freed through the intercession of the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- For the hungry and the homeless,  
that in each of us they find a helping and loving hand,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D For our community, enlightened by the light of Christ,  
that we always follow the ways of love,  
let us pray to the Lord:
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#### *Priest Celebrant*

Lord God, you blessed Mary and Joseph at the Presentation;  
bless us as we offer our heartfelt prayers.  
We come in the name of the Lord of Light.



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 17, 2021

**INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION**

The fast is proclaimed; the people are gathered  
to return to God with whole hearts.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Priest Celebrant*

God knows what is in our hearts and listens to every prayer.  
We bring ourselves closer to him with the trust of a friend.

*Deacon or Lector*

- A** That all God's people turn to Christ in this holy season  
and find healing and renewal through repentance,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- B** That nations at war achieve prompt and lasting peace,  
and make amends when they are wrong,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C** That all who are afflicted or suffering temptation  
be strengthened by God's grace,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
That the hungry be fed, the homeless find shelter,  
and workers receive a just wage,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D** That we strive to do good works humbly,  
seeking neither attention nor praise,  
let us pray to the Lord:
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*Priest Celebrant*

Marked with the ashes of repentance, we turn to you, God of mercy.  
Look into our contrite hearts and grant what we ask  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

April 25, 2021

**INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION**

The Good Shepherd gathers us and makes us one.

Let us rejoice in God's goodness.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

Lord Jesus, you are the Shepherd of Israel. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you lay down your life for your sheep. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. Lord, have mercy.

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Priest Celebrant*

As the Good Shepherd tends his father's flock,  
so we ask God to help our brothers and sisters.

*Deacon or Lector*

**A** That pastors and ministers  
guide their flocks with tender care,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**B** That governments carefully guard the safety and quality of food and water,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**C** That young people preparing for confirmation and graduation  
be strengthened for a life of loving service  
through the anointing of the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That Christians spread the peace of Christ and the joy of Easter  
in every time and place,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**D** That the members of this assembly share God's abundant feast  
with those who cannot be here, especially the sick and homebound,  
let us pray to the Lord:

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*Priest Celebrant*

God of mercy, you sent your Son to care for your flock.

Hear and grant what we ask in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord.

## THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

June 11, 2021

### INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION

On this solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
we remember that the love of Christ has filled our hearts with new life.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you live in our hearts. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you fill us with your love. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you are the sure foundation. Lord, have mercy.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

#### *Priest Celebrant*

Let us pray to God for the needs of the world.

#### *Deacon or Lector*

- A** That the followers of Jesus  
go forth bearing witness to Christ's love,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- B** That nations ensure for their people, especially the poor,  
access to education and healthcare,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C** That the hungry and homeless  
obtain food and shelter in their time of need,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
That parents, especially foster parents and adoptive parents,  
nurture their children with steadfast love,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D** That the sick and the dying know the warmth of Jesus' love  
through human caring,  
let us pray to the Lord:
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#### *Priest Celebrant*

Merciful Father, grant what we ask by the power of your Spirit.  
Keep us rooted in the love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## RITE OF RECONCILIATION FOR ADVENT

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest Celebrant*

We long for Jesus to reveal more completely  
the mystery of God's merciful love,  
and we await the coming of the Ancient of Days.

*Deacon or Lector*

A That every member of the Church  
become a sign of Christ's loving presence in our world,  
let us pray to the Lord:

B That the peoples of the world  
see the peace of Christ in the behavior of Christians,  
let us pray to the Lord:

C That the intercession of Mary, our mother,  
help all who are seeking their way back to her Son, Jesus,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That all who recognize the Lord, as did John the Baptist,  
make room for his presence in their lives,  
let us pray to the Lord:

D That members of this community  
find favor with God, now and on the last day,  
let us pray to the Lord:

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*Priest Celebrant*

Merciful God, you call us to ongoing conversion and renewal of life.  
Take away our sin, and help us prepare the way of the Lord.  
Graciously hear us, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## RITE OF RECONCILIATION FOR LENT

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

*Priest Celebrant*

Jesus has redeemed us from the death of sin  
through his Cross and resurrection;  
thus, we have courage to pray for mercy and forgiveness.

*Deacon or Lector*

- A That Christians everywhere  
resist temptation, and strive for humility,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- B That human beings throughout the world  
find the strength to conduct lives of greater and greater integrity,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- C That those who hurt others  
humbly confess their sins and show love,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
That all of us examine our consciences  
as a means of spiritual growth,  
let us pray to the Lord:
- D That those of us celebrating God's forgiveness today  
amend our lives, and become a source of blessing for others,  
let us pray to the Lord:
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*Priest Celebrant*

Heavenly Father, you call us to examine our lives in the light of your love.  
Help us to turn from sin, and take courage  
from the strength of your presence.  
Teach us to live in harmony, bearing the fruit of peace, joy, and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ.

## WAR AND NATURAL DISASTER

### INTRODUCTION TO THE CELEBRATION

With hope in God's loving mercy, and sorrow for all who are suffering,  
let us call upon the Lord, who knows our every need.

### PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to heal the sick and save the lost. Lord, have mercy.  
Christ Jesus, you became one of us, and died on the cross. Christ, have mercy.  
Lord Jesus, you promised to wipe away every tear. Lord, have mercy.

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

#### *Priest Celebrant*

Let us confidently call upon our heavenly Father,  
who hears the cry of the poor and afflicted.

#### *Deacon or Lector*

**A** That the Church perform corporal and spiritual works of mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**B** That all people in authority distribute fairly resources  
at this time of urgent need,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**C** That all who have food, clothing, and shelter  
share it with those who have none,  
let us pray to the Lord:

That the sick receive prompt medical attention,  
and the dead find welcome and rest in God's heavenly kingdom,  
let us pray to the Lord:

**D** That all in this community go forth  
to be the hands and feet of Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord:

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#### *Priest Celebrant*

God of compassion,  
help us never to doubt your power to draw good from evil,  
even in a tragedy like this.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.