

Prayers of the Faithful, suitable for use with children, adult or mixed congregations

Note: The order of Prayers of the Faithful is included in italics, followed by sample petitions for each.

1. ***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 priesthood and religious life.*

For Pope Leo, the bishops, and all pastors who shepherd God's people, that they may take good care of their flocks and speak up to protect the rights and dignity of every human person.

For our modern-day prophets, that we may hear their cries and work for change.

2. ***Public authorities and the salvation of the world.*** *This category includes petitions for peace, leaders of government, elections, respect for the freedom of the Church, good weather, the safety of crops, and the resolution of economic crises.*

For elected leaders, that they may serve with care and compassion for the least among us and those most in need of help.

For those charged with enforcing laws, that they will see God in the face of every person they meet and bring mercy alongside the work of justice.

3. ***People burdened by any kind of difficulty.*** *This category includes those burdened by poverty or any other tribulation, the unborn, the persecuted, the unemployed, the sick and infirm, the dying, prisoners, and exiles, to name a few.*

For all those living in fear: for people who live among violence, war, poverty, or any threat to their life or safety, that they may know God's love will never leave their side.

For immigrants, refugees, and all seeking a safe place to live, that they may find a home among us.

For our friends and neighbors who are afraid to leave their homes, that they may remember God is always with them.

For those who are bullied, that we may find the courage to speak out and stand up for them. And for all who bully others, that they may repent and seek forgiveness, to follow God's ways once again.

4. ***Local community.*** *This category represents the local community of faith. People to pray for may include those in the church preparing for baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, holy orders, or marriage; it also includes prayers for the repose of the souls of the deceased. This is where specific parish needs should be communicated: for the upcoming Youth*

Mission Trip, for the success of the Capital Campaign, etc.

For our local community, that we may work toward peace and justice for all, in our homes, in our hearts, and in the whole world.

For the teachers, staff, and all the helpers in our parish, school, and city, that they may know God sees every good deed and blesses their holy work.

5. **Silent prayers.** *At times offer the opportunity for the congregation to silently offer their private prayer. This final petition need only be offered every few weeks or months.*

For all the stories we have heard on the news, for all the friends and families who are suffering right now, and for all the needs we hold silently in our hearts.

Prayers of the Faithful - adapted from Archdiocesan Prayer Service, Minneapolis/St. Paul (January 2026)

For National Leaders:

That the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation toward meaningful immigration legislation that respects both the rule of law and the God-given dignity of every human person. (Response)

For Immigrant Families:

For those living in fear of unjust deportation, that they may feel the maternal care of Our Lady of Guadalupe, keeping families united and safe from exploitation. (Response)

For an End to Discord:

For an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants, law enforcement, or fellow citizens, so that we may seek peace and flourishing for all. (Response)

For Law Enforcement:

For those tasked with maintaining order and enforcement, that they may carry out their duties with humane measures, always honoring the sanctity of life. (Response)

For the Vulnerable:

For children, the elderly, and those escaping persecution, that they may find a "haven and hope" in our communities and be welcomed as Christ in our midst. (Response)

Prayers shared by Laura Kelly-Fanucci, Columnist for Catholic News Service and parishioner of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.