

# PRAYERS AND LITURGY

## Prayer Services

Here you will find some guides and resources provided by the USCCB for prayer and liturgies. Consider making these parish-wide or inviting parents/families to attend with their youth.

- Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life
- Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- Pro-Life Prayers (including):
  - Blessings for pro-life pilgrims, parents, and children in the womb
  - Holy Hours for Life
  - Litany for life
  - Novena to St. Joseph on adoption, and to American Saints for Life
  - Rosaries for Life and Pro-Life Rosary Prayer Intentions
- Candlelight and/or Eucharistic Procession
- Holy Hour

## Suggestions for a Holy Hour



- 7:00 Entrance Hymn for Exposition
- 7:05 Optional prayer or words from Father/Deacon
- 7:10 Worship
- 7:20 Silence
- 7:25 Rosary for Life
- 7:45 Silence
- 7:50 Tantum Ergo > Benediction > Divine Praises
- 7:55 Holy God - Repose the Blessed Sacrament
- 8:00 Close/Dismissal

# PRAYERS AND LITURGY

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### GIVING THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF HUMAN LIFE

Based upon the Mass for Various Needs and Occasions #48: "For Giving Thanks for the Gift of Human Life"

*The readings used may be from the Lectionary for Mass Supplement, the Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life, nos. 947A-947E, or the Lectionary for Mass (vol. IV), the Mass For Justice and Peace, nos. 887-891., or those of the day.*

#### INTRODUCTORY RITES

##### Opening Song

*An appropriate psalm, hymn or song may be sung by all to begin the celebration.*

##### Sign of the Cross & Greeting

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

*If a priest or deacon, the minister greets the people in the usual way.*

*If a lay minister, he/she leads the Sign of the Cross and greets those present with these or similar words:*

Minister: Brothers and sisters, the Lord invites us to his table to share in the body of Christ: bless him for his goodness.

All: Blessed be God forever.

##### Opening Prayer

Minister: Let us pray.

*(Pause for silent prayer)*

God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust, and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

# PRAYERS AND LITURGY

*All are seated for the Liturgy of the Word.*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Liturgy of the Word now takes place as at Mass. A lector reads the First Reading and Responsorial Psalm. If not sung, the Gospel Acclamation is omitted. A deacon reads the Gospel; if a lay minister presides, a lector – not the lay presider - will normally read the Gospel. In this last case, the greeting (“The Lord be with you.” is omitted.)*

*A homily or reflection may be given.*

## General Intercessions

Minister: To God the Father almighty,  
dear brothers and sisters,  
may every prayer of our heart be directed,  
for his will it is that all humanity should be saved  
and come to the knowledge of the truth.

For the holy Church of God,  
that the Lord may graciously watch over her and care for her, we pray to the Lord...

For wise and compassionate leaders of cities, states, and nations, we pray to the Lord...

For all who are oppressed by any kind of need, that the Lord may graciously grant them relief, we pray to the Lord...

For a greater respect for the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death, we pray to the Lord...

For the courage and fortitude to more effectively witness to value of God's gift of human life, we pray to the Lord...

For all who have died, we pray to the Lord...

For the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts...(PAUSE)...we pray to the Lord...

O God, our refuge and our strength,  
hear the prayers of your Church,  
for you yourself are the source of all devotion,  
and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith we may truly obtain.  
Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

# PRAYERS AND LITURGY

## The Lord's Prayer

Minister: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:  
Our Father...

*The embolism and doxology are not said.*

## Blessing

*If the minister is a priest or deacon, he extends his hands, greets the people, and blesses them in the usual way. If a lay minister, he/she invokes God's blessing, and crossing him/herself, says:*

Minister: May the Lord bless us +, protect us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
All: Amen.

## Dismissal

*Finally, the minister says:*

Minister: Go in peace.  
All: Thanks be to God.

*An appropriate psalm, hymn or song may be sung to conclude the celebration.*