

Mass Moments

Fall Series: Liturgy of the Word

Key Points - November 10



- **The Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful):** The Universal Prayer closes the Liturgy of the Word and is the bridge to the Liturgy of the Eucharist: wherein the Priest - “in the person of Christ the Head” - invites the people to express their “needs before the heavenly Father” (*What Happens at Mass*, pg. 56).
- This prayer is indeed universal - meaning the petitions expressed here should be “very broad, all-embracing. Individuals can pray for their particular needs in the quiet of their hearts at this time” (pg. 57).
- “It is the responsibility of baptized persons ... precisely their life in the world, enlightened and shaped by what they have heard in the Word of God, that equips these people with a knowledge of what to pray for” (pg. 57).
- “We pray first of all for the Church ... and we pray for the world, above all that the world may know the salvation offered in Christ ... that sufferings and hardships be relieved, that injustices be addressed ... but now, considering the Universal Prayer as a hinge, we can say that all that we pray for now will be brought forward with the bread and wine and placed in Christ’s hands for transformation” (pgs. 57-58).

Reflection Questions

- Do we come to the Lord in humility, trust, and confident surrender to His will in our prayer or do we come with a list of demands that He needs to fulfill? Discuss difficulties you might experience in your prayer (reference *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 2725-2745).
- Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium* that “intercession is like a ‘leaven’ in the heart of the Trinity. It is a way of penetrating the Father’s heart and discovering new dimensions which can shed light on concrete situations and change them.” How is the Lord inviting us to open our hearts and allow His light to overcome the difficulties present before us in our life?
- How can you as a family come together in prayer/intercession? Consider writing down your prayer intentions as a family each week prior to Mass and spiritually (in the quiet of your hearts) offer them up to the Lord in the Prayer of the Faithful and in the bread and wine that are soon to be brought forward.



Resources for the Whole Family

Recommended resources this week - scan the QR code to view resources for this series on our website:

- *What Happens at Mass* - Chapter 3, pg. 56-58
- Fr. Rocky's Lesson on the Prayers of the Faithful:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1s-KPB0Kd8>
- <https://focus.org/posts/how-to-pray-what-is-intercessory-prayer/>
- **For Families:** check out
<https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/pray-the-intercessions-at-home-with-your-kids/>



Events at St. Mary's & around the Archdiocese

- **Eucharistic Adoration** at St. Mary's – Wednesdays from 8:30 AM – 8 PM in the Notre Dame chapel. Signup on our [website!](#)
- **Fire on the Hill** at the Cathedral of St. Paul - 3rd Saturday of every month (next one is Saturday, November 16). The Cathedral Mass time remains at 5:15 p.m.; Fire on the Hill praise and worship begins at 6:30 p.m. Prayer ministry will also be included for healing and prophetic encouragement. - [Link](#)
- **“In Defense of Leisure: Reclaiming the Lord’s Day”** with Dr. Michael Naughton at All Saints, Lakeville (6-8 PM) on Tuesday, November 19 | [Link](#) - Free
- **“The New and Eternal Covenant”** with Fr. Glaser - several dates & locations in 2025 but also on Monday, November 25 (6-9 PM) at St. Rose of Lima, Roseville | [Link](#) - Free

