

Examples of the Universal Prayer (or Prayers of the Faithful)

The prayer usually consists of 4-6 intentions, with a prayer for the Church, for those in Holy Matrimony for the couple, for families, for some special intention, and then a prayer for the faithful departed:

Our response will be, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

i. For the Church

- a. That the Christian people may grow in virtue day by day and that all who are burdened by any need may receive the help of grace from above. Let us pray to the Lord.
- b. For the Church, the holy People of God, and for unity among all Christians. Let us pray to the Lord.
- c. For the holy Catholic Church, that she, as the bride of Christ, always grow deeper in love and fidelity to him. Let us pray to the Lord.
- d. For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and for all bishops, that they may lead the Church to a deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others. Let us pray to the Lord.
- e. For the holy Church of God, that she may rejoice in the gifts of the Spirit and be sanctified through more vocations to Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders, and the consecrated life. Let us pray to the Lord.

ii. For those in Holy Matrimony

- a. That the grace of the Sacrament will be renewed by the Holy Spirit in all married persons here present. Let us pray to the Lord.
- b. For young people preparing to enter Marriage, and for all whom the Lord is calling to another state in life. Let us pray to the Lord.
- c. For all married couples, that they continue to give generously of themselves, find forgiveness and understanding in their spouse, and experience happiness and lasting joy. Let us pray to the Lord.

iii. For the couple

- a. That these faithful Christians, N. and N., newly joined in Holy Matrimony, may always enjoy health and well-being. Let us pray to the Lord.
- b. That N. and N. be granted perfect and fruitful love, peace and strength, and that they bear faithful witness to the name of Christian. Let us pray to the Lord.
- c. For this bride and groom, and for their well-being as a family. Let us pray to the Lord.

(For the couple, *continued...*)

- d. That Christ will bless this covenant (between N. and N.) as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee. Let us pray to the Lord.
- e. For N. and N., now beginning their life together, that they may receive every divine assistance, the constant support of family and friends, the rich blessings of children, a warm love for one another, and good health, all the days of their lives. Let us pray to the Lord.
- f. For N. & N., that their marriage be blessed with joy, peace, children, and an unending faith and love for God and for one another. Let us pray to the Lord.

iv. For families

- a. For the relatives and friends of this couple, and for all who have assisted them. Let us pray to the Lord.
- b. For all families throughout the world and for lasting peace among all people. Let us pray to the Lord.

v. For a special intention

- a. For travelers, especially for those who have traveled here today, that they may be granted a safe return home. Let us pray to the Lord.
- b. For farmers, that they may be granted good weather, be kept safe, and experience a rewarding and bountiful harvest. Let us pray to the Lord.
- c. For those who are sick or suffering from any illness, that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by those around them. Let us pray to the Lord.
- d. For nations and leaders in government, that they may be effective in achieving peace and defending the rights of all, especially those who are most vulnerable. Let us pray to the Lord.
- e. For military men and women, that they may be free from all harm, and be effective in their mission of establishing justice and peace for all. Let us pray to the Lord.

vi. For the faithful departed

- a. For all members of our families who have passed from this world, and for all the departed. Let us pray to the Lord.
- b. For all of those who have died, especially for the deceased members of the N., N., and N. families, that they may rest in the peace of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.