

Prayers of the Faithful for Peace & Unity in Our Communities

Please select one or two intercessions each week, for use at Sunday and weekday Masses. The first petition is generally for the local church, and a good place to use one of the following.

St. Thomas More offered this prayer: Give us, Lord, the grace to work for the things we pray for. This seems an appropriate response to the Prayer of the Faithful each week, if only in our hearts, particularly at a time in our world when violence has created suffering communities throughout the U.S. Intercessory prayer can advance the cause of building bridges in our communities.

- ✠ For peace in our families, in our local community, and in the world, we pray...
- ✠ For the courage to truly embrace the suffering of others, and to promote reconciliation and healing, we pray...
- ✠ For the ability to advance peace in the world, one kindness at a time, we pray...
- ✠ For an end to racial tension and violence in our communities, with the help and hope that the Holy Spirit provides, we pray...
- ✠ For an increase of civil dialogue among city and community leaders, so that the doors of community reconciliation will break open, we pray...
- ✠ That leaders of diocesan Church and of our local parish may actively listen to the challenging problems of our communities, and have the courage to enact change, we pray...
- ✠ That each individual member of this parish community, and our visitors and guests today, may find within themselves the wisdom and love to confront racial tension in our communities, we pray...
- ✠ That we may understand and promote restorative justice, beginning with communication and active listening to nurture peace, we pray...
- ✠ That we may accept the U.S. Bishops' challenge to pray in our churches, our homes, and our schools for peace in our communities, we pray...
- ✠ That we may value dialogue more than dissent, and peace rather than protest, we pray...
- ✠ For families and households, especially those that experience chaos and confusion, that the love of Christ may come into their lives, we pray...
- ✠ For those who work for equality and justice, that they may be supported and encouraged by our prayers today, we pray...
- ✠ For those who are persecuted, locally, nationally, and globally, that those who ridicule them will recognize and respond to our prayers for bridge-building, we pray...
- ✠ That we may learn to honor diversity: in culture, ethnicity, language, and life, we pray...
- ✠ That through the intercession of (parish saint or Our Blessed Mother or St. Joseph), peace and hope for a better community will come to those experiencing violence, we pray...
- ✠ For those who use their lips and lives to proclaim the Good News of Jesus, that they may be heard and believed, we pray...
- ✠ For our brothers and sisters who cannot pray with us, because of incarceration, sickness, or who are away from the Church, we pray...
- ✠ For those who experience violence in their daily lives, that our prayers might guide them away from hopelessness and toward healing, we pray...
- ✠ For all of us, those present and those away from our communities, that peace will break through the barriers of violence and hatred, we pray...

- ✠ For those who are frustrated when their gestures of goodwill are rejected, that they may hold out hope for a better day, we pray...
- ✠ For those who believe that peace and healing in our communities is unattainable, that they may be inspired by the Holy Spirit to change their hearts, we pray...
- ✠ That healing may be promoted by those who are bold enough to speak truth to poverty, community unrest, and homelessness, we pray...
- ✠ That those who suffer from mental illness with know healing, and return to the fullness of healthy living through the support of family and community, we pray...
- ✠ For an increase in love of our brothers and sisters, and a decrease in rash judgement and intolerance, we pray...
- ✠ For love that surpasses all other things, we pray...
- ✠ For hope and healing, knowing the difficult road ahead for our communities, but remembering to use the grace that Jesus Christ will send, we pray...
- ✠ For all of the faith communities in our diocese and in our nation, that we might together work to establish peace, we pray...
- ✠ That those who make decisions for the common good may use the gift of wisdom to shape a more just and peaceful nation, we pray...
- ✠ For mercy, reconciliation, and hope for those who live on the edges of society and who do not recognize peace, we pray...
- ✠ For refugees, victims of local and national violence, and for all those held in poverty by discrimination, we pray...

Please feel free to reproduce any or all of these petitions, or adapt them more fully to your parish community's needs, during these days, months, and weeks of violence in our communities. Intercessory prayer needs only faith in God's love and power to make a difference in our lives.



Task Force to Promote Peace in Our Communities

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Sample Prayers of the Faithful

For an end to the violence perpetrated by harsh words, deadly weapons, or cold indifference. May our homes, our nation, and countries around the world become havens of peace.

For the grace to see every human being as a child of God, regardless of race, language or culture.

For the wisdom to receive the stories and experiences of those different from ourselves and to respond with respect

For the strength to teach our children how to resolve differences non-violently and respectfully, and the courage to model it in our own behavior.

For our faith community, that we may celebrate and welcome the diverse faces of Christ in our worship, our ministries, and our leaders.

For our faith community, that we may respond boldly to the Holy Spirit's call to act together to end violence and racism.

For healing and justice for all those who have experienced violence and racism.

For the protection of all police and first responders who risk their lives daily to ensure our safety; for fair and just policing that will promote peace and wellbeing in all our neighborhoods.

For our public officials, that they will strive to work for fair education, adequate housing, and equal opportunities for employment for all.

For our parish, that we may cultivate welcome, extend hospitality, and encourage the participation of people of all cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds.

For the courage to have difficult conversations about racism, and for a better appreciation of how our words and actions – or even our silence – can impact our communities.

For solidarity in our global human family, that we may work together to protect those who are most vulnerable and most in need.