

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH: THE MASS

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

This is article 8 of 21 of the Mass series

Did you know you were Baptized into the priesthood of Christ?

Through Baptism we are united with Christ, which means we belong to the Body of Christ in the universal priesthood. At Mass, we don't offer the Holy Sacrifice like Fr. Ken, Fr. Lee, and Fr. Matt; rather we offer the figurative sacrifice of prayer through the Prayer of the Faithful also known as the Universal Prayer.

The Universal Prayer is our response to God's Word to love Him and to love one another. Through Baptism into the universal priesthood, we offer the Universal Prayer (prayers or intentions) to God for His saving grace on all humanity. For example, as I pray for a friend who has Cancer, I also pray for all people who have Cancer. In the Universal Prayer we bind ourselves with God, the Author of Life, and in doing so we unite ourselves to all people.

The Universal Prayer is after the Creed on Sunday Mass and Solemn Masses (such as Ascension, Assumption, All Saints, Immaculate Conception and Christmas) and after the Homily on weekday Mass.

The Universal Prayer usually follows this format:

- Pray for the Church
- Pray for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world
- Pray for those burdened by any difficulty and/or for our local community
- Pray for our beloved deceased

Lastly, the priest leads us in prayer for the intentions of the Mass and silently for our own needs. In our response, "Lord, hear our prayer," we proclaim the Universal Prayer is the prayer of our collective body at Holy Spirit and lift up our intentions to God.