

## Prayer Service for Priests

*Use this complete prayer service with Chapter 8 of Meeting Jesus in the Sacraments. You may also choose to use only individual parts of the prayer service.*

Needs:

- copies as needed

### *Opening Prayer*

**Leader:** Today we come together to pray for all of the priests and ordained men in the Church. Lord, we ask you to hear our prayers of praise for you and intercession for the priests in the Church.

### *New Testament Reading*

**Reader 1:** A reading from the First Letter of Peter (1 Pt 5:1–4),

So I exhort the presbyters among you, as a fellow presbyter and witness to the sufferings of Christ and one who has a share in the glory to be revealed. Tend the flock of God in your midst, [overseeing] not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

The Word of the Lord

**All:** Thanks be to God.

### *Responsorial Psalm (Ps 100: 2, 3, 4, 5)*

**Reader 2:** Serve the LORD with gladness.

**All:** Serve the LORD with gladness.

**Reader 2:** Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;  
serve the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful song.

**All:** Serve the LORD with gladness.

**Reader 2:** Know that the LORD is God;  
he made us, his we are;  
his people, the flock he tends.

**All:** Serve the LORD with gladness.

**Reader 2:** Enter his gates with thanksgiving,  
his courts with praise;  
Give thanks to him; bless his name.

**All:** Serve the LORD with gladness.

**Reader 2:** For he is good,  
the LORD, whose kindness endures forever,  
and his faithfulness, to all generations.

**All:** Serve the LORD with gladness.

### *Gospel Reading*

**Reader 3:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John (John 10: 11–18),

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. "This command I have received from my Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*Prayers of Intercession*

**Leader:** Let us lift up these prayers of intercession to Jesus Christ, the source and example for all priests.

**Reader 4:** We pray that priests will be full of the love of Christ, that they will be secure in their identity and vocation, and alive with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** We pray for priests who are persecuted and imprisoned, who are rejected and living in poverty among their people.

**All:** Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** For the gift to our diocese of vocations to the ordained priesthood, that good men may be drawn to love and to serve the People of God.

**All:** Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** For Father \_\_\_\_\_, our (pastor, chaplain, etc.) in his ministry to the People of (parish/school name), that we may affirm, support, and celebrate his gift of service to us.

**All:** Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** That we may never take the presence of our priests for granted, as we cherish the celebration of the Mass and are nourished by the Eucharist.

**All:** Good Shepherd, hear our prayer.

*Litany*

**Leader:** During the ordination of a priest, deacon, or bishop, a solemn litany is said or sung asking all these holy men and women to pray for the men being ordained. As we close our time of prayer, let us also ask these saints for their intercession for all the priests in our lives and for us who are the People of God.

Lord have mercy,

**All:** Lord have mercy.

**Leader:** Christ have mercy,

**All:** Christ have mercy.

**Leader:** Christ hear us,

**All:** Christ graciously hear us.

**Leader:** Holy Mary, Mother of God,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** All holy angels and archangels,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Joseph,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. John the Baptist,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Peter and St. Paul,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** All apostles and evangelists,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Augustine,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Dominic,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Francis Xavier,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. John Bosco,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. John Vianney,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Maximilian Kolbe,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. John Paul II,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** All you holy men and women,

**All:** Pray for us.

*Closing Prayer*

**Leader:** O Jesus, our Good Shepherd, hear our humble prayers today on behalf of your priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. Show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption. In your name we pray.

**All:** Amen.