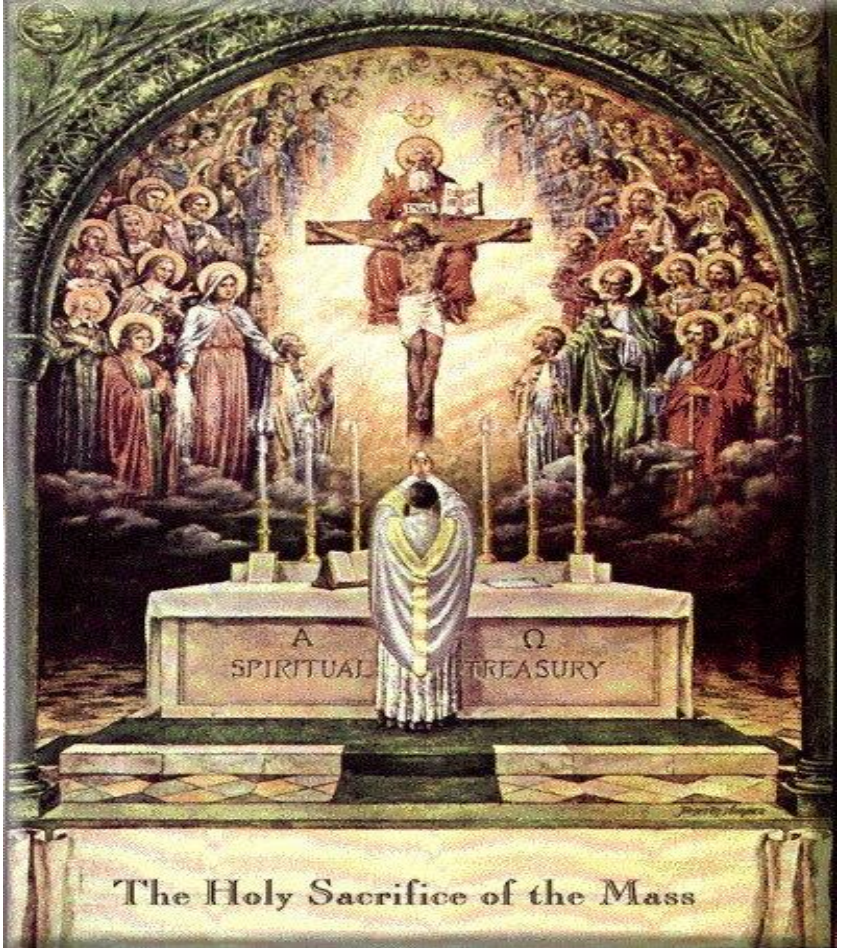


Prayers for Priests



“Their hands alone have been consecrated ‘in order that whatever they bless may be blessed, whatever they consecrate may become sacred and holy, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ’ -Pope Pius XII (*Mediator Dei*, #43)

A special prayer for our priest at CCJC



Mary, Mother of Jesus, throw your mantle of love and purity over our priest, Father Jerry Byrd.

We know he is set apart for a sacred purpose to be husband to the Holy Church through his vow of loving celibacy, Father to many spiritual sons and

daughters, and Son to Your Immaculate Heart. Keep him under your mantle of grace. Draw out the best from him. Let him know your love and how your Heart and that of your Son, Jesus Christ, beats for him each day. Give him the grace and strength he needs for every situation of his life. Let him know that you help him, “bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things, (1 Corinthians 13:7) as he walks in your example of humility and love for your Son. Let him know the love of his people that he serves and hear our prayers of intercession in thanksgiving for his charity and “yes” to the Gospel that upholds all of us. Let us all know that this is the hour for which we are all chosen to lift our priest up in prayer as soldiers for Christ, and lights shining in the darkness.



[A Prayer for Seminarians](#)

Come Holy Spirit, come by means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, your well-beloved spouse.

God Our Father, please send us holy priests, all for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all for the sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with St. Joseph, her well-beloved spouse. We pray especially for the seminarians of our parish (*mention their names here*) and for all seminarians and women religious. Amen.

“Lord, give us holy priests!”

And he said to them: The harvest indeed is great, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he sends labourers into his harvest. (Luke 10:2)

A powerful Scriptural prayer for all priests



St. Peter, it was to you that Christ our Lord said: "Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and thou, being once converted, confirm thy brethren." We ask now for your intercession in heaven to present our petition before the Throne of the Holy Trinity that you once again be allowed to strengthen, confirm, protect, and take

charge over our priests as you did at the birth of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Pray for all of our priests, be they a Pope, bishop, pastor or forgotten, so that the flames of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Chaste Heart of St. Joseph consume and shatter forever whatever foothold of sin and disobedience that Satan may have gained in their lives, so that they may more fully act in Persona Christi to protect the flocks granted to their charge, and so that their own souls may be saved for all eternity.



[A litany for priests by Richard Cardinal Cushing](#)

For all Priests:

- Give them Your wisdom, Lord
- Give them virtues.
- Give them patience and charity.
- Give them obedience and kindness.
- Give them a burning zeal for souls.
- Give them an intense love for the Eucharist.
- Give them loyalty to the Pope and their Bishops.
- Give them respect for their dignity.
- Give them a great love for Mary.
- Give them rectitude for justice.
- Give them the gift of counsel.
- Give them strength in their labors.
- Give them peace in their sufferings.

- Give them humility and generosity.
- Let them be the light of souls.
- Let them be the salt of the earth.
- Let them practice sacrifice and self denial.
- Let them enkindle hearts with the love of Mary.
- Let them be other Christs.

For all Priests:

- Let them be holy in body and soul.
- May they be men of prayer
- May faith shine forth in them.
- May they be faithful to their priestly vocation.
- May their hands know only how to bless.
- May they burn with love for You and for Mary.
- May all their steps be for the glory of God.
- May the Holy Spirit possess them, and give them His gifts and fruits in abundance.

Let us pray, O God, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. You are the soul and the life of the Church. Hear the prayers we offer for priests. We ask this through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, their protector and guide. Amen.

O Jesus, Our Eternal High Priest, I pray:

- for Your faithful and fervent PRIESTS
- for Your unfaithful and tepid PRIESTS
- for Your PRIESTS laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields
- for Your tempted PRIESTS;
- for Your young PRIESTS
- for Your dying PRIESTS;

Litany for priests continued

— for the souls of Your PRIESTS in Purgatory.

But above all, I commend to You:

— the PRIESTS dearest to me;

— the PRIEST who baptized me;

— the PRIESTS who absolved me from my sins;

— the PRIESTS at whose MASSES I assist;

— the PRIESTS who taught and instructed me about You and Your Holy Scriptures;

— the PRIESTS who helped and encouraged me to accept You as my Lord

— and all the PRIESTS whom You sent to touch my life and those of my loved ones.

O Almighty Eternal God our Father, look upon the face of Your Son, and for love of Him Who is the Eternal High Priest, have pity on your priests. Remember O most compassionate God, that they are but weak and frail human beings. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is in them, so that they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation. Amen



Prayer of St. Faustina Kowalska for Priests

O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church: Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit, and give power to the words of priests so hardened hearts may be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord. Lord, give us holy priests; and maintain them in holiness. O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for their souls. May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of your priests, for You can do all things.

©Photo by Jennifer Lindberg, high altar piece in Germany

Prayer for Priests by St. Therese of Lisieux

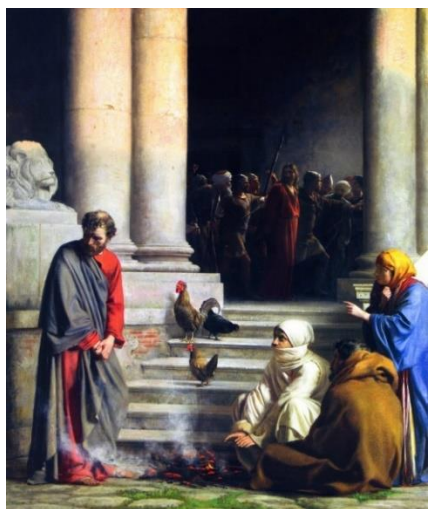
O Jesus, eternal Priest,
keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart,
where none may touch them.

Keep unstained their anointed hands,
which daily touch Your Sacred Body.
Keep unsullied their lips,
daily purpled with your Precious Blood.
Keep pure and unearthly their hearts,
sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.

Let Your holy love surround them and
shield them from the world's contagion.
Bless their labors with abundant fruit and
may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and
consolation here
and in heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown.
Amen.

“Give us holy priests!”

“When you see the Lord immolated and lying upon the altar, and the priest bent over that sacrifice praying, and all the people empurpled by that precious blood, can you think that you are still among men and on earth? Or are you not lifted up to heaven?” *St. John Chrysostom (The Priesthood 3:4:177 [A.D. 387])*



A prayer for men afraid to accept their calling to the priesthood

“Be Not Afraid,” the Lord says, “am I not with you until the end of the world?”

Lord, we know you are calling men to the priesthood but their fears are real. They may think they are not holy enough; or that they will fail. They fear their mistakes and

sins make them unworthy, they fear the state of the Church right now, or they want to have a family and do not understand the blessing of being a spiritual father to so many souls. Guide these men by Your Holy Word to allay these fears. * Let them go deep into your Word in Scripture, and spend time before the Word made Flesh in Adoration and contemplation before the Blessed Sacrament. Let them know deep in their soul how much God loves them. Let them know that God’s call to the priesthood comes with the grace to accept it. Fill these men Lord with a deep faith and hope in their calling. Let them know that if God is calling them, He will provide all they need. All they have to do is say, “yes,” like the Virgin Mary who can help them to pray, “Be it done unto me according to thy word.”

*God’s word speaks to the fears of men called to the priesthood:

- **I’m not holy enough:** Isa 6:1-9; Lk 5:1-11
- **I’m afraid I will fail:** Ex 14: 10-31; Lk 15

- **I've made mistakes and I'm a sinner:** Jn 21:15-23; Mt 9:9-13; Lk 7:36-50
- **I'm too young:** 1 Sam 3:1-18; 1 Sam 16:1-13; Jer 1:4-10; Lk 1:26-3
- **I'm not talented enough:** 1 Sam 17:32-51; Lk 1:26-38
- **I want to have a family:** Gen 12:1-3; Mt 12:46-50; Mk 10:28-30
- **I want "the good life":** Mk 10:17-31; 1 Cor 2:9; Mt 13:44-46; Jn 10:10; Mt 16:24-27
- **I'm afraid of making a permanent commitment:** Ruth 1:15-17; Mt 28:16-20; 1 Cor 12:5-10
- **I'm afraid of public speaking:** Ex 4:10-17; Jer 1:4-10
- **I'm not smart enough:** 2 Cor 4:7-18; Ex 4:10-17
- **I'm afraid of being alone:** Ex 3:4-22; Lk 1:28-38; Mt 28:20
- **I want to be happy:** Ps 37:4; Mt 5: 1-12; Jn 10:10; Mk 10:28-31; 1 Cor 2:9
- **I'm filled with fear:** 1 Jn 4:18 "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear."

“A good man is not a perfect man; a good man is an honest man, faithful and unhesitatingly responsive to the voice of God in his life.” St. John Fisher

St. John Vianney's Prayer for Priests



*God, please
give to your
Church today
many more
priests after
your own
heart.
May they be
worthy
representatives
Christ the Good
Shepherd.
May they
wholeheartedly*

*devote themselves to prayer and penance;
be examples of humility and poverty;
shining models of holiness;
tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of
God;
zealous dispensers of your grace in the
sacraments.*

*May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the
Eucharist
and to Mary his Mother be the twin fountains of
fruitfulness for their ministry.*

*©Photo by Jennifer Lindberg of St. John Vianney's incorrupt heart at
SS Peter and Paul Cathedral, Indianapolis*



More powerful prayers for priests

Keep them, I pray Thee, dearest Lord, keep them, for they are Thine. Thy priests whose lives burn out before Thy consecrated shrine. Keep them, for they are in the world, through from the

world apart; When earthly pleasures tempt, allure, shelter them in Thy heart. Keep them, and comfort them in hours of loneliness and pain, when all their life of sacrifice for souls seems in vain. Keep them, and O remember Lord, they have no one but Thee. Yet, they have only human hearts, with human frailty. Keep them as spotless as the Host, that daily they caress; their every thought and word and deed, deign dearest Lord to bless.

+Imprimatur: D. Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia. *From the Pieta prayer book.*



The Anima Christi for Priests

*Soul of Christ, sanctify our priests
Body of Christ, save our priests
Blood of Christ, inebriate our priests
Water from the side of Christ, wash our priests
Passion of Christ, strengthen our priests
O good Jesus, hear the prayers of our priests
Within thy wounds, hide our priests
Suffer them not to be separated from Thee.
From the malignant enemy, defend our priests
In the hour of their death, call them home to you.
And bid your priests to come to Thee.
That with Thy saints they may praise Thee, Forever and
ever. Amen*

+Based on St. Ignatius of Loyola's prayer

+Painting Sacred Heart of Jesus with Saint Ignatius and Saint Louis Gonzaga



[A parent's prayer for their sons to be priests](#)

O God, grant that one of my sons may become a priest! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right,

so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give you a holy priest. Amen.

+(This prayer was said by the mothers of Lu, Italy in 1881. The fruit of their prayer was 323 vocations: 152 priests and 171 nuns!)

[Prayer to St. Joseph for our children](#)

O holy foster father St. Joseph, do not abandon our children! Protect them from the assaults of the wicked enemy and deliver them from all dangers of soul and body. O dear parents of the holy Child Jesus! Intercede for us parents also, that we may bring up our children in the love and fear of God and one day attain with them the Beatific Vision. Amen

St. Catherine of Siena's priest prayer

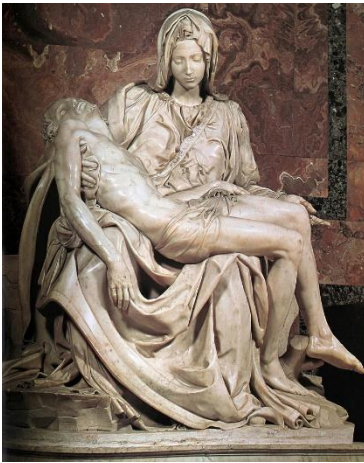


Father, I beseech you to direct the hearts and wills
of the servants of your Bride, the Holy Church,
especially our pastor, +Father Jerry Byrd, and all
priests so that they may follow the poor, bleeding,
humble, and gentle Lamb of God on the Way of
the Cross. Make them angels in the shape of men;
for after all, they have to administer and distribute
the Body and Blood of Your Only Begotten Son!

Amen

+name inserted

[A Prayer to the Virgin Mary for the needs of priests](#)



Dearest Blessed Virgin Mary, you held Jesus between your arms, just as your priest sons now hold Jesus in the Host. Both you and the priest bring us Your Son. We ask you to present all priests to your Son, Jesus Christ, as you and St. Joseph once presented Christ to God, the Father, in the Temple. We know your Son will deny you nothing you ask

in His Holy will.

We beseech you to place your priest sons under your mantle to protect them from harm and shelter them from any arrows of the evil one that would otherwise wound their faith, hope, or love.

You are the seat of Wisdom, please bestow this wisdom on your priest sons to guide them in their preaching, teaching, and upholding the dignity of the priesthood to bring souls to your Son. Give them your love, your peace, and your deep belief in the Eucharist. Grant them great graces for the conversion of souls and the steadfastness that kept you at the foot of Cross with your Son. Most of all, bring us more holy priests, these men made in the Image and Likeness of God that can command your Son to come down from Heaven to the altar and sustain us with Christ's own Body and Blood. *Amen*

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Why pray for priests?

Our Lord said we would have the Eucharist until the end of the world. (Matthew 28:20) and with that comes a responsibility of the laity to pray for our priests and to say thank you for their “yes” to serve the people of God.

Several lay people --with the intent of spiritual fatherhood and motherhood-- felt the need to pray for our pastor, seminarians, and religious discerning vocations at our parish as a way to show support for the gifts we have been given through them.

The priest is not a priest for himself, but for all of us because the priesthood flows from the love of the Heart of Jesus. That means the laity must assist the priest through intercessory prayer to help him be a holy, pure, and effective priest. St. John Vianney said that when people wish to destroy religion, they begin by attacking the priest, because where there is no longer any priest there is no sacrifice, and where there is no longer any sacrifice there is no religion.

A single Mass offered for oneself during life may be worth more than a thousand celebrated for the same intention after death, St. Anselm of Canterbury said. May we always keep this in mind when thinking of the need for priests and may we pray with a quote of St. Martin of Tours:

"Lord, if your people still have need of my services, I will not avoid the toil. Your will be done. I have fought the good fight long enough. Yet if you bid me continue to hold the battle line in defense of your camp, I will never beg to be excused from failing strength. I will do the work you entrust to me. While you command, I will fight beneath your banner. Amen"

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For your own special prayers or notes

