

#23 Prayers of the Faithful

August 11, 2019

Why do we pause to pray for intentions in the middle of Mass?

The Prayers of the Faithful, or properly, the Universal Prayer, follows our profession of the Creed. These prayers of petition are the last element of the Liturgy of the Word. To this point in Mass we have begged pardon for our sins, heard the Scriptures proclaimed then explained in the Homily and professed the Creed announcing our acceptance and unity in all that the Catholic Church teaches. Now, we should feel a renewed zeal to bring all people to Christ so that they too may experience His healing hand and message of truth and freedom.

At our baptism, we are all baptized as Priest, Prophet and King. As we lift up our intentions, the Church gives us an opportunity to exercise our priestly baptismal vocation by praying in intercession for others in our community, nation and the whole world. Moving into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, our prayers will be strengthened by the Sacrifice of Jesus' life, death and resurrection in which we also participate through the mystery of the Mass.

The Priest regulates this time of prayer beginning it with a brief introduction and concluding it with his own prayer, usually asking God the Father to hear and answer our prayers in Jesus' name as Christ Himself said "whatsoever you shall ask the Father in my name, that will I do" (John 14:13)

Pope Francis says: "... Jesus urges us to pray and "not to lose heart". We all go through times of tiredness and discouragement, especially when our prayers seem ineffective. But Jesus assures us [that] God promptly answers his children, even though this doesn't mean he will necessarily do it when and how we would like. Prayer does not work like a magic wand! It helps us keep faith in God, and to entrust ourselves to him even when we do not understand his will. [...] This is what prayer does: it transforms the desire and models it according to the will of God, whatever that may be, because the one who prays aspires first of all to union with God, who is merciful Love."

Let us lift up our prayers in confidence.

Today's presentation marks the end of the first part of Mass referred to as the Liturgy of the Word. This time of catechesis on the Mass will be suspended while the program is reviewed. Please feel free to share your feedback with Fr Paul or at the parish office.

Sources: GIRM 69 – 71

Pope Francis General Audience in St Peter's Square on Wednesday, 25 May [2016],