



Office of Vocations

PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

September 27, 2020

What is “Priesthood Sunday”?

Priesthood Sunday is a special day set aside to honor priesthood. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood as central in the life of the Church. Traditionally scheduled for the fourth Sunday of September, we encourage all parishes to choose any Sunday that works best with their liturgical schedule. This nationwide event is coordinated and sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International.

What happens on Priesthood Sunday?

The deacons and lay faithful can develop their own special way of marking the day and honoring their parish priests both at Mass and other parish events, such as social celebrations and school activities. Priesthood Sunday is designed to be an event led by the laity, but you may ask your parish priest to participate by talking about how he experienced and answered his own calling and about priests who have inspired him. Priesthood Sunday offers an opportunity for priests and their parishioners to build a stronger working relationship.

What is the USA Council of Serra International?

The USA Council of Serra International is an organization of lay men and women whose mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the ministerial priesthood and vowed religious life in the USA. More than 10,000 Serrans in over 250 clubs nationwide collaborate with their bishops, parishes and vocation directors to fulfill this mission. Through this ministry, Serrans work to further their common Catholic faith. Visit the USA Council at serraus.org and our local Portland Serra Club at serraportland.org.

What can you do for Priesthood Sunday during this unique time of pandemic?

Knowing that we are in challenging and unique times during the coronavirus pandemic, we offer two very simple resources to celebrate Priesthood Sunday in your parish. Below please find the *Universal Prayer of the Faithful* and *A Prayer for Our Priests* for use in your parish and among your parishioners. We hope that these simple resources will encourage all the faithful to pray for and support our beloved priests on Priesthood Sunday.



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UNIVERSAL PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL
Priesthood Sunday, September 27, 2020

PRIEST'S INTRODUCTION:

Brothers and sisters, as we now make our prayer for our community and for the world, let us all pray to Christ the Lord, not only for ourselves and our own needs, but for the entire people.

INTENTIONS:

For the Church, especially for Pope Francis, Archbishop Alexander Sample, Bishop Peter Smith, all priests and all your holy people. May they be strengthened in faith, hope and charity.

Let us pray to the Lord. **R.** *Lord hear our prayer.*

For the gift to our (parish or archdiocese) of vocations to the ordained priesthood, that good and holy men may be drawn to love and serve the People of God.

Let us pray to the Lord. **R.** *Lord hear our prayer.*

For Father _____, our (pastor, associate pastor) in his ministry to the people of (parish name), that we may affirm, support, and celebrate his gift of service to us.

Let us pray to the Lord. **R.** *Lord hear our prayer.*

That we may never take the presence of our priests for granted, as we cherish the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and are nourished by the Eucharist.

Let us pray to the Lord. **R.** *Lord hear our prayer.*

For all priests who struggle with loneliness, declining health, or loss of mobility, that they may be comforted by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray to the Lord. **R.** *Lord hear our prayer.*

For priests who now sleep in the peace of Christ, and for those who may die this year or this day, that God lead them gently into their eternal reward.

Let us pray to the Lord. **R.** *Lord hear our prayer.*

PRIEST'S PRAYER:

Incline your merciful ear to our prayers, we ask, O Lord, and listen in kindness to the supplications of those who call on you. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.



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A PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS
Priesthood Sunday, September 27, 2020

Heavenly Father,

We pray that the Blessed Mother
wrap her mantle around your priests
and through her intercession
strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary
will guide your priests
to follow her own words,
"Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).

May your priests
have the heart of St. Joseph,
Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart
inspire them to embrace all who suffer
at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy,
filled with the fire of your love
seeking nothing but your greater glory
and the salvation of souls.

R. Amen.

St. John Vianney, pray for us.