The Solemn Intercessions

11. The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Solemn Intercessions, which take place in this way: the Deacon, if a Deacon is present, or if he is not, a lay minister, stands at the ambo, and sings or says the invitation in which the intention is expressed. Then all pray in silence for a while, and afterwards the Priest, standing at the chair or, if appropriate, at the altar, with hands extended, sings or says the prayer.

The faithful may remain either kneeling or standing throughout the entire period of the prayers.

12. Before the Priest’s prayer, in accord with tradition, it is permissible to use the Deacon’s invitations Let us kneel — Let us stand, with all kneeling for silent prayer.

Text with music:

Let us kneel.  Let us stand.

The Conferences of Bishops may provide other invitations to introduce the prayer of the Priest.

13. In a situation of grave public need, the Diocesan Bishop may permit or order the addition of a special intention.

I. For Holy Church

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

The prayer is sung in the simple tone or, if the invitations Let us kneel — Let us stand are used, in the solemn tone.
Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations, watch over the works of your mercy, that your Church, spread throughout all the world, may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Almighty ever-living God, who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations, watch over the works of your mercy, that your Church, spread throughout all the world, may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.
II. For the Pope

Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope N., that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord’s holy Church, to govern the holy People of God.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, by whose decree all things are founded, look with favor on our prayers and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us, that, under him, the Christian people, governed by you their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith.

Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.
Almighty ever-living God, 
by whose decree all things are founded, 
look with favor on our prayers 
and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us, 
that, under him, the Christian people, 
governed by you their maker, 
may grow in merit by reason of their faith. 
Through Christ our Lord. 
R. Amen.

III. For all orders and degrees of the faithful

Let us pray also for our Bishop N.,* for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people.

Let us pray also for our Bishop N.,* for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people.

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*Mention may be made here of the Coadjutor Bishop, or Auxiliary Bishops, as noted in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 149.
Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear our humble prayer for your ministers, that, by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear our humble prayer for your ministers, that, by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

IV. For catechumens

Let us pray also for (our) catechumens, that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates of his mercy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth, they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.
Let us pray also for (our) catechumens, 
that our God and Lord 
may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts 
and unlock the gates of his mercy, 
that, having received forgiveness of all their sins 
through the waters of rebirth, 
they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, who make your Church ever fruitful 
with new offspring, increase the faith and understanding of (our) 
catechumens, that, reborn in the font of Baptism, they may be 
added to the number of your adopted children. Through Christ 
our Lord. R. Amen.

Almighty ever-living God, 
who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring, 
increase the faith and understanding of (our) catechumens, 
that, reborn in the font of Baptism, 
they may be added to the number of your adopted children. Through Christ our Lord. 
R. Amen.
V. For the unity of Christians

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity.

Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity.

Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.
VI. For the Jewish people

Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants, graciously hear the prayers of your Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Almighty ever-living God, who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants, graciously hear the prayers of your Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.
VII. For those who do not believe in Christ

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that,

enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way

of salvation.

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, grant to those who do not confess Christ

that, by walking before you with a sincere heart, they may find the

truth, and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love and

striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life, may

be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world. Through

Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Almighty ever-living God,
grant to those who do not confess Christ
that, by walking before you with a sincere heart,
they may find the truth
and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love
and striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life,
may be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.
VIII. For those who do not believe in God

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that,

following what is right with sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, who created all people to seek you always by desiring you and, by finding you, come to rest, grant we pray, that, despite every harmful obstacle, all may recognize the signs of your fatherly love and the witness of the good works done by those who believe in you, and so in gladness confess you, the one true God and Father of our human race. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.
Almighty ever-living God,  
who created all people  
to seek you always by desiring you  
and, by finding you, come to rest,  
grant, we pray,  
that, despite every harmful obstacle,  
all may recognize the signs of your fatherly love  
and the witness of the good works  
done by those who believe in you,  
and so in gladness confess you,  
the one true God and Father of our human race.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
R. Amen.

IX. For those in public office

Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord  
may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true  
peace and freedom of all.

Let us pray also for those in public office,  
that our God and Lord  
may direct their minds and hearts according to his will  
for the true peace and freedom of all.
Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Almighty ever-living God, in whose hand lies every human heart and the rights of peoples, look with favor, we pray, on those who govern with authority over us, that throughout the whole world, the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of religion may through your gift be made secure. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.
X. For those in tribulation

Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Fa-ther al-might-y, that he may cleanse the world of all er-rors, ban-ish dis-ease, drive out hun-ger, un-lock pris-ons, loos-en fet-ters, granting to trav-el-ers safe-ty, to pil-grims re-turn, health to the sick, and salvation to the dy-ing.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest says:

Al-might-y ever-living God, comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil, may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation come before you, that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need your mercy was at hand. Through Christ our Lord. R. A-men.
Almighty ever-living God,  
comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil,  
may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation  
come before you,  
that all may rejoice,  
because in their hour of need  
your mercy was at hand.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
R. Amen.

SECOND PART:  
The Adoration of the Holy Cross

14. After the Solemn Intercessions, the solemn Adoration of the Holy Cross takes place. Of the two forms of the showing of the Cross presented here, the more appropriate one, according to pastoral needs, should be chosen.

The Showing of the Holy Cross

First Form

15. The Deacon accompanied by ministers, or another suitable minister, goes to the sacristy, from which, in procession, accompanied by two ministers with lighted candles, he carries the Cross, covered with a violet veil, through the church to the middle of the sanctuary.

The Priest, standing before the altar and facing the people, receives the Cross, uncovers a little of its upper part and elevates it while beginning the Ecce lignum Crucis (Behold the wood of the Cross). He is assisted in singing by the Deacon or, if need be, by the choir. All respond, Come, let us adore. At the end of the singing, all kneel and for a brief moment adore in silence, while the Priest stands and holds the Cross raised.

Or:

Be-hold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world.  
R. Come, let us a-dore.