



# **Communion of the Sick at Nursing Homes**

2011



## INTRODUCTION

With the implementation of the new translation of the *Roman Missal*, it is time to improve the Communion Services we offer to our parishioners who must live in nursing or assisted living homes. Although it will take time to produce new ritual books that are in accordance with the texts of the *Roman Missal*, much can be implemented without the publication of these new ritual books. For example, it would not make sense to come to Mass on Sunday and respond to “The Lord be with you” with “And with your spirit” and then go to some other service and respond to the same greeting with “And also with you.” In the case of a Communion Service, nearly everything is the same as the liturgy of the Mass with the Offertory and Eucharistic Prayer omitted. Consequently, all the texts of the Communion Service should be consonant with those in the *Roman Missal*.

The following Communion Service ritual merges what is found in *Pastoral Care of the Sick*, *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*, and the new *Roman Missal*. A revised shorter ritual, available on a folded sheet, may also be used, if time does not permit the longer ritual given here.



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## INTRODUCTORY RITES

When everyone is present, a suitable song may be sung. After the singing, the leader says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

Amen.

### GREETING

The leader who is a layperson greets those present in the following words:

**Leader:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever.

**All:** Blessed be God forever.

### PENITENTIAL RITE

The leader invites all present to join in the penitential rite, using these words.

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

After a brief period of silence, the penitential rite continues.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you healed the sick: Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**All:** Christ, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you give us yourself to heal us and bring us strength: Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### READING

The word of God is proclaimed by one of those present or by the leader.

Because most of the residents have not been able to attend Sunday Mass, it is appropriate to take the reading from the previous Sunday as printed in a Missalette. If it is a solemnity, the reading should be taken from the solemnity. If one reading is used, it should be the gospel reading.

A brief period of silence may be observed after the reading of the word of God.

The leader may then give a brief explanation of the reading, applying it to the needs of the residents and those who are looking after them.

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

On a Sunday or Solemnity a profession of faith is recited.

#### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord,  
who was conceived  
by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again  
from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand  
of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

#### UNIVERSAL PRAYER

The universal prayer or prayer of the faithful may be said after the commentary on Sacred Scripture or the profession of faith.

Choose one of the examples for the universal prayer from the *Roman Missal* printed in the back of this manual or follow the guidelines in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal to compose the universal prayer.

#### ACT OF THANKSGIVING

After the universal prayer, the leader may invite all to an act of thanksgiving. A psalm, a canticle, a hymn, a litany of praise, or a prayer is appropriate. One of the following psalms is short and may be used.

#### A Psalm 100

Shout joy to the LORD, all earth,  
serve the LORD with gladness,  
enter God's presence with joy!

Know that the LORD is God,  
our maker to whom we belong,  
our shepherd, and we the flock.

Enter the temple gates,  
the courtyard with thanks and praise;  
give thanks and bless God's name.

Indeed the LORD is good!  
God's love is forever,  
faithful from age to age.

#### B Psalm 113

Praise, you servants of the LORD,  
praise the name of the LORD,

Blessed be the name of the LORD  
both now and forever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
let the name of the LORD be praised.

High above all nations is the LORD;  
above the heavens God's glory.

Who is like the LORD,  
our God enthroned on high,  
looking down on heaven and earth?

The LORD raises the needy from the dust,  
lifts the poor from the ash heap,  
Seats them with princes,  
the princes of the people,  
Gives the childless wife a place,  
the joyful mother of children.

C

Psalm 150

Praise God in his holy sanctuary;  
give praise in the mighty dome of heaven.  
Give praise for his mighty deed,  
praise him for his great majesty.

Give praise with blasts upon the horn,  
praise him with harp and lyre.  
Give praise with tambourines and dance,  
praise him with flutes and strings.

Give praise with crashing cymbals,  
praise him with sounding cymbals.  
Let everything that has breath  
give praise to the LORD!

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## LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

The leader introduces the Lord's Prayer in these words:

At the Savior's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

All say:

Our Father, who art in heaven  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
the will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us:  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

### SIGN OF PEACE

The leader may invite the people to exchange the sign of peace:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The leader genuflects. Taking the host, the leader raises it slightly over the pyx and facing the people, says,

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All who are to receive communion say:

Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed..

### COMMUNION

A suitable song may be sung during communion.

The leader goes to the communicants and, showing the Blessed Sacrament, says:

The body of Christ.

The person answers: Amen, and receives communion.

SILENT PRAYER

Then a period of silence may be observed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The leader says a concluding prayer.

Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer, if this has not preceded.

God our Father,  
you have called us to share the one bread and one cup  
and so become one in Christ.

Help us to live in him  
that we may bear fruit,  
rejoicing that he has redeemed the world.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

At this time, someone may read a life of a saint. Brief announcements may also be made.

## CONCLUDING RITE

### BLESSING

A leader who is not a priest or deacon invokes God's blessing and makes the sign of the cross on himself or herself, while saying:

**Leader:** May the Lord bless us,  
protect us from evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

A song of praise and thanksgiving may be sung to conclude the service.



# The Universal Prayer



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## INTRODUCTION

The universal prayer, formerly the general intercessions or prayers of the faithful, needs to be changed from what is being done now. One reason is that 8 petitions are normally too many. More importantly, the petitions do not follow the guidelines for the 1973 *Sacramentary* or the new *Roman Missal*. Following this introduction are examples from the *Roman Missal* that can be used without change. Note that, besides three sets for general use, there are others that are appropriate for certain liturgical seasons. The response of the people can vary, but “Lord, hear our prayer” is assumed to be the response that is used. Do not invite others to add their own petitions. Many priests have become accustomed to asking, “For what else should we pray,” but there is no provision for this in the instruction for the universal prayer in the 1973 *Sacramentary* or the new *Roman Missal*. Besides, it quickly gets out of hand for a sizable assembly. We have many needs, but we do not have to ask for all of them every time we pray. At the nursing homes, the residents hardly ever offer a petition. Only team members do and the service is not for the team members. If a resident asks you beforehand to pray for a particular intention, pass this on to the reader, who should compose one for the service. Also, it is entirely inappropriate for the one reading the intentions to ask for other intentions and then to add one. The reader, in principle, selected the intentions in the first place and should have included their “other” intention before asking others for theirs. After the reader stops, the leader may add other intentions before concluding with the Leader’s Prayer

You may compose your own intentions rather than use the examples, but do so following the General Instruction of the *Roman Missal* (next page). In particular note what the series of intentions should be. In the list that is currently used, 1 corresponds to intention b), and all the others are for intention c). If you compose your intentions, be sure you have at least one each for a), b), c) and d). The examples from the *Roman Missal* will give you ideas for each of these. You can have more than one in any category, but it is probably best not to go over 6 total most of the time. Note that the intentions are to be universal, that is, for a large number of people. Consequently, you would not have an intention, “For Jane Doe who is dying of cancer, let us pray to the Lord.” Instead, you could say, “For everyone dying of cancer, especially Jane Doe, let us pray to the Lord.”

## General Instruction of the Roman Missal

### *The Universal Prayer*

69. In the Universal Prayer or the Prayer of the Faithful, the people respond in some sense to the Word of God which they have received in faith and, exercising the office of their baptismal Priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all. It is desirable that there should be such a form of prayer in Masses celebrated with the people, so that petitions may be offered for holy Church, for those who govern with authority over us, for those weighed down by various needs, for all humanity, and for the salvation of the whole world.

70. The series of intentions is usually to be
- a) for the needs of the Church;
  - b) for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world;
  - c) for those burdened by any kind of difficulty;
  - d) for the local community.

Nevertheless, in a particular celebration, such as a Confirmation, a Marriage, or at a Funeral, the series of intentions may be concerned more closely the particular occasion.

71. It is for the Priest Celebrant to regulate this prayer from the chair. He himself begins it with a brief introduction, by which he calls upon the faithful to pray, and likewise he concludes it an oration. The intentions announced should be sober, be composed with a wise liberty, and in few words, and they should be expressive of the prayer of the entire community.

They are announced from the ambo or from another suitable place, by the Deacon or by a cantor, a reader, or one of the lay faithful.

The people, for their part, stand and give expression to their prayer either by an invocation said in common after each intention or by praying in silence.





Examples of the  
Universal Prayer  
in the  
*Roman Missal*



## GENERAL FORMULA I

## Leader's Introduction

To God the Father almighty,  
dear brothers and sisters, may every prayer of our heart be directed,  
for his will it is that all humanity should be saved  
and come to the knowledge of the truth.

## Intentions

- a) For the holy Church of God,  
that the Lord may graciously watch over her and care for her,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) For the peoples of all the world,  
that the Lord may graciously preserve harmony among them,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) For all who are oppressed by any kind of need,  
that the Lord may graciously grant them relief,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) For ourselves and our own community,  
that the Lord may graciously receive us,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

## Leader's Prayer

O God, our refuge and our strength,  
hear the prayers of your Church,  
for you yourself are the source of all devotion,  
and grant, we pray, that what we ask in faith  
we may truly obtain.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## GENERAL FORMULA II

**Leader's Introduction**

Brothers and sister,  
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**

- a) For the whole Christian people,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) For those who hold public office,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) For our brothers and sisters  
who cannot be present at this sacred assembly,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) For all of us who pray in faith,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

**Leader'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.

## GENERAL FORMULA III

## Leader's Introduction

Brothers and sister,  
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

- a) For all who do not yet believe,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) For favorable weather and abundant fruits from the earth,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) For the repose of the souls of the faithful departed,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) For ourselves and those close to us who await the Lord's goodness,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

## Leader'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.

## ADVENT I

## Leader's Introduction

As we wait with longing  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
dear brothers and sisters,  
let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy,  
that, as he came into the world  
to bring the good news to the poor  
so in our own time, also,  
he may bring salvation to all in need.

## Intentions

- a) That Christ may visit his holy Church  
and keep watch over her always,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) That under the protection of Christ  
our times may be peaceful,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) That Christ may banish disease,  
drive out hunger, and ward off every affliction,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) That as witnesses to Christ's love before all  
we may abide in the truth,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

## Leader's Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,  
who bring salvation to all  
and desire that no one should perish,  
hear the prayers of your people  
and grant that the course of our world  
may be directed by your peaceful rule  
and your Church rejoice in tranquility and devotion.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## ADVENT II

## Leader's Introduction

As we wait with longing  
the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
dear brothers and sisters,  
let us with renewed devotion beseech his mercy,  
that, as he came into the world  
to bring the good news to the poor  
so in our own time, also,  
he may bring salvation to all in need.

## Intentions

- a) That Christ may fill the Pope,  
our Bishop, and the whole Order of Bishops  
with spiritual gifts and graces,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) That Christ may guide the minds of those who govern us  
to promote the common good according to his will,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) That Christ in his mercy may free  
all who suffer persecution,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) That Christ may find us watching when he comes,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

## Leader's Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,  
who bring salvation to all  
and desire that no one should perish,  
hear the prayers of your people  
and grant that the course of our world  
may be directed by your peaceful rule  
and your Church rejoice in tranquility and devotion.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS TIME

## Leader's Introduction

In this time (on this night, on this day)  
when the goodness and kindness of God our Savior have appeared,  
let us, dear brothers and sisters,  
humbly pour forth to him our prayers,  
trusting not in our own good works, but in his mercy.

## Intentions

- a) For the Church of God,  
that in integrity of faith she may await  
him whom the immaculate Virgin conceived by a word  
and wondrously brought to birth,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) For the progress and peace of the whole world,  
that what is given in time may become a reward in eternity,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) For those oppressed by hunger, sickness or loneliness,  
that through the mystery of the Nativity (Epiphany) of Christ  
they may find relief in both mind and body,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) For the families of our congregation,  
that, receiving Christ,  
they may learn also to welcome him in the poor,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

## Leader's Prayer

We pray, O Lord our God,  
that the Virgin Mary,  
who merited to bear God and man in her chaste womb,  
may commend the prayers of your faithful in your sight.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## LENT I

**Leader's Introduction**

We should pour forth prayers at all times,  
dear brothers and sisters,  
but above all, in these days of Lent  
we ought to watch more intently with Christ  
and direct our petitions more fervently to God.

**Intentions**

a) For the whole Christian people,  
that in this sacred time they may be more abundantly nourished  
by every word that comes from the mouth of God,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**R.**

b) For the whole world,  
that in lasting tranquility and peace  
our days may truly become  
the acceptable time of grace and salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**R.**

c) For sinners and the neglectful,  
that in this time of reconciliation  
they may return to Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**R.**

d) For ourselves,  
that God may at last stir up in our hearts  
aversion for our sins,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**R.**

**Leader's Prayer**

Grant, we pray, O Lord,  
that your people may turn to you with all their heart,  
so that whatever they dare to ask in fitting prayer  
they may receive by your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R.** Amen.

## LENT II

**Leader's Introduction**

As the Solemnity of Easter approaches, dear friends,  
let our prayer to the Lord be all the more insistent,  
that all of us, and the whole multitude of the baptized,  
together with the entire world,  
may come to share more abundantly in the sacred mystery.

**Intentions**

- a) That God may be pleased to increase faith and understanding  
in the catechumens who are to be initiated by Holy Baptism  
in the coming Paschal Solemnity,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) That peoples in need may find help  
and that peace and security may be firmly established everywhere,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) That all who are afflicted or suffering temptation  
may be strengthened by his grace,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) That all of us may learn to distribute the fruits of self-denial  
for the good of those in need,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

**Leader's Prayer**

Have mercy, O Lord, on the prayers of your Church  
and turn with compassion to the hearts that bow before you,  
that those you make sharers in the divine mystery  
may never be left without your assistance.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

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## WEEKDAYS OF HOLY WEEK

### Leader's Introduction

In this time of the Lord's Passion,  
when Christ offered prayers and supplications to his Father  
with loud cries and tears,  
let us humbly beseech God,  
that in answer to his Son's reverent submission  
he may in mercy hear our prayers also.

### Intentions

- a) That the Church, the Bride of Christ,  
may be more fully cleansed by his Blood  
in this time of his Passion,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) That through the Blood of Christ's Cross  
all things in the world  
may be brought to peace for the sake of salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) That God may grant fortitude and patience  
to all who through sickness or hardship  
have a share in Christ's Passion,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) That we may all be led through the Lord's Passion and Cross  
to the glory of his Resurrection,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

### Leader's Prayer

Be present, O Lord, to your people at prayer,  
so that what they do not have the confidence or presumption to ask  
they may obtain by the merits of your Son's Passion.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

## EASTER TIME

## Leader's Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters,  
filled with paschal joy,  
let us pray more earnestly to God  
that he, who graciously listened  
to the prayers and supplications of his beloved Son,  
may now be pleased to look upon us in our lowliness.

## Intentions

- a) For the shepherds of our souls,  
that they may have the strength to govern wisely  
the flock entrusted to them by the Good Shepherd,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) For the whole world,  
that it may truly know the peace given by Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) For our brothers and sisters who suffer,  
that their sorrow may be turned to gladness  
which no one can take from them,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) For our own community,  
that it may bear witness with great confidence  
to the Resurrection of Christ,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

## Leader's Prayer

O God, who know that our life in this present age  
is subject to suffering and need,  
hear the desires of those who cry to you  
and receive the prayers of those who believe in you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

## ORDINARY TIME I

## Leader's Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters,  
gathered as one to celebrate the good things  
we have received from our God,  
let us ask him to prompt in us  
prayers that are worthy of his hearing.

## Intentions

- a) For **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop  
and all the clergy,  
with the people entrusted to their charge,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**R.**
- b) For those who hold public office  
and those who assist them in promoting the common good,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**R.**
- c) For those who travel by sea, land or air,  
for captives and all held in prison,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**R.**
- d) For all of us gathered in this sacred place  
by faith and devotion  
and by love and reverence for God,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**R.**

## Leader's Prayer

May the petitions of your Church  
be pleasing in your sight, O Lord,  
so that we may receive from our mercy  
what we cannot ask out of confidence in our own merits.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**R.** Amen.

## ORDINARY TIME II

## Leader's Introduction

We have all gathered here,  
dear brothers and sisters,  
to celebrate the mysteries of our redemption;  
let us therefore ask almighty God  
that the whole world may be watered  
from these springs of all blessing and life.

## Intentions

- a) For all who have vowed themselves to God,  
that with his help they may faithfully keep to their resolve,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- b) For peace among nations,  
that, delivered from all turmoil,  
the peoples may serve God in freedom of heart,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- c) For the elderly who suffer from isolation or sickness,  
that they may be strengthened  
by our love of them as brothers and sisters,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.
- d) For ourselves gathered here,  
that, as God does not cease to sustain us  
with the things of this life,  
we may know how to use them in such a way  
that we may hold even now  
to the things that endure for ever,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
R.

## Leader's Prayer

May your mercy, we beseech you, O Lord,  
be with your people who cry to you,  
so that what they seek at your prompting  
they may obtain by your ready generosity.  
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.