

Prayers for a Virtual Pilgrimage with Pope Francis

Tuesday, September 22—Washington, DC

As our shepherd Pope Francis begins his pilgrimage to the United States, please pray for the Church in our country. Here is a prayer for that intention from the Roman Missal:

O God, who in each pilgrim Church throughout the world
make visible the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church,
graciously grant
that your faithful may be so united to their shepherd
and gathered together in the Holy Spirit
through the Gospel and the Eucharist,
as to worthily embody the universality of your people
and become a sign and instrument in the world of the presence of Christ.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Wednesday, September 23—Washington, DC

As Pope Francis goes to the White House to meet President Obama, please join in prayer that they will have a fruitful meeting. Here is a prayer from the Roman Missal for those in public office:

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.



Photo: United States Government Archives

As Pope Francis gathers with the Catholic bishops of the United States at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC, please join them in prayer. Here is a prayer for bishops from the Roman Missal:

O God, eternal shepherd of the faithful,
who tend your Church in countless ways
and rule over her in love,

grant, we pray, that our Bishops,
your servants,
whom you have set over your
people,
may preside in the place of Christ
over the flock whose shepherd they
are,
and be faithful as teachers of
doctrine,
Priests of sacred worship,
and as those who serve them by
governing.
Through Christ our Lord.



Photo: CNS/Bob Roller

Today, Pope Francis is declaring that the great missionary to California Junípero Serra is a saint. Please join in prayer for his intercession. Here is the Collect, or opening prayer, for today's Mass:

O God, who by your ineffable mercy
have been pleased through the labors
of your Priest Saint Junípero Serra
to count many American peoples within your Church,
grant by his intercession
that we may so join our hearts to you in love,
as to carry always and everywhere before all people
the image of your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Thursday, September 24—Washington, DC



Photo: United States Government Archives

As Pope Francis addresses a Joint Meeting of Congress, please join in prayer for our leaders. Here is the prayer for a governing assembly from the Roman Missal:

O God, who arrange all things in wondrous
order
and govern in marvelous ways,
look with favor on the assembled, for whom
we now pray,
and mercifully pour out upon them the

spirit of your wisdom,
that they may decide everything for the well-being and peace of all
and may never turn aside from your will.
Through Christ our Lord.

As Pope Francis visits with some of the poor served by Catholic Charities in Washington, DC, please join in prayer for greater love of neighbor in our country. Here is a prayer from the Roman Missal for an increase in charity:

Set our hearts aflame, O Lord,
with the Spirit of your charity, we pray,
that we may always think thoughts
worthy and pleasing to your majesty
and love you sincerely in our brothers
and sisters.

Through Christ our Lord.



Photo: CNS/Bob Roller

As Pope Francis goes to pray vespers with men and women religious in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, please offer a prayer for those who dedicate their lives to the service of God and neighbor in religious life. Here is a prayer for religious from the Roman Missal:



Photo: CNS/Greg Shemitz

O God, who inspire and bring to fulfillment every good intention, direct your servants into the way of eternal salvation, and, as they have left all things to devote themselves entirely to you, grant that, following Christ and renouncing the things of this world, they may faithfully serve you and their neighbor in a spirit of poverty and in humility of heart.
Through Christ our Lord.

Friday, September 25—New York City

As Pope Francis address world leaders at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York City, please join in prayer that this body will bring about good in our world. Here is a prayer from the Roman Missal for the progress of all peoples:

O God, who gave one origin to all peoples and willed to gather from them one family for yourself, fill all hearts, we pray, with the fire of your love and kindle in them a desire for the just advancement of their neighbor, that, through the good things which you richly bestow upon all, each human person may be brought to perfection,

every division may be removed,
and equity and justice may be established in human society.
Through Christ our Lord.

As Pope Francis goes to Ground Zero to pray with other religious leaders, please join them with your prayers. Here is a prayer for the preservation of peace and justice from the Roman Missal:

O God, who show a father's care for
all,
grant, in your mercy,
that the members of the human race,
to whom you have given a single
origin,
may form in peace a single family
and always be united by a fraternal
spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.



Photo: Joe Woolhead

As Pope Francis visits the poor in Harlem, join in prayer that our hearts might be opened up to greater love. Here is a prayer from the Roman Missal for an increase in the practice of works of mercy:

O God, who have taught your Church
to keep all the heavenly commandments
by love of you as God and love of neighbor;
grant that, practicing the works of charity
after the example of so many of your Saints,
we may be worthy to be numbered among the blessed in your Kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord.

As Pope Francis celebrates Mass at Madison Square Garden in New York City, please pray that the members of the Church will grow in holiness and build up God's Kingdom. Here is a prayer for that intention from the Roman Missal:

O God, who from living and chosen stones
prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty,
increase in your Church the grace you have bestowed,
so that by unceasing growth
your faithful people may build up the heavenly Jerusalem.
Through Christ our Lord.

Saturday, September 26—New York City/Philadelphia

As Pope Francis celebrates Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Philadelphia at the beginning of his visit to the World Meeting of Families, please pray for blessings upon all families. Here is a prayer for the family from the Roman Missal:

O God, in whose eternal design
family life has its firm foundation,
look with compassion on the prayers of your servants
and grant that, following the example
of the Holy Family of your Only Begotten Son
in practicing the virtues of family life and in the
bonds of charity,
we may, in the joy of your house,
delight one day in eternal rewards.
Through Christ our Lord.



Photo: CNS/Nancy Wiechec

As Pope Francis speaks about immigration, religious freedom, and other matters to a large gathering at Independence Mall in Philadelphia, please join him in prayer. Here is a prayer for refugees and exiles from the Roman Missal:

O Lord, to whom no one is a stranger
and from whose help no one is ever distant,
look with compassion on refugees and exiles,
on segregated persons and on lost children;
restore them, we pray, to a homeland,
and give us a kind heart for the needy and for strangers.
Through Christ our Lord.

As Pope Francis greets those participating in the Festival of Families in Philadelphia, please join in prayer for all married couples. Here is a prayer based on a text for a wedding Mass in the Roman Missal:

O God, who in creating the human race
willed that man and wife should be one,
join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love
your servants who are united in the covenant of Marriage,
so that, as you make their love fruitful,
they may become, by your grace, witnesses to charity itself.
Through Christ our Lord.

Sunday, September 27—Philadelphia

As Pope Francis goes to visit the imprisoned, please pray for justice and for true interior freedom for all people. Here is a prayer from the Roman Missal for those held in captivity:

O God, whose Son humbled himself
and took the form of a slave
to redeem the human race from being captive to sin,
grant to your servants held in confinement
that they may obtain the freedom you destine to all,
for we are your sons and daughters.
Through Christ our Lord.

As Pope Francis celebrates Mass on the Parkway in Philadelphia at the conclusion of the World Meeting of Families, please join him in prayer. Here is the World Meeting of Families Prayer:

God and Father of us all,
in Jesus, your Son and our Savior,
you have made us
your sons and daughters
in the family of the Church.
May your grace and love
help our families
in every part of the world
be united to one another
in fidelity to the Gospel.
May the example of the Holy Family,
with the aid of your Holy Spirit,
guide all families, especially those most
troubled,
to be homes of communion and prayer
and to always seek your truth and live in your love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!



Photo: CNS/Bob Roller