

The Universal Prayer The Universal Prayer, also known as the general intercessions or prayer of the faithful, follow immediately after the blessing and exchange of rings. The presider or a lector reads each prayer ("For... ; we pray to the Lord...") and the assembly responds ("Lord, hear our prayer" or another appropriate response). The general intercessions used during the Sunday Mass are usually written by someone at the parish. Most parishes, however, will allow (and even encourage) couples to write the intercessions for their wedding. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (#70), the series of intentions is to be:

- For the needs of the Church
- For public authorities and the salvation of the whole world
- For those burdened by any kind of difficulty
- For the local community

However, the General Instruction also provides for the intentions to "reflect more closely the particular occasion" during the Celebration of Matrimony. You can include a prayer for yourselves, for instance, as well as for deceased relatives and other important people in your life. However, these prayers are also the prayer of the whole Church, and as such, they should also reflect some broader concerns. It would be appropriate, for instance, to pray for all married couples; for families; for the sick and the lonely; for Church and world leaders; and for peace and justice.

Petitions-

1. For the Church throughout the world. May our faith in the love God has for us be expressed in our love for one another. We pray to the Lord.
2. For peace in our world. May all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray to the Lord.
3. For the poor, the homeless, and for those who are unemployed. May our care and concern for those in need be a sign of God's love. We pray to the Lord.
4. For the protection and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.
5. For all those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. May they grow in wisdom and grace, and see their vocation to married life as a sign of God's love. We pray to the Lord.
6. For N. and N., who begin their married life together this day. May they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends, and the blessings of children. We pray to the Lord.
7. For all those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. and N. and of all present for this wedding. May they enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

1. For our Holy Father Pope Francis, the bishops, priests, and the clergy everywhere, may they lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for one another, we pray to the Lord....Lord, hear our prayers.

2. In Thanksgiving for our family and friends, and for all those gathered here today, their presence and support is appreciated. May they be blessed with the gift of God's graces and the heart of Christ's love, we pray to the Lord....Lord hear our prayers.

3. For _____ may the peace of Christ live in their hearts and home and may their married life be blessed with unbinding joy, love, and faith in God and one another, we pray to the Lord....Lord hear our prayers.

4. For Firemen, Law Enforcement, and the military personnel, may God protect them and bless them as they serve our community and country. And may those dearly departed that served, rest in peace, we pray to the Lord.....Lord hear our prayer.

5. For the sick and lonely, and for family members who were unable to be here today due to illness or distance, my God's presence and strength, and our prayers be with them, we pray to the Lord.....Lord, hear our prayers.

6. For all those who have died, especially _____ Dad, and all of our family members and loved ones who remain close in our hearts and prayers. May they enjoy perfect happiness and fulfillment in eternal life, we pray to the Lord.....Lord, hear our prayers.

7. For the Blessings of this day, for the gift of our Lord's love, and for all the prayers and intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts, *(pause)* we pray to the Lord....Lord, hear our prayers.

Prayers to the Faithful

*For our the Pope, all the bishops, the clergy, and the entire People of God that we may lead one another to a deeper faith commitment and a stronger love for others, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

*For the world leaders, that they might seek peace and justice for all people, including the poorest of the poor, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

*For all who have died, especially the departed friends and relatives of those gathered today. May perpetual light shine upon them, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

*For those involved in agriculture, that the growing season may be fruitful and bountiful during harvest, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer

*For _____ who are joined in holy matrimony today. May they be richly blessed with good health, the blessing of children, a caring home, the constant support of friends, and an abundance of the love of Christ, we pray to the Lord:

Lord Hear Our Prayer