

for the work of redemption. O Loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to thy heart thy sons who are close to thee because of their priestly ordination and because of the power which they have received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs them so much. Be their comfort, be their joy, be their strength, and especially help them to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Good Lord, who from the tenderness of Thy divine Heart, uttered prayers of compassion for poor humanity, seeking a guide that might conduct it along the difficult paths of the world towards the light and the life; O Lord, send to these people who are Thine, and who wish to be Thine, many priests, and clothe them with holiness so that Thy saints may rejoice.

Thou who knowest all hearts, point out the elect to whom Thou wish to entrust so sublime a ministry of truth and love. Enlighten their minds so that they may understand the great grace of Thine divine call. Strengthen their wills so that they may not allow themselves to be overcome by carelessness and pleasure or trapped by the hidden evil desires of human nature and so that they may not fear sacrifice, but

spread their wings and, like the royal eagle, soar towards the serene and glorious heights of Thy eternal Priesthood.

Then, Jesus, in their turn may they become true angels for Thy people—angels of purity who renounce for Thy divine love all human love, tender and holy though it be; angels of charity who renounce the consolations of an earthly family to create another and greater family of which they will be both father and pastor, and in which the little ones, the unfortunate, the weary and the abandoned, will be the object of their love; angels of light through whom faith in Thee will cause human understanding to be as resplendent as the morning star; angels of sacrifice who will be consumed for the welfare of their brethren; angels of counsel and comfort who will console them in their grief, sustain them in the combat, and point out to them in the trying hour of doubt, the bright way of virtue and duty; angels of grace who will purify and comfort souls and unite them to Thee by distributing among them the Bread of Life; angels of peace who, at the moment of death, will cause them to taste the inexpressible sweetness of desire for and love of Thee and will open to them the gates of heaven, where Thou are the light and the infinite joy of hearts forever. Amen.

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HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

OFFERING OF THE HOLY HOUR
O my God, poor, weak and miserable as I am, I have come to spend this hour with Thee, in reparation for the priests who have forgotten that they are Thy chosen souls. Especially, dear God, do I offer this holy hour for the priests who at this moment need it most. In praying for consecrated souls, help me to remember my own utter weakness, misery and nothingness. Were it not for Thy grace I would be far worse than those for whom I pray.

O my God, help those priests who are faithful to remain faithful. To those who are falling, stretch forth Thy divine hand that they may grasp it as their support. And for those poor unfortunate souls who have fallen, lift them up in the great ocean of Thy mercy, that being engulfed therein, they may receive the grace to return to Thy great loving heart. Amen.

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

The Annunciation:

The Angel Gabriel announces to Mary, a virgin, that she will become the Mother of God, Word made Flesh. For all centuries to come, Jesus will become flesh in the Holy Eucharist to nourish us in a most intimate union with Him.

We pray for all priests who daily, through the words of the consecra-

tion at Mass, and through Holy Communion, bring us the Body and Blood of Christ.

We pray for all priests to keep the virtue of humility, virtue of the Annunciation and of the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Visitation:

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth, who recognizes Mary as the living tabernacle for the Divine Lord.

We pray especially for priests who bring Holy Communion to the sick, the shut-ins, the prisoners and Viaticum to the dying. We pray for all priests who minister with brotherly charity to the sick in other ways, to counsel, comfort and console them.

The Nativity:

Jesus is born in Bethlehem. The angels announce His birth; kings and shepherds come to adore Him.

We pray that, living the virtue of poverty, every priest will consider himself a member of the Holy Family, a true son of Mary and Joseph, and a brother of Jesus, the great High Priest.

The Presentation in the Temple:

Mary and Joseph, in obedience to the Law, bring Jesus to the temple to be dedicated to God. Simeon expresses his gratitude to God for revealing the Messiah to him before he dies.

We pray for all priests to remain faithful to the virtue of purity and to keep the simplicity of obedience in their priestly life.

The finding of Jesus in the Temple: PRAYER TO THE QUEEN OF

Jesus is found among the teachers in the temple; He returns home and is obedient to Mary and Joseph.

We pray that priests will always be found going patiently about their Father's business, and will be obedient to the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ given by His Church.

We pray for all priests who teach the Faith to children and adults.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To Thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To Thee do we send up our sighs; mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of Thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Ÿ. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

Ŕ. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

THE CLERGY

O Mary, Queen of the Clergy, deign to hear our humble prayer. Give to our priests, we beseech thee, an ardent love for our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, an untiring zeal for the salvation of souls, and all the perfection becoming the eminent dignity with which they are clothed.

Grant that they may be truly saints, in order that their divine ministry may be all-powerful in leading us to holiness and to heaven. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL

Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all his wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

To thee, O blessed Joseph,*do we have recourse in our tribulation,*and, having implored the help of thy thrice-holy Spouse,*we confidently invoke thy patronage also.*By that charity wherewith thou wast united to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God,* and by that fatherly affection with which thou didst embrace the Child Jesus,*we beseech thee and we humbly pray,*that thou wouldst look graciously upon the inheritance* which Jesus Christ hath purchased by

His Blood,*and assist us in our needs by thy power and strength.*Most watchful guardian of the Holy Family,*protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ,*keep far from us, most loving father,* all blight of error and corruption*: mercifully assist us from Heaven, most mighty defender,*in this our conflict with the powers of darkness;*and, even as of old thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the supreme peril of His life,*so now defend God's Holy Church*from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity;*keep us one and all under thy continual protection,*that we may be supported by thine example and thine assistance,*may be enabled to lead a holy life,*die a happy death *and come at last to the possession of everlasting blessedness in Heaven.*Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE POPE

Almighty and everlasting God, have mercy upon Thy servant, N. our Sovereign Pontiff, and guide him in Thy goodness on the way of eternal salvation; so that, with the prompting of Thy grace, he may desire what pleases Thee and accomplish it with all his strength. Through Christ Our Lord.

PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS

1- O Jesus, eternal High Priest, Good Shepherd, Font of life, who by a special favor of Thy most tender Heart, hast given to our priests in order to accomplish in us those holy ideals with which Thy grace inspires our

hearts. Let Thy Mercy, we beseech Thee, come to the aid of our priests. Grant them O Jesus, lively faith in their works, unshakeable hope in their trials, and fervent charity in their intentions.

May Thy Word, radiant with eternal wisdom, become through continual meditation the never failing nourishment of their interior life.

May the examples of Thy life and passion, be renewed in their conduct and sufferings for our instruction and as a light and consolation in our sorrows.

Grant O Lord, that our priests, free from all earthly attachments and solicitous for Thy glory alone, may preserve to their last breath in the fulfillment of duty and in the purity of conscience. And when in death they deliver into Thy hands a task well done, may they have in Thee Lord Jesus their Master on earth, the eternal reward of the crown of justice in the glory of the saints. Amen.

2- O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of Thy priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed