

GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS PREPARING PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Here are some things to keep in mind when writing the prayers:

1. The prayers are phrased as petitions rather than prayers of thanks and praise.
2. The prayers are, generally speaking, for the Church and the faithful, and for the world and should include current events and issues.
3. The prayers, while read by one person, are understood as the prayers of the entire parish community, and thus they should also express the local community's particular needs and concerns.
4. The flow of the petitions begins with larger concerns (the world, the church, leaders), moves to local concerns (our parish, local community, the poor and needy, those who are sick, those who have died), and concludes with the personal (individual) requests.
5. The prayers take into account the themes found in Scripture readings as well as the "mood" of the Liturgical Season (especially during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter).
6. Six to seven petitions are sufficient.

NOTE: The invitation and closing prayer will be in the presider's book and may vary according to seasons. The responses from the people will vary according to season and follow what is already in the worship aid. The writer of the prayers only has to be concerned with writing the 6-7 petitions and not the responses or presider prayers.

Example of a format for a petition/prayer used in Ordinary Time:

Presider invites us to prayer:

Let us pray to our God who loves us, as we respond: God, you hear our prayer. (or other response)

Two examples of phrasing for the petitions:

1.
That the infinite wisdom of Christ will come to rulers of all nations and communities, inspiring and shaping their thoughts and actions for peace (pause)...
let us pray:
2.
For the Church, that the faithful may continue to grow in the wisdom and love of Christ (pause)...
we pray:

Presider concludes the prayer:

Gentle God, we thank you for hearing our prayers,
those that are said aloud and those that are lingering
in our hearts.
Continue to bless and guide us as we strive
to become people of the Beatitudes.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
R]: Amen.

Example of a format for a petition/prayer used for other seasons:

During seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter one may write the prayers to reflect the focus of that season. An example of phrasing for Easter might be:

1.
That the tender compassion of the Risen Christ will come to all who are oppressed by any need,
renewing their hope in God's promises, (pause)
we pray: