



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – APRIL 17

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Christians are invited to reflect on the meaning of God's call and to pray for vocations. Christ the Good Shepherd continues to lead his people through his Bishops, Priests and Deacons, and calls many to follow him in this way. Priestly, diaconal, and religious vocations should be a constant concern in the hearts of God's people throughout the year.

Ways to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life:

- Pray for the priests and consecrated, both living and dead, who have ministered to you throughout your life.
- Keep our parish priests in your prayers throughout the week.
- Pray for our seminarians and diaconate candidates.
- Encourage your children, grandchildren, or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious brother or sister.
- Pray a rosary for more young men and women in our archdiocese to respond to God's call.
- Pray a "Hail Mary" for vocations with every meal.
- Offer your sufferings for an increase in priestly and religious vocations. There is an ancient tradition of offering up suffering to God, beginning in the Old Testament and culminating with the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Join thousands of saints who have offered up their suffering for spiritual gain and encourage those who are homebound, in hospitals and nursing homes to join their suffering with Christ to intercede for vocations to the priesthood.

- Holy Hour for Vocations

We are often asked to pray for vocations, but how? Certainly we should do so in our daily intentions as well as at Mass. Sometimes, though, holding a special Holy Hour for Vocations provides a more intensive focus for our intercession: as we join in adoration of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, we earnestly ask him to send more labourers into the harvest.

- Join an “Invisible Monastery”

The invisible monastery is an international effort to pray for more vocations to priesthood and religious life. It was inspired by a call from Rome urging Catholics to “organize an ‘invisible monastery’ in which many persons, day and night, are committed to continuous prayer for priestly vocations.” To enrol, visit www.invisiblemonastery.com. Choose your diocese from the drop-down menu, and pledge to pray daily or weekly.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son’s Kingdom as priests, deacons, religious, and consecrated persons.

Send your Holy Spirit to help us respond generously and courageously to your call.

May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

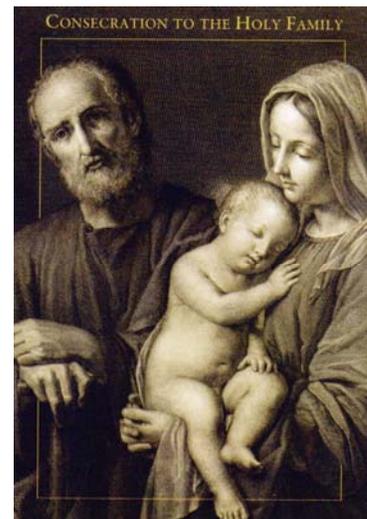
Amen.

ROSARY-BASED PILGRIM ICON PRAYER PROGRAM

This yearly Prayer Program is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. This year it is dedicated to the Holy Family.

Our Father Burns Council has arranged for the icon to be at St. Cecilia from Tuesday evening, April 19 to Thursday morning, April 21.

Please join in the prayer program on Tuesday evening at 6:30 prior to Mass at 7. There will be special prayers and the praying of the Rosary. On Wednesday and Thursday, come early to Mass and meditate on the Holy Family and pray the Rosary.



How will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life?