

Sunday Homily Helps Lectern Guide



00112

INTRODUCTIONS TO PENITENTIAL RITE AND READINGS, MODELS FOR GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The INTRODUCTION TO PENITENTIAL RITE is a model which can also be adapted for use as an introduction to the liturgy itself. The INTRODUCTIONS TO THE READINGS, if read by priest or lector before the respective readings, are intended to focus the attention of the listeners. The MODELS FOR GENERAL INTERCESSIONS relate to the theme of the homily outline and may be used to supplement the usual petitions.

May 2, 2021 – 5th Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION TO PENITENTIAL RITE: For the times we have failed to choose the Gospel way that Christ offers us, we ask forgiveness.

- **INTRODUCTION:** In the first reading, the Church in Jerusalem not only welcomes a former adversary but even protects him from danger.
- **INTRODUCTION:** In the second reading, John encourages us to pray and to love one another as the Lord has commanded.
- **INTRODUCTION:** In the Gospel, Jesus uses the images of vine grower, vine, and branches to explain the divine interrelationship that exists among the Father, the Son, and the disciples.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- 1) That our civil leaders lead us to genuine unity and promote the truth,
- 2) That Pope Francis and our Church leaders stand courageously against those who seek to act in opposition to the Gospel,
- 3) That we allow God to prune us so that we may produce spiritual fruit in abundance,
- 4) For those who have died, that God's eternal love fill them as they see the face of God,

May 9, 2021 – 6th Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION TO PENITENTIAL RITE: One definition for God is "justice clothed in mercy." We call on God's mercy and forgiveness as we remember the times we have failed to love others unconditionally.

- **INTRODUCTION:** In the first reading, gentiles receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and Baptism in the name of the Lord.
- **INTRODUCTION:** In the second reading, John reminds us that God sent his only Son into the world for the sake of salvation.
- **INTRODUCTION:** In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims the com-

mandment that captures the very heart of his teaching "Love one another as I love you."

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- 1) That leaders in the Church serve with sacrificial love,
- 2) That parents love their challenging children unconditionally,
- 3) That married and single women look to Mary as an example of faithful love,
- 4) That all disciples of Jesus "speak the truth with love" when they are challenged,

May 13, 2021 – Ascension of the Lord

INTRODUCTION TO PENITENTIAL RITE: Our call to action as Christians enables us to spread the Good News in each minute of every day. As we begin this celebration, let us recall any times we have ignored our call to be Christ's light in the world.

- **INTRODUCTION:** In the first reading, the risen Lord prepares his apostles to serve the kingdom of heaven.
- **INTRODUCTION:** In the second reading, Paul celebrates the name of Jesus, which is above every other name.
- **INTRODUCTION:** In the Gospel, after Jesus commissions his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to every creature, he is taken up into heaven, where he is seated at the right hand of God.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- 1) For the wisdom to know ourselves, our gifts, and our capacity for bringing God's love to the world,
- 2) That Catholics in the United States overcome our differences to unite in sharing the Gospel with all creatures,
- 3) That all priests, religious, and laypeople who work to better the lives of people in Third World countries accept the grace to persevere,
- 4) For the strength of the Spirit to guide the Church's work throughout the world,

May 16, 2021 – 7th Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION TO PENITENTIAL RITE: We begin by asking for a greater openness on our part to God's grace and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- INTRODUCTION: In the first reading, the Holy Spirit guides the apostles as they restore their number to 12.
- INTRODUCTION: In the second reading, we are reminded to love one another as the Lord loves us.
- INTRODUCTION: In the Gospel, Jesus prays powerfully that God protect his disciples, who must now carry on his work in the world.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- 1) For grace and courage to proclaim in word and deed that Jesus Christ is Lord,
- 2) For the humility to accept that God loves us deeply and eternally, forgiving our faults and failures,
- 3) For the grace to recognize where we have hurt others and to act in love,
- 4) For the courage to be able to lay down our lives, as we are called individually, out of love and as an example of love,

May 23, 2021 – Pentecost Sunday

INTRODUCTION TO PENITENTIAL RITE: We gather together on this Pentecost Sunday, aware of the times we have not lived our faith with fire and zeal. We come before our God, seeking his mercy, compassion, and steadfast love that cannot be shaken.

- INTRODUCTION: In the first reading, the Holy Spirit gives the apostles the power to reach every nation with the message of the Gospel.
- INTRODUCTION: In the second reading, Paul says we display many different gifts yet are all one in the Lord.
- INTRODUCTION: In the Gospel, Jesus appears to his disciples after his resurrection and commissions them to carry on his work, confirming this by breathing on them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- 1) That Pope Francis and all leaders of the Church have the courage and fortitude to consistently and prophetically preach the Good News of Jesus Christ,
- 2) That all government and political leaders be inspired by the Holy Spirit to enact policies to help renew the face of the earth as God intended it to be,
- 3) That the divided Body of Christ be united in the Holy Spirit's power and love to continue the

mission of Jesus Christ today,

- 4) That all those who have suffered trauma and live in fear know the liberating power of the Holy Spirit in their lives,

May 30, 2021 – Trinity Sunday

INTRODUCTION TO PENITENTIAL RITE: Baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we are called to a special mission: to bring God's love to a world that desperately needs it. For the times we have sown division and hatred instead of peace and love, we are truly sorry and beg God's mercy and forgiveness.

- INTRODUCTION: In the first reading, Moses gives the tribes of Israel the key to long life in the promised land.
- INTRODUCTION: In the second reading, Paul declares us to be God's children and thus heirs to the kingdom of heaven.
- INTRODUCTION: In the Gospel, Jesus commissions his disciples to go to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

- 1) That the ministry of Church leaders reflect the mystery of the Trinity by bringing life, forgiveness, and inspiration to all people,
- 2) That all who serve us in public office honestly and selflessly carry out their duties and show special concern for those living on the margins of our society,
- 3) That those about to graduate will experience a moment of genuine "commencement," that is, a new and hopeful beginning in their life's journey.
- 4) That those absent from our assembly because of illness experience God's healing presence and know that they are in our thoughts and prayers,
- 5) That our departed sisters and brothers now living in the heart of the mystery of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit intercede for us until we join them in the joy of God's heavenly kingdom,