



October 11, 2023

Dear Monsignor or Father,

It seems that the war in Ukraine which began in February 2022 has faded from our minds. In recent days the horrific acts of terror in Israel and the war that seems to have sprung up in response, remind us of the preciousness of life and the longing for the peace that only God can give. Though life seems to be in an upheaval in politics, economics, and even pastoral planning, we cannot forget our brothers and sisters in Israel, Ukraine and other parts of the world torn by war that get no mention. I urge you to carry them with you in prayer, calling out to our heavenly Father on their behalf, that peace and concord may return to their lives and to the entire world.

I once again encourage you to use the Masses for Various Needs and Occasions #30 For the Preservation of Peace and Justice, # 31 In Time of War or Civil Disturbance, and #32 For Refugees and Exiles as allowed on the weekdays of Ordinary Time, the weekdays of Advent through December 16, and the weekdays of the Christmas Season from January 2, 2024 and following. Please note that these Mass texts may not be used on the weekdays of Advent from December 17 through the morning of December 24, nor on the days of the Christmas Octave, December 25 through January 1, 2024, inclusive.

The attachment also includes suggested intercessions for the Universal Prayer and a Prayer for Peace by Pope Francis.

Mary, the Queen of Peace, pray for us!

+Lawrence T. Persico

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Guidance on the use of Masses for Various Needs and Occasions for Peace

Bishop Persico encourages the use of Masses for Various Needs and Occasions #30 For the Preservation of Peace and Justice, # 31 In Time of War or Civil Disturbance, and #32 For Refugees and Exiles as allowed on the weekdays of Ordinary Time, the weekdays of Advent through December 16, and the weekdays of the Christmas Season from January 2, 2024, and following. Please note that these Mass texts may not be used on the weekdays of Advent from December 17 through the morning of December 24 nor on the days of the Christmas Octave December 25 through January 1, 2024, inclusive.

The vestment color is **violet**.

Sample Intercessions for the Universal Prayer

- For leaders of nations, that they may seek diplomatic solutions to conflict and war, we pray to the Lord.
- For our allies and our enemies, that God may guide them to the way of peace, we pray to the Lord.
- For the courage to demand an end to war and for the grace to work toward it, we pray to the Lord.

A Prayer for Peace by Pope Francis

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!
We have tried so many times and over so many years
to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms.
How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced?
how much blood has been shed?
how many lives have been shattered?
how many hopes have been buried?
But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid!
Grant us peace, teach us peace;
guide our steps in the way of peace.
Open our eyes and our hearts,
and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost".
Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love,
you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters.
Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace;
enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister.
Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens
who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace,
our trepidation into confident trust,
and our quarreling into forgiveness.
Keep alive within us the flame of hope,
so that with patience and perseverance
we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.
In this way may peace triumph at last,
and may the words "division," "hatred," and "war"
be banished from the heart of every man and woman.

Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands.
Renew our hearts and minds,
so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother,"
and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!
Amen.