

**Diocese of Erie**  
**Day of Prayer for Pastoral Planning**  
**January 14, 2024**

**Purpose**

To bring before the people of the Diocese of Erie the need for continued prayer for pastoral planning and the realization that as planning is in different phases in different parts of the diocese, all efforts of planning affect the whole diocese.

**Mass Text**

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Vestment Color**

Green

**Lectionary**

Scripture Readings remain those of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Homily Prompts**

The Church has seen many changes in its history. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, planning undertaken today can lead to new beginnings and hope filled possibilities for future generations.

Through every change and challenge God guides us.

The temple of God is not a building but rather the people who together form the Body of Christ.

As disciples of Christ, we are invited to follow him on the path of life and do our part to invite others to join us on the journey.

**Universal Prayer**

The included Universal Prayer is meant to be used in its entirety. Please note that there are specific intercessions listed for particular situations across the diocese.

Universal Prayer  
Weekend of Prayer for Pastoral Planning  
January 14, 2024

Presider: With confidence in the Wisdom of God  
shared with us in the scriptures, let us pray.

Reader:

For the Church, that the People of God, through their words and actions, will continue to issue the invitation to come and follow the Lord Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.

For Pope Francis, Bishop Persico, and all bishops, that the Holy Spirit will overshadow them and their care of God's people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the clergy of the Diocese of Erie, that God will strengthen them in their ministry to the people of God and bless the generosity of their service, let us pray to the Lord.

For the Pastoral Planning efforts of the Diocese of Erie, that the bonds of unity may be strengthened keeping us true to our faith, let us pray to the Lord.

*(Erie Deaneries)* For the people of the Diocese of Erie, that the spirit of collaboration be strengthened among us so we might build the Kingdom of God side by side, we pray to the Lord.

*(Dubois)* For the members of Holy Spirit Parish, that the bonds of community may be strengthened, and we may be renewed in service to our neighbors, we pray to the Lord.

*(McKean, Potter, and Warren Counties)* For all of us, that we will be strengthened in love for God and each other, renewing the face of the earth through our outreach to those in need, we pray to the Lord.

(*Clearfield County*) For all of us, that despite the challenges we face, our faith in God's love and mercy will be a source of strength and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

For the prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts,  
let us pray to the Lord.

Priest:     God of hope, we praise you for the gift of your love.  
              Remove the fear of change from our hearts  
              and help us to serve you in your holy Church.  
              Through Christ our Lord.