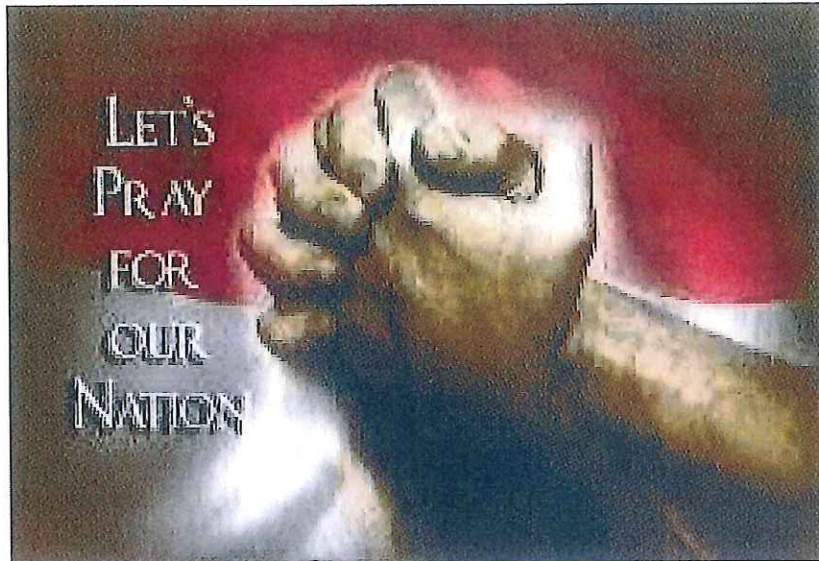


JANUARY 2017

This is a month to pray intensely for our nation.

The US & Massachusetts legislatures were sworn in on the 3rd & 4th. Donald Trump becomes president on the 20th.

Other observances of our Church invite our prayer.



Prayer after an Election:

God of all nations, Father of the human family, we give you thanks for the freedom we exercise and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy in these United States of America.

We ask for your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the common good, working for justice and peace at home and around the world.

We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants, those who will serve us as president, as legislators and judges, those in the military and law enforcement.

Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst. Amen.

Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, (Washington, DC: U S Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2007).

Prayer for Legislators

O God, who arrange all things in wondrous order, and govern in marvelous ways, look with favor on the 115th Congress of the United States of America, and the 190th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for whom we now pray. Mercifully pour out upon them the spirit of your wisdom, that they may decide everything for the well-being and peace of all and may never turn aside from your will. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Roman Missal, Masses for Various Needs, #23. For a Governing Assembly

Prayer for the President

O God, to whom every human power is subject, grant to your servant, our president Donald Trump, success in the exercise of his high office, so that; always revering you and striving to please you, he may constantly secure and preserve for the people entrusted to his care the freedom that comes from civil peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Roman Missal, Masses for Various Needs, #24. For the Head of State

January 15 “World Day of Migrants and Refugees” in the Catholic Church

Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) was founded by the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops and is the legal support agency for diocesan immigration programs. At their website, www.cliniclegal.org/cst/resources/messages the annual papal statements on immigration can serve as meditation material.

At this part of our national bishops' website, prayers and background reading can be found www.usccb.org/about/migration-and-refugee-services

January 16 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lord our God,
see how oppression and violence are our sad inheritance, one generation to the next.
We look for you where the lowly are raised up, where the mighty are brought down.
We find you there in your servants,
and we give you thanks this day for your preacher and witness, Martin Luther King, Jr.
Fill us with your Spirit: where our human community is divided by racism, torn by repression,
saddened by fear and ignorance, may we give ourselves to your work of healing.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

_____ *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*, (Washington, DC: US Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1988).

January 18 - 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

2 Corinthian 5:14-20 is the 2017 theme of the Vatican & the World Council of Churches

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

January 23 “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”

O God, who adorn creation with splendor and beauty
and fashion human lives in your image and likeness,
awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands,
and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain
your precious gift of human life.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

_____ *Roman Missal*, Masses for Various Needs, #48/1.B. For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life