

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - October 22, 2023

Liturgy Suggestions

General Considerations

- World Mission Sunday, organized by the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through sharing prayer, learning and offering financial support to mission dioceses around the world.
- Funds collected on World Mission Sunday go towards supporting the pastoral, catechetical, charitable and evangelizing work of the Church in over 1,100 dioceses overseas and 80 locally.
- The theme for 2023 World Mission Sunday is **"Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move"**, inspired by the Emmaus story (Lk. 24:13-35). Meeting Christ along the way as he opened the Scripture and broke the bread, their hearts were set on fire. They returned to Jerusalem to proclaim the Lord truly risen. We are also sent for to encounter Christ and return as his witnesses of Good News.
- Highlights from Pope Francis' message are enclosed.
- The environment can add a lot to our liturgies. Please consider how you might enhance the worship space on World Mission Sunday to more fully reflect the universal nature of Catholic mission. Some ideas include displaying cultural cloths, devotional figures or sacred art pieces from different parts of the world.
- Each parish should collect appeal funds and send one check to the Center for Mission, 777 Forest Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. Funds collected in the archdiocese are then forwarded to the national office of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Scriptural Theme Reflections – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Tell God's glory among the nations; among all peoples" (Psalm 96:3).

The readings invite us to consider how God's saving presence is meant for all people. God chooses Jew and Gentile alike to announce this good news among all the nations. In the first reading (Is.45:1, 4-6) Cyrus, the King of Persia, is called the anointed one because he will further God's plan to liberate Israel from exile. God would be "opening doors before him" (Is. 45:1). In the second reading (I Thes. 1:1-5) Paul praises and encourages the young Thessalonian Church for their missionary efforts. He reminds them of God's gracious election upon them to receive the Gospel in word and in power and in the Holy Spirit. Paul reminds them that they have been chosen to bear the "work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope of our Lord Jesus Christ." In the Gospel reading (Matt. 22:15-21), the Pharisees and Herodians conspire to trap Jesus by putting him in a no-win position regarding his allegiance. Jesus responds, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God." What belongs to God? If God is the source of all life, then ultimately all we have and all we are comes as a gift from God.

God is still calling people to follow him and share in his mission to the ends of the earth. Mission is at the heart of Christian faith. We are each baptized into Christ's mission to bring light into the world. On World Mission Sunday, we renew and celebrate our call as missionary disciples. We join with Catholics around the world to support the missionary church wherever it is being planted and taking root. Christ is still sending us out in faith to encounter him and to return as witnesses. Like the prophets and apostles chosen to bring good news to the poor and liberty to captives, God is still revealing himself to us in his Word made flesh and life in the Eucharist. **May our hearts also burn with his presence and our feet be on the move with his spirit.**

God shows no partiality and intends that all may experience his saving presence. As St. Paul knew personally, it is through God's grace and mercy that we are chosen to receive the Gospel of Christ and sent by the Holy Spirit to be ambassadors of God's wondrous deeds.

Suggested General Intercessions

Presider: The Lord accompanies us as we go forth to proclaim the Good News of salvation. On this World Mission Sunday, let us turn to our God for help to strengthen our witness to all nations and peoples.

Lector: Let us pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, the bishops and all who oversee the cooperation of churches for the sake of mission to all nations. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray for missionaries at home and abroad who are willing to offer their lives as living bridges of faith that cross many borders. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray for a deeper missionary spirit. May we be generous in our response to the Gospel planted in our hearts. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray that sharing the Gospel of joy will reform our hearts and transform the world into the image and likeness of Christ. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray for all those who find life a burden. For the sick, the lonely, the unemployed and the homeless. May they be touched by the hand of healing and lifted up in friendship and justice. Let us pray to the Lord.

Lector: Let us pray for those who have died; especially those who have given their lives in witness to the faith. May their union with the Crucified Christ in this world, bring forth the fullness of life in the resurrection. Let us pray to the Lord.

Presider: Lord, hear our prayers today as we renew our commitment to share in the worldwide mission of Jesus. We ask this in His name who is the Redeemer of the world.

World Mission Sunday Collection

Today, in every parish around the world, a collection is being taken up for Catholic missions in over 1,100 overseas dioceses and this year, including 80 dioceses in the U.S. Your contribution today will go towards helping teachers and catechists to teach the faith in urban centers and remote villages. You will help to build churches and chapels in mission stations for people to worship, hear God's word and receive sacraments. You will help in the effort to raise up and train new leaders, with hearts on fire, who will minister to people in their own language. You will provide material support to the poor and suffering lifting up individual dignity through the love of Christ.

Your financial gift will go to **the Society for the Propagation of the Faith**, which is the official worldwide Catholic network of mission cooperation enabling the Gospel of Jesus Christ to reach to the ends of the earth and Catholic Home Missions. Thank you for joining in this central work of the Church!

Liturgy of the Eucharist

To highlight the missionary intention of World Mission Sunday, it is most appropriate to celebrate the *Mass for the Spread of the Gospel (Sacramentary Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, #14)*. "This Mass may be celebrated whenever there are special celebrations for the missions, even on Sundays of Ordinary Time" (Roman Sacramentary).

It is also suggested to use **Eucharistic Prayer III** because of its explicit references to the universality of salvation, Church and mission.