

# PRAYERS FOR 40 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

## Prayer by St Therese of Lisieux

☉ Jesus, I pray for your faithful and fervent priests;  
for your unfaithful and tepid priests;  
for your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields;  
for your tempted priests;  
for your lonely and desolate priests;  
for your young priests;  
for your dying priests;  
for the souls of your priests in Purgatory.  
But above all, I recommend to you the priests dearest to me:  
the priest who baptized me;  
the priests who've absolved me from my sins;  
the priests at whose Masses I've assisted and who've given me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion;  
the priests who've taught and instructed me;  
all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, especially \_\_\_\_  
O Jesus, keep them all close to your heart,  
and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. AMEN.



## Prayed daily by St. Therese

☉ Almighty Eternal God, Look upon the face of Thy Christ, and for the love of Him, Who is the Eternal High Priest, have pity on Thy priests. Remember, O most compassionate God, that they are but weak and frail human beings. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation which is in them by the imposition of the Bishop's hands. Keep them close to Thee, lest the enemy prevail against them, so that they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

O Jesus, I pray to Thee, for Thy faithful and fervent priests; for Thy unfaithful and tepid priests; for Thy priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Thy tempted priests, for Thy lonely and desolate priests; for Thy young priests; for Thy aged priests; for Thy sick priests; for Thy dying priests; for the souls of Thy priests in purgatory.

But above all, I commend to Thee the priests dearest to me: the priest who baptized me; the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Thy Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me or helped and encouraged me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, particularly [name a particular priest of your choosing here]. O Jesus, keep them all close to Thy heart, and bless them abundantly in time and in eternity. AMEN.



## Prayer in Pastores Dabo Vobis by St. Pope John Paul II

*M*other of Jesus Christ and Mother of priests,

Accept this title which we bestow on you to celebrate your motherhood  
and to contemplate with you the priesthood of your Son and of your sons,  
O holy Mother of God.

Mother of Christ,  
to the Messiah Priest you gave a body of flesh  
through the anointing of the Holy Spirit  
for the salvation of the poor and the contrite of heart;  
guard priests in your heart and in the Church,  
O Mother of the Savior.

Mother of Faith,  
you accompanied to the Temple the Son of Man,  
the fulfillment of the promises given to the fathers;  
give to the Father for his glory the priests of your Son,  
O Ark of the Covenant.

Mother of the Church,  
with the disciples in the Upper Room  
you prayed to the Spirit for the new People and their shepherds;  
obtain for the Order of Presbyters a fullness of gifts,  
O Queen of the Apostles.

Mother of Jesus Christ,  
you were with Him at the beginning of His life and of His mission,  
you sought the Master among the crowd,  
you stood beside Him when he was lifted up from the earth  
consumed as the one eternal sacrifice,  
and you had John close by you, your son;  
accept from the beginning those who have been called,  
protect their growth, accompany your sons in their life and in their ministry,  
O Mother of Priests. AMEN.



## **Prayer by Blessed Mother Teresa**

*M*ary, Mother of Jesus,  
throw your mantle of purity over our priests.  
Protect them, guide them, and keep them in your heart.  
Be a Mother to them,  
especially in times of discouragement and loneliness.  
Love them and keep them belonging completely to Jesus.  
Like Jesus, they, too, are your sons, so keep their hearts pure and virginal.  
Keep their minds filled with Jesus, and put Jesus always on their lips,  
so that he is the one they offer to sinner and to all they meet.  
Mary, Mother of Jesus, be their Mother,  
loving them and bringing them joy.  
Take special care of sick and dying priests, and the ones most tempted.  
Remember how they spent their youth and old age,  
their entire lives serving and giving all to Jesus.  
Mary, bless them and keep a special place for them in your heart.  
Give them a piece of your heart, so beautiful and pure and immaculate,

so full of love and humility, so that they, too, can grow in the likeness of Christ.  
Dear Mary, make them humble like you, and holy like Jesus. AMEN.



### **Prayer by Pope Benedict XVI**

*L*ord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest,  
You offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the Cross  
and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit  
gave Your priestly people a share in Your redeeming sacrifice.  
Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests.  
Grant that all who are ordained to the ministerial priesthood  
may be ever more conformed to You, the Divine Master.  
May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience.  
Let them be shepherds according to Your own Heart,  
single-minded in service to You and to the Church  
and shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life.  
Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your Mother and ours,  
draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care  
to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever. AMEN.



### **Prayer by St Faustina**

*O* my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church:  
Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit  
and give power to the words of priests  
so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance  
and return to You, O Lord.

Lord, give us holy priests;  
You Yourself maintain them in holiness.  
O Divine and Great High Priest,  
may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them  
from the devil's snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests.  
May the power of Your mercy, O Lord,  
shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests,  
for You can do all things. AMEN.



### ***D*ear Saint John Mary Vianney,**

Your childhood dream was to be a priest, to win souls for God.  
You endured years of toil and humiliation to attain the priesthood.

You became a priest truly after God's own heart, outstanding in humility and poverty, prayer and mortification, totally devoted to the service of God's people.

The Church has exalted you as model and Patron Saint of all parish priests, trusting that your example and prayers will help them to live up to the high dignity of their vocation to be faithful servants of God's people, to be perfect imitators of Christ the Savior who came not to be served but to serve, to give His life in ransom for many.

Pray that God may give to His Church today many more priests after His own heart.

Pray for all priests under your patronage, that they may be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd.

May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty; shining models of holiness; tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of God's Grace in the sacraments.

May their loving devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary His Mother be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry. AMEN.



*H*eavenly Father, grant that our priests be strengthened and healed

by the power of the Eucharist they celebrate.

May the Word they proclaim give them courage and wisdom.

We pray that all those whom they seek to serve

May see in them the love and care of Jesus,

Our Eternal High Priest, who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Mary, Mother of the Church, look tenderly upon your sons, our priests.

St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, pray for us all.



## **Litany for Priests**

*L*et us pray for the Holy Father: fill him with courage and grace, O Lord.

Cardinals, archbishops, and bishops: give them a shepherd's heart, O Lord.

Diocesan priests: fill them with your Spirit, Lord.

Priests in religious orders: perfect them in their calling, Lord.

Priests who are ill: heal them, Lord.

Priests who are in danger: deliver them, Lord.

Priests who are weak: strengthen them, Lord.

Priests who are poor: relieve them, Lord.

Priests who have lost their zeal: renew them, Lord.

Priests who are sad: console them, Lord.

Priests who are worried: give them peace, Lord.

Priests who are old: sustain them, Lord.

Priests who are alone: accompany them, Lord.

Missionary priests: protect them, Lord.

Priests who are preachers: enlighten them, Lord.

Priests who direct souls: instruct them, Lord.

Priests and religious who have died: bring them to glory, Lord.

For all priests: give them Your wisdom and knowledge.  
For all priests: give them Your understanding and counsel.  
For all priests: give them reverence and awe of You.  
For all priests: give them patience and love.  
For all priests: give them obedience and kindness.  
For all priests: give them a burning zeal for souls.  
For all priests: give them virtues of faith, hope and love.  
For all priests: give them an intense love for the Eucharist.  
For all priests: give them loyalty to the Holy Father and their Bishops.  
For all priests: give them respect for life and human dignity.  
For all priests: give them integrity and justice.  
For all priests: give them humility and generosity.  
For all priests: give them strength in their labors.  
For all priests: give them peace in their sufferings.  
For all priests: give them great love for the Trinity.  
For all priests: give them great love for Mary.  
For all priests: let them be the light of Christ.  
For all priests: let them be the salt of the earth.  
For all priests: let them practice sacrifice and self-denial.  
For all priests: let them be holy in body, mind and spirit.  
For all priests: let them be men of prayer.  
For all priests: may faith shine forth in them.  
For all priests: may they be concerned for our salvation.  
For all priests: may they be faithful to their priestly vocation.  
For all priests: may their hands bless and heal.  
For all priests: may they burn with love for you.  
For all priests: may all their steps be for the glory of God.  
For all priests: may the Holy Spirit fill them and give them His gifts in abundance.

Let us pray.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hear the prayers we offer for our priests. Let them know clearly the work that You are calling them to do. Grant them every grace to answer Your call with courage, love, and lasting dedication to Your will.

We ask Mary's intercession as their loving mother. AMEN.



*L*ord Jesus, you have chosen Your priests among us  
and have sent them to proclaim Your Word and to act in Your Name.  
For such a great gift to Your Church, we praise You and we thank You.  
We ask that you fill them with the fire of Your love,  
that their ministry may reveal Your presence in the Church.  
Since they are earthen vessels, we pray  
that your power may work in their weakness.  
In their afflictions do not let them be crushed;  
in their doubts, do not let them despair;  
in temptation, do not let them be destroyed.  
Inspire them through prayer to live each day  
the mystery of your death and Resurrection.  
In times of weakness, send them Your Spirit

and help them to praise your heavenly Father and to pray for poor sinners.  
With the same Holy Spirit place your word on their lips and your love in their hearts,  
that they may bring the Good News to the poor and revive the broken-hearted.  
Lastly, may the gift of Mary, your mother,  
to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest.  
Grant that she, who formed You in your human image,  
may form each priest in Your divine image,  
through the power of Your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. AMEN.  
O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.



*L*ord Jesus Christ, You love Your church and those called to share Your priesthood! With our love and prayers,  
we join You in asking our Heavenly Father to continue to pour out His gifts of holiness, compassion and zeal on  
your priests everywhere. Inspire each of them to offer his life as an "Ambassador of Christ", bringing  
reconciliation and healing to the world.  
Mary, Mother of all Priests, inspire us to live in peace and joy and pray this prayer with us. AMEN.



### **Prayer for a Son in the Priesthood or Studying for the Priesthood**

*L*ord Jesus, eternal priest, bestow on (insert name) the fullness of your perfection and strength. Remember  
that he has forsaken all things to give himself entirely to you. In his hours of loneliness and discouragement be  
close to him, that he may not fail in his sacred duties. Bless his labors with abundant fruit for souls. May all his  
contacts with others bring them and him closer to your divine heart.  
Give him a sympathetic and understanding heart that he may restore peace and bring consolation to those who  
have fallen into sin. Give him a generous heart that he may share the sorrows and sufferings of others and be  
forgetful of his own. Give him a strong heart that he may be ever pure in the midst of a sinful world. Keep always  
holy his anointed hands, which are privileged to touch your sacred Body, that they may never work to your  
dishonor. May his lips, which touch you precious Blood, never be the instrument of sin.  
And if ever, Lord, through weakness he should fall, then lift him gently to your Sacred Heart. Remember that the  
world's possessions are no longer his and that he has nothing left but you. Grant that each precious host to be  
consecrated at his hands may bring him closer to you.  
--- Jesus meek and humble of heart, make his heart like unto your very own! AMEN.



*L*et Us Pray to the Master! Jesus Christ, Son of God, Thou hast said:  
The harvest is indeed great, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He send  
laborers into His vineyard. Behold, we beg of Thee to increase the number of holy priests who walk in Thy  
footsteps and labor in Thy vineyard with apostolic zeal. Give them Thy light and Thy grace, that they may  
convert unbelievers and heretics, strengthen the weak, and spread Thy Kingdom ever more and more upon  
earth. Grant that in unshakeable fidelity we may stand firmly by Thy representative, may listen to his words and  
support the labors of the shepherds of our souls by a devout and Christian life. Let our prayers be acceptable to  
Thee and hear our petitions, Who livest and reignest forever and ever. AMEN.



*I*mmaculate Mary, please continue to protect, strengthen and guide all of our priests, deacons, religious and seminarians and give them the power to save souls. AMEN.



### **Prayer for our Priest's intentions**

*L*ord, my God lift up \_\_\_\_\_'s soul from this darkness into Your Light.

Envelop his soul into Your Sacred Heart.

Feed his soul with Your Word.

Anoint his soul with Your Holy Name.

Make his soul ready to hear Your Discourse.

Breath Your Sweet Fragrance on his soul, reviving it.

Ravish his soul to delight Your Soul.

Father embellish him, Your child, by distilling Your Pure Myrrh upon him.

Your Spirit has given him life, and You who are the Living Bread has restored his life.

You have offered him to drink Your Blood to be able to share eternity with You in your kingdom and live with You for ever and ever.

Glory be to the Highest

Glory be to the Holy of Holies

Praised be our Lord.

Praised be Our Lord, for His Mercy

and His Love reaches from age to

age, and for ever will. AMEN.



### **Prayer for Priests**

*E*ternal God,

please bless our priests,

who represent You on this earth.

Make them more greatly aware of the grace

that You pour out through them

when they minister the sacraments,

and help them to fall more deeply in love with You

after each and every Mass that they celebrate.

Please strengthen our priests,

who shepherd Your flock,

when they are in doubt of their faith,

that they may be examples of Your Truth

and guide us always on the path to You.

We ask these things of You our Eternal Priest. AMEN.



## **Video Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests by St. Therese of Lisieux:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-tXidl\\_F5U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-tXidl_F5U) by HM Television (English)