



Diocese of
Green Bay

OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENT: NOVEMBER 9, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSTRUCTION FOR THE ADDITION OF PAPAL AND DIOCESAN INTENTIONS FOR MASS

Dear Pastors, Pastoral Leaders, and Liturgists,

Our journey of discipleship reminds us of the vital role which prayer has in our lives and the lives of our parishes who gather as communities of disciples. One of the most evident ways in which our prayers are gathered as Church occurs during the *Universal Prayer*, or *Prayer of the Faithful*, in the celebration of Mass. It is here that the worshipping community, “exercising the office of their baptismal priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all” (GIRM 69), recognizing the needs which are present in both our local community and world. From our prayer, we are furthermore called and challenged to respond in word and action as the Body of Christ.

Recognizing the role of the Universal Prayer, and in continuing on our ‘Disciples on the Way’ journey, Bishop Ricken has requested that **starting December 2016, all parishes add to their Universal Prayer for each Sunday celebration the monthly intention of the Holy Father, as well as his own monthly intention for our Diocese.** In addition, Bishop Ricken will have these intentions added during each of his Masses during the year. The two monthly intentions will be distributed quarterly through Parish Pages and the Diocesan Website for ease of access to parish liturgists and pastoral staff. *Please see following page for the first installment for December 2016 – February 2017.*

In uniting our prayers with the Holy Father and together as a Diocesan community, let us be mindful of the great role our prayers of intercession hold and continue to eagerly seek to echo the call of Jesus’ disciples “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1). Please contact the Office of Divine Worship with any questions. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Michael Poradek
Divine Worship Director



PAPAL AND DIOCESAN INTENTIONS ADDENDUM DECEMBER 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017

Per Bishop Ricken, the following intercessions are to be added the Universal Prayer of all Sunday celebrations within their corresponding month for all parishes of the Diocese of Green Bay and at all celebrations where Bishop Ricken is the principal celebrant:

DECEMBER 2016

Pope Francis' Universal Intention (End to Child-Soldiers): That the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated the world over; we pray to the Lord...

Bishop Ricken's Intention (Family Life): That those who share Christ's Gospel, especially within families, may do so with great mercy and love; we pray to the Lord...

JANUARY 2017

Pope Francis' Intention (Christian Unity): That all Christians may be faithful to the Lord's teaching by striving with prayer and fraternal charity to restore ecclesial communion and by collaborating to meet the challenges facing humanity; we pray to the Lord...

Bishop Ricken's Intention (Life): That the spirit of welcome which comes from Christ always be extended to the unborn and vulnerable among us; we pray to the Lord...

FEBRUARY 2017

Pope Francis' Intention (Comfort for the Afflicted): That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities; we pray to the Lord...

Bishop Ricken's Intention (Vocations): That those called to extend the mercy of Christ to others as priests and religious men and women be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in mission; we pray to the Lord...