

Homily of 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time of Year A

The readings of today show how pertinent it is to, always, pray for priests. As spiritual fathers and leaders, whatever priests do, in one way or another, has effect on the faithful, positively or negatively. The Lord says through Prophet Malachi, "And now, O priests, this commandment is for you: If you do not listen, if you do not lay it to heart, to give glory to my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send a curse upon you and of your blessings I will make a curse." If and when God turns a priest's blessings to a curse that is very bad for the faithful. It is stated in Leviticus 4:3 that when a priest does wrong he makes the people guilty. On the other hand, the holiness of priests brings blessings to the faithful. Psalm 132:9 says, "May your priests be arrayed in righteousness, may your faithful ones shout in gladness." Also Psalm 132:16 adds, "I will clothe her priests with glory and her faithful will sing in gladness."

Prayer for Priests

God, bless your priests with the grace of obedience.
God, bless your priests with the grace of chastity.
God, bless your priests with the grace of simplicity.
God, bless your priests with the grace of wisdom.
God, bless your priests with the grace of understanding.
God, bless your priests with the grace of counsel.
God, bless your priests with the grace of courage.
God, bless your priests with the grace of devotion.
God, bless your priests with the grace of holy fear.
God, bless your priests with the grace of power.
God, bless your priests with the grace of faith.
God, bless your priests with the grace of hope.
God, bless your priests with the grace of love.
God, bless your priests with the grace of prayer.
God, bless your priests with the grace of discernment.
God, bless your priests with the grace of truth.
God, bless your priests with the grace of justice.
God, bless your priests with the grace of humility.
God, bless your priests with the grace of joy.
God, bless your priests with the grace of peace.
God, bless your priests with the grace of listening.
God, bless your priests with the grace of patience.
God, bless your priests with the grace of endurance.
God, bless your priests with the grace of perseverance.

God, bless your priests with the grace of trust.
God, bless your priests with the grace of compassion.
God, bless your priests with the grace of forgiveness.
God, bless your priests with the grace of gentleness.
God, bless your priests with the grace of modesty.
God, bless your priests with the grace of serenity.
God, bless your priests with the grace of generosity.
God, bless your priests with the grace of detachment.
God, bless your priests with the grace of self-sacrifice.
God, bless your priests with the grace of self-surrendering.
God, bless your priests with the grace of freedom.
God, bless your priests with the grace of holy desire.
God, bless your priests with the grace of holy passion.
God, bless your priests with the grace of prudence.
God, bless your priests with the grace of vision.
God, bless your priests with the grace of mission.
God, bless your priests with the grace of inspiration.
God, bless your priests with the grace of true resolve.
God, bless your priests with the grace of repentance.
God, bless your priests with the grace of discipline.
God, bless your priests with the grace of comportment.
God, bless your priests with the grace of commitment.
God, bless your priests with the grace of conviction.
God, bless your priests with the grace of self-control.
God, bless your priests with the grace of integrity.
God, bless your priests with the grace of fidelity.
God, bless your priests with the grace of holiness.

We pray in the Holy Spirit and through Jesus Christ. Amen.