The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Solemn Intercessions, which take place in this way: the Deacon, if a Deacon is present, or if he is not, a lay minister, stands at the ambo, and sings or says the invitation in which the intention is expressed. Then all pray in silence for a while, and afterwards the Priest, standing at the chair or, if appropriate, at the altar, with hands extended, sings or says the prayer.

The faithful may remain either kneeling or standing throughout the entire period of the prayers.

Before the Priest’s prayer, in accord with tradition, it is permissible to use the Deacon’s invitations Let us kneel — Let us stand, with all kneeling for silent prayer.

Let us kneel. Let us stand.

The Conferences of Bishops may provide other invitations to introduce the prayer of the Priest.

In a situation of grave public need, the Diocesan Bishop may permit or order the addition of a special intention.

I. For Holy Church

The prayer is sung in the simple tone or, if the invitations Let us kneel — Let us stand are used, in the solemn tone.

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God, that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty.
Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Almighty ever-living God, who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations, watch over the works of your mercy, that your Church, spread throughout all the world, may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.
II. For the Pope

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray also for our most Holy Father Pope N., that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church, to govern the holy People of God.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Almighty ever-living God, by whose decree all things are found-ed, look with favor on our prayers and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us, that, under him, the Christian people, govern-ered by you their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith.


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III. For all orders and degrees of the faithful

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray also for our Bishop N.,* for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear our humble prayer for your ministers, that, by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

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IV. For catechumens

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray also for (our) catechumens, that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates of his mercy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth, they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Almighty ever-living God, who make your Church ever fruitful with new offspring, increase the faith and understanding of (our) catechumens, that, reborn in the font of Baptism, they may be added to the number of your adopted children. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.
V. For the unity of Christians

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as they live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity.


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VI. For the Jewish People

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Almighty ever-living God, who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants, graciously hear the prayers of your Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

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VII. For those who do not believe in Christ

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that,

enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Almighty ever-living God, grant to those who do not confess Christ

that, by walking before you with a sincere heart, they may find the

truth, and that we ourselves, being constant in mutual love and

striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life, may

be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world. Through

Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

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VIII. For those who do not believe in God

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray also for those who do not ac-knowl-edge God, that,

following what is right with sinceri-ty of heart, they may find the

way to God him-self.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Al-mighty ever-living God, who created all people to seek you al-

ways by desiring you and, by finding you, come to rest, grant,

we pray, that, despite every harmful obstacle, all may recognize the

signs of your fatherly love and the witness of the good works done

by those who believe in you, and so in gladness confess you, the one

ture God and Father of our hu-man race. Through Christ our Lord.

R. A-men.
IX. For those in public office

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord
may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true
peace and freedom of all.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Almighty ever-living God, in whose hand lies every human heart
and the rights of peoples, look with favor, we pray, on those who
govern with authority over us, that throughout the whole world,
the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of reli-
igion may through your gift be made secure. Through Christ our
Lord. R. Amen.

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X. For those in tribulation

The Deacon or lay minister sings:

Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Fa- ther al-might-y, that
he may cleanse the world of all er-rors, ban-ish dis-ease, drive out
hun-ger, un-lock pris-ons, loo-sen fet-ers, grant-ing to trav-el-ers
safe-ty, to pil-grims re-turn, health to the sick, and salva-tion
to the dy-ing.

Prayer in silence. Then the Priest sings:

Al-mighty ever-living God, com-fort of mourners, strength of all who
toil, may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation come
before you, that all may re-joice, because in their hour of need your
mer-cy was at hand. Through Christ our Lord. R. A-men.

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The Deacon accompanied by ministers, or another suitable minister, goes to the sacristy, from which, in procession, accompanied by two ministers with lighted candles, he carries the Cross, covered with a violet veil, through the church to the middle of the sanctuary.

The Priest, standing before the altar and facing the people, receives the Cross, uncovers a little of its upper part and elevates it while beginning the Ecce lignum Crucis (Behold the wood of the Cross). He is assisted in singing by the Deacon or, if need be, by the choir. All respond, Come, let us adore. At the end of the singing, all kneel and for a brief moment adore in silence, while the Priest stands and holds the Cross raised.

Or:

Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. R. Come, let us adore.

Or:

Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. R. Come, let us adore.