

The Consecration of Humanity, Russia & the Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Friday ♦ March 25, 2022 ♦ 12 o'clock p.m.

Opening Hymn

Sing We of the Blessed Mother

Greeting

Grace and peace be with you
from God our Father
and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Res. And with your spirit.

Introduction

With hope in God's loving mercy and deep sorrow and concern for those who are suffering because of the war between Ukraine and Russia, we turn our hearts today to the Lord. With His Holiness, Pope Francis, in Rome, we join our prayers in the act to consecrate all humanity, but especially the people in the countries of Ukraine and Russia, to the immaculate and loving heart of our Blessed Mother. Seeking Mary's intercession through her son, we hope for a quick conclusion to the senseless violence and that peace will come to that region.

Act of Penitence

Brothers and sisters, God calls us all to conversion of heart and mind.
So, to prepare ourselves for this Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, let us acknowledge our own failures.

Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Res. For we have sinned against you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

Res. And grant us your salvation.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

Lord our God,
you made the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
the home of your eternal Word
and the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit.
Give us a heart that is free from sin
and attentive to your will,
that, faithful to your commandments,
we may love you above all things
and seek to help others in their need.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

Judith 13:17-20; 15:9

A reading from the book of Judith

All the people were greatly astonished.
They bowed down and worshiped God, saying with one accord,
“Blessed are you, our God,
who today have brought to naught the enemies of your people.”
Then Uzziah said to her:
“Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God,
above all the women on earth;
and blessed be the LORD God,
the creator of heaven and earth,
who guided your blow at the head of the chief of our enemies.
Your deed of hope will never be forgotten
by those who tell of the might of God.
May God make this redound to your everlasting honor,
rewarding you with blessings,
because you risked your life
when your people were being oppressed,
and you averted our disaster,
walking uprightly before our God.”
And all the people answered, “Amen! Amen!”
When they had visited her, all with one accord blessed her, saying:
“You are the glory of Jerusalem,
the surpassing joy of Israel;
you are the splendid boast of our people.”

The word of the Lord.

Psalm Response

Luke 1:46-48a, 48b-49, 50-51, 52-53, 54-55

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

✠ **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

While Jesus was speaking,
 a woman from the crowd called out and said to him,
 “Blessed is the womb that carried you
 and the breasts at which you nursed.”
 He replied,
 “Rather, blessed are those
 who hear the word of God and observe it.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

Bishop:

With hearts that are centered in God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 we now pray through Mary’s intercession
 that in this time of great need
 our prayers will be heard and answered.

The following response is sung after each intercession:

REFRAIN

Lord, hear our prayer; De-us, ex-au-di
 nos; Se-ñor, es-cú-cha-nos.

Deacon:

For all those who are being affected by the fighting in Ukraine – for those who have lost lives, loved ones and homes. Joined with Mary’s Immaculate Heart we pray:

For the dignity of every person and the sovereignty of every nation, for they are the work of God’s creation. Joined with Mary’s Immaculate Heart we pray:

For leaders of nations, that they may seek diplomatic and just solutions to this conflict and war. Joined with Mary’s Immaculate Heart we pray:

For the Church in Ukraine and Russia, that the People of God may be free to worship in peace and harmony. Joined with Mary's Immaculate Heart we pray:

For our allies and our enemies, that you will guide them to the way of peace and mercy. Joined with Mary's Immaculate Heart we pray:

For courage to demand an end to this war and for the grace to work diligently toward it. Joined with Mary's Immaculate Heart we pray:

For enduring compassion by all countries, that they will take in those refugees who have been displaced by the violence of this war. Joined with Mary's Immaculate Heart we pray:

For the members of this assembly, that we may be peacemakers who never cease to work for harmony and justice. Joined with Mary's Immaculate Heart we pray:

For those who have died because of the war in Ukraine, that they may be welcomed into the peace and light of God's heavenly kingdom and find rest. Joined with Mary's Immaculate Heart we pray:

Bishop:

Good and gracious God,
who looks upon the suffering of your people with the eyes of compassion,
have mercy on the world and grant us your peace.
Through Christ our Lord.

Incensation of the Image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

The image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is then incensed in silence.

Prayer of Consecration

The following prayer of consecration is the prayer Pope Francis and Bishop Parkes will pray. In union with them the presider prays it.

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother,
in this time of trial we turn to you.
As our Mother, you love us and know us:
no concern of our hearts is hidden from you.
Mother of mercy, how often we have experienced your watchful care
and your peaceful presence!
You never cease to guide us to Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace.
We have forgotten the lesson learned from the tragedies of the last century,
the sacrifice of the millions who fell in two world wars.
We have disregarded the commitments we made as a community of nations.

We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace and the hopes of the young.
We grew sick with greed, we thought only of our own nations and their interests,
we grew indifferent and caught up in our selfish needs and concerns.
We chose to ignore God, to be satisfied with our illusions,
to grow arrogant and aggressive,
to suppress innocent lives and to stockpile weapons.
We stopped being our neighbor's keepers
and stewards of our common home.
We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war
and by our sins we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father,
who desires us to be brothers and sisters.
We grew indifferent to everyone and everything except ourselves.
Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness,
amid our struggles and weaknesses,
amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war,
you remind us that God never abandons us,
but continues to look upon us with love,
ever ready to forgive us and raise us up to new life.
He has given you to us and made your Immaculate Heart
a refuge for the Church and for all humanity.
By God's gracious will, you are ever with us;
even in the most troubled moments of our history,
you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you and knock at the door of your heart.
We are your beloved children.
In every age you make yourself known to us, calling us to conversion.
At this dark hour, help us and grant us your comfort.
Say to us once more: "Am I not here, I who am your Mother?"
You are able to untie the knots of our hearts and of our times.
In you we place our trust.
We are confident that, especially in moments of trial,
you will not be deaf to our supplication and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee,
when you interceded with Jesus and he worked the first of his signs.
To preserve the joy of the wedding feast, you said to him:
"They have no wine" (*Jn 2:3*).
Now, O Mother, repeat those words and that prayer,
for in our own day we have run out of the wine of hope,
joy has fled, fraternity has faded.
We have forgotten our humanity and squandered the gift of peace.
We opened our hearts to violence and destructiveness.
How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.
Star of the Sea, do not let us be shipwrecked in the tempest of war.

Ark of the New Covenant, inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.
Queen of Heaven, restore God's peace to the world.
Eliminate hatred and the thirst for revenge, and teach us forgiveness.
Free us from war, protect our world from the menace of nuclear weapons.
Queen of the Rosary, make us realize our need to pray and to love.
Queen of the Human Family, show people the path of fraternity.
Queen of Peace, obtain peace for our world.

O Mother, may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts.
May the tears you shed for us make this valley parched by our hatred blossom anew.
Amid the thunder of weapons, may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace.
May your maternal touch soothe those who suffer and flee from the rain of bombs.
May your motherly embrace comfort those
forced to leave their homes and their native land.
May your Sorrowful Heart move us to compassion
and inspire us to open our doors and to care for our brothers and sisters
who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God, as you stood beneath the cross,
Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said: "Behold your son" (*Jn 19:26*).
In this way he entrusted each of us to you.
To the disciple, and to each of us, he said: "Behold, your Mother" (v. 27).
Mother Mary, we now desire to welcome you into our lives and our history.
At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity stands with you beneath the cross,
needing to entrust itself to you and,
through you, to consecrate itself to Christ.
The people of Ukraine and Russia, who venerate you with great love,
now turn to you, even as your heart beats with compassion for them
and for all those peoples decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother,
to your Immaculate Heart we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves,
the Church and all humanity, especially Russia and Ukraine.
Accept this act that we carry out with confidence and love.
Grant that war may end and peace spread throughout the world.
The "Fiat" that arose from your heart
opened the doors of history to the Prince of Peace.
We trust that, through your heart, peace will dawn once more.
To you we consecrate the future of the whole human family,
the needs and expectations of every people,
the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession,
may God's mercy be poured out on the earth
and the gentle rhythm of peace return to mark our days.
Our Lady of the "Fiat", on whom the Holy Spirit descended,
restore among us the harmony that comes from God.
May you, our "living fountain of hope",
water the dryness of our hearts.

In your womb Jesus took flesh;
help us to foster the growth of communion.
You once trod the streets of our world;
lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.

Conclusion & Blessing

The Lord be with you.

Res. And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you:
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠ and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

Res. Amen.

Let us go in peace.

Res. Thanks be to God.

Concluding Hymn

Immaculate Mary