

WRITING STUDENT PETITIONS for the 10:30 AM REACH Liturgy

Students in Grades 4-6 write the Petitions each Sunday for our liturgy. Several are selected as our general intercessions that are read at the 10:30 AM REACH Mass. Our goal is that the children participate more actively in the liturgy. Each year we are impressed with the sincere and heartfelt petitions that our students compose.

Below are samples of a few simple Petitions. There is no need to compose anything fancy. Clear, simple prayers are best.

- Student Petitions start on the first Sunday of the REACH school year.
- Each week each classroom teacher receives blank petition slips for their students.
- Teachers are encouraged to “coach” their students gently.
- Each student writes only one Petition each week.
- Students fill out their slips before leaving their classroom for Mass.
- Many teachers find that giving their students a few minutes to write out their petitions right at the start of class works well.
- Upon entering the downstairs hall for Mass, each student places her or his Petition slip in the basket in front of the Holy Water Font.

Examples of Student Petitions

- That my grandmother who is sick will get better soon, we pray to the Lord.
- That there be peace between people of all religions, we pray to the Lord.
- For my Uncle who is in the hospital this week, we pray to the Lord.
- May all people who are traveling be safe, we pray to the Lord.
- May kids who are hungry in Norwalk have food to eat, ...
- For families and children who are staying at the Norwalk homeless shelter, ...
- May our parents and teachers show us how to follow Jesus, ...
- That as Jesus taught us, we learn to share what we have with people who are hungry, lonely, poor, or hurt, ...
- I pray that people around the world who are at war learn to live in peace, ...
- That all the people at St. Jerome’s show God’s love to one another and to all others, ...
- May all people who believe in God have the courage to stand up for what we believe is right, ...
- That our leaders work for peace and friendship between nations and peoples, ...
- That those who suffer from addiction to drugs and alcohol will get help, ...
- That all those who have died may enter heaven and be with God, ...

- That refugees and immigrants who have traveled to a new country find a new life, ...
- That those who have lost their way find their way to Jesus, ...
- That we might be able to see God's goodness in all things.
- That those who are in pain and without hope be healed by Jesus, ...
- That those who are greedy and selfish change their lives and become generous and willing to share what they have with others, ...
- That those who are getting ready for the birth of a child be helped by their family and friends, ...
- That all people traveling to meet loved ones reach where they are going safely, ...
- That we give hope and peace to anyone who is worried and fearful, ...

Also good to write are petitions about the needs of others based on current events such as hunger in an African country, fighting in Iraq or the Middle East, a hurricane in Florida, or an earthquake in a South American country.

- That the families who lost homes and loved ones in the [*name of disaster: hurricane, earthquake, other*] in [*name of state or country*] receive help and love and know God loves them, we pray to the Lord.
- May the people who are fighting each other in [*Iraq, the Middle East, or other*] find a way to have peace with each other, we pray to the Lord.
- That the children who have no food in [*name of country*] are helped by food given to them by our country and by other countries, we pray to the Lord.