



Pray for Peace: Friday, October 27, 2023

Pope Francis [has invited](#) all people of good will to a day of prayer, fasting, and penance for peace on October 27th. The SSJ Center for Justice, Peace, and the Integrity of Creation offers the following prayer and resources to assist you in marking this day. *Because the gathering in St. Peter's Square will take place at 6PM Rome time, we invite you to pray at the same time, which for Eastern Daylight Time is 12noon.*

A Prayer for Peace

How do we pray for peace from half a world away?

How can words salve and soothe real wounds,
Assuage real fears, wipe tears from real eyes?

God of endless compassion, transform our prayers
From words into bridges, that span the distances
Between us, uniting our hearts in yours.

Every time we turn our keys in a lock,
May we remember all who are losing their homes.

Every time we step into a car,
May we remember all who are having to flee.

Every time we embrace children,
May we remember all who are trying to shield theirs from war.

May our besieged sisters and brothers
Be drawn into the arms of the suffering Christ,

And may our cry be heard as one voice,
Ringing out from every corner of the earth:
God of endless mercy, grant us peace.

Amen.

Adapted from a prayer written by [Cameron Bellm](#).



Additional prayer opportunities and resources:

- In Philadelphia, [Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez](#) has echoed Pope Francis' call by exhorting all clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful to join in observing this Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in the World. He will be the principal celebrant and homilist at a 12PM Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. Archbishop Borys Gudziak, Metropolitan Archbishop for Ukrainian Catholics in the United States, will concelebrate. A livestream of this liturgy can be found on the archbishop's Facebook feed [here](#).
- [Pope calls for world day of prayer for peace as catastrophe looms in Gaza](#) (National Catholic Reporter)
- [Catholic organizations call for cease fire and humanitarian aid](#) (Pax Christi)
- **Take Action:** [Catholic call-in to the White House to support cease fire](#) (Maryknoll)

Scripture

"I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me." - John 17: 20-23

SSJ Word

In our daily living, the dynamic spirit of our Institute urges us to resist complacency, to nourish mutual healing, and to foster reconciliation. It animates us always to move toward closer union with God and neighbor and toward more profound fidelity. (Constitutions 13)

Pope Francis

"Let it be understood that terrorism and war bring no solution but only death and the suffering of many innocent people. War is a defeat. Every war is a defeat. Let us pray that there be peace in Israel and in Palestine." (Reference to America magazine [here](#))