

World Day of Peace Mass

January 1, 2008

January 1 is the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. January 1 is also a day the Church sets aside to pray for world peace. Archbishop Pilarczyk has granted permission for parishes to celebrate a Mass for Peace on this day. He will be celebrating an Archdiocesan Mass for Peace at the Cathedral at 11:00am. The readings will be taken from those for Justice and Peace (Volume IV). They include the following:

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading:	Isaiah 9:1-6	(Lectionary no. 887.1)
Responsorial Psalm:	Psalm 72	(Lectionary no. 889.1)
Second Reading:	James 3: 13-18	(Lectionary no. 888.3)
Gospel:	Matthew 5:38-48	(Lectionary no. 891.2)

Sacramentary

The prayers for this Mass may be taken from Masses for Various Needs and Occasions: Peace and Justice (no. 22, pp. 902-903)

Intercessions

Presider: Our God is a God of justice and peace. Let us ask him to hear the prayers of those who cry out in need.

Deacon/Cantor/Lector:

For world leaders: May they work to dismantle oppressive structures that keep people in poverty. We pray to the Lord.

For leaders of the Church: May they speak with one voice to renounce systems of injustice and oppression. We pray to the Lord.

For an end to the war in Iraq: that our leaders and the Iraqi government work quickly to find solutions so that peace and order may be restored. We pray to the Lord.

For our local communities, especially those struggling with racial and other tensions: May we become inclusive communities of compassion in keeping with the love of Christ. We pray to the Lord.

For ourselves: May we work to cultivate the healing power of forgiveness and seek to strengthen relationships with openness and tolerance. We pray to the Lord.

For the sick, the aged, and the dying: May they find healing through the loving care of others and courage to endure their hardships. We pray to The Lord.

For those who have died: May they stand before God in the fullness of joy. We pray to the Lord.

Presider: God of peace,

**In Christ Jesus you challenge us to renounce
violence and to forsake revenge.**

**Teach us to recognize as your children
even our enemies and persecutors.**

**Help us to love them without measure or
discrimination.**

**Guide our footsteps that we may be a people of
peace,
seeking justice for all who are oppressed.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.