

JMJ

21 April 2026
Memorial of St. Anselm

Dear brother priest,

The St. Jean-Marie Baptiste Vianney Prayer Book is a compendium of prayers for priests to pray before and after Holy Mass. For your convenient reference, the classic prayers often posted on placards in sacristies, including at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, these are indicated with ☒. Some were printed in the old *Missale Romanum* in Latin, and some of those prayers were again printed in the current edition of the Roman Missal. These that are also in the new are marked with ☑. Generally these are a smaller selection of the traditional prayers with the addition of the Universal Prayer for all things necessary for salvation.

The current 1983 Code of Canon Law requires priests to pray before and after Mass.

Can. 909 A priest is not to omit dutifully to prepare himself by prayer before the celebration of the Eucharist, nor afterwards to omit to make thanksgiving to God.

St. Alphonsus Liguori would require and recommend many more prayers than the minimum. St. Basil points to the high patristic standard, as he gives this instruction in his Commandments for Priests:

Never prepare to offer Mass while being at enmity with someone, lest you drive away the Paraclete.

On the day you offer Mass, do not judge or quarrel, but remain in the church praying and reading until the time appointed for you to perform the divine mysteries; and stand before the altar with compunction and purity of heart, not glancing here and there, but with fear and trembling stand in the presence of the heavenly King.

Do not rush through your prayers or shorten them in order to please men, and be not an acceptor of persons, but be solely concerned with the King who is present, and the Heavenly Powers who encircle you.

This book is designed as a resource for enhancing the prayers of priests in preparation for Holy Mass and in thanksgiving after Holy Mass. Even though most cannot pray all of it; many priests could benefit by having it at hand in the sacristy or in their private chapel as a reminder a prompting to pray. Also, it is convenient to have a copy in the Confessional since Confessions are often before or after Holy Mass. It helps to know how saints have prayed and how brother priests in pious ages past have prayed.

May Our Blessed Mother, Mother of Priests, obtain for you that this resource draw you into deeper longer more fruitful prayer around the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In Christ,

Fr. Frederck Gruber

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Illustrated Symbols and Emblems of the Jewish, Early Christian, Greek, Latin, and Modern Churches by H.J. Smith, 1900.
<https://tinyurl.com/bdfubkt6>

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