

## Lesson 20: Universal Prayer

“Ask and you shall receive.” That’s what Jesus said, and that’s just what we do at Mass.

After the Homily and the Creed come the Universal Prayer. As Pope Benedict XVI observed, we are “at our most attentive in prayer when we are asking God for something or thanking Him.”

The “Universal Prayers” is not mandatory at every Mass, but why miss an opportunity to get something from God for yourself or for others?

The priest introduces and closes the Universal Prayer, while the reader announces the various intentions and invites the congregation to pray by saying, “We pray to the Lord,” and the people respond, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

There is an order to the petitions, starting with universal needs of the Church and moving down to local needs, often mentioning by name the sick and recently deceased in the parish.