

## **July 4<sup>th</sup> Prayer of the Faithful**

**Priest:** As we celebrate the blessings God has bestowed upon our nation, let us turn to Him with confidence and present our prayers and petitions.

**1. For our nation and its leaders:** That God may bless our country, guide our elected officials with wisdom and integrity, and help all who serve in public office to work for justice, peace, and the common good: **we pray to the Lord.**

**2. For peace and unity among all people:** That divisions may be healed, violence and hatred overcome, and that all people may work together in mutual respect as brothers and sisters created in God's image: **we pray to the Lord.**

**3. For veterans, active military personnel, first responders, healthcare workers, and teachers:** That God may protect and strengthen those who serve others through their dedication and sacrifice and reward them for their faithful service: **we pray to the Lord.**

**4. For immigrants, refugees, and all who seek a better life:** That they may be treated with dignity and compassion, find welcome and support, and experience hope and opportunity in their new communities: **we pray to the Lord.**

**5. For a renewed spirit of charity, service, and respect for human dignity:** That we may recognize Christ in one another, especially in the poor, the vulnerable, and those in need, and be inspired to serve with generous hearts: **we pray to the Lord.**

**6. For our parish community and for all gathered here today:** That we may use the gift of freedom responsibly, grow in faith and gratitude, and be faithful witnesses to the Gospel in our homes, workplaces, and society: **we pray to the Lord.**

**7. For the faithful departed:** especially those who gave their lives in service to our country, may be welcomed into the eternal peace of God's kingdom, and that their families may be comforted by the hope of the Resurrection: **we pray to the Lord.**

**Celebrant:** Heavenly Father, source of all freedom and blessing, hear the prayers we offer today. Fill our hearts with gratitude for Your many gifts and help us to build a society founded on justice, compassion, and peace. Through Christ our Lord.