



Mission:

We gather to pray for those loved ones who no longer practice their faith by surrendering them to Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

Purpose:

Many individuals are concerned about their spouses, children, and friends who once attended church but no longer do so. Catholics call these folks inactive, and some other Christians refer to them as fallen away or back sliders. Many individuals also carry guilt that they did not do enough to present the faith to their loved ones when they were younger or now. Some bear guilt that maybe their behaviors or actions caused them to drift from the church. Many worry about the salvation of the souls of these loved ones.

Therefore, through prayer we surrender all this to the Lord. Psalm 23 and John 10 remind us that the Lord is our Shepherd, and that he guards and protects us from evil. We are safe in his hands. Through his blood we have been saved.

Thus, this spiritual exercise allows us to both pray for our loved one and experience healing for the burdens we carry concerning their faith.

Outline of the Process

Materials needed:

- blank note cards
- program
- pen and pencils
- Surrender to the Shepherd Prayer Cards

This program is designed to be a one-time experience; however, several churches have decided to repeat it on a regular basis. The three movements include:

- **Reconciliation** — acknowledging our errors
- **Worship** — surrendering all to the Lord
- **Social** — connecting with others who face the same worry

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

One hour prior to Mass, confession is offered. Many people blame themselves for their loved ones not participating in Mass, and others just need healing from the many wounds of sin. *Parishes should provide sufficient confessors during this time.*

Music — Providing music during this time is recommended, either by choir, music player, or streaming.

Greeters and ushers — It is recommended to have greeters and ushers present prior to confessions. These volunteers can be regular church attendees, or people who have not been present recently. They just *need to have a welcoming spirit*. Name tags are encouraged.

Upon arrival — As folks enter they should receive a program, the Surrender to the Shepherd prayer card, and blank note cards. Instruct attendees to write the names of those who are inactive or have fallen away from Church on the blank note cards. Place these note cards in a basket that will sit in front of the altar for the remainder of Mass. You may also choose to have an area where participants can light a candle for their loved ones not attending worship.

Mass:

If the liturgical calendar is free of any feasts it is recommended that the Mass for the *Evangelization of People and The Eucharist Prayer* that accompanies it be used. (See document “Evangelization of Peoples Mass and Readings”).

Welcome — Prior to the processional song, deliver an announcement of welcome and an explanation of the program. This should welcome any visitors or people attending for the first time, introduce the presider and homilist, and explain the offertory of names. *Mass continues as normal with a few highlights.*

Homily — It is important that the homily reflect the readings, and follow the theme of surrendering to the Lord, our Good Shepherd. (See the suggested readings on the document "Evangelization of Peoples Mass and Readings").

Prayers — The petitions focus on the need to evangelize and surrender to the Good Shepherd. Conclude the petitions with the Surrender to the Shepherd prayer. (See document "Guided Petitions" for examples).

Offertory — The offertory is the note cards on which are written the names of those the congregations wish to surrender to the Lord. There is no monetary collection. *The presentation of these names is very important.* (If monetary support is necessary, we suggest baskets for free will offerings at the door or in the social space).

Names — The names on the note cards should be prayed over by placing them at the foot of the altar or the cross, or by sprinkling them with holy water. *A dramatic action over them is essential to the prayer event.*

Social:

After the celebration of Mass it is important to have a social activity where people can connect. The type of social event is left to the resources and sentiment of the local community. Some have made it a fancy wine and cheese gathering, and others have served cookies and punch. The desire is for folks to talk to each other, share stories, and recognize that they are not alone.

Engagement — Look for several ways to encourage attendees to stay connected to the parish. Some examples include:

- Christian small-group prayers - monthly gatherings to pray for those not attending Church.
- Adoration hours.
- Bible Studies.
- Local church groups

Every community is unique. This program is designed to be flexible.

However, when using this "Surrender to the Shepherd" program, you must include the three movements and prayer card.

Prayer cards are available upon request. A donation to cover the cost of shipping is appreciated, but not required. For more information email info@glenmary.org.

May God bless your endeavors





Evangelization of Peoples Mass and Readings

The Mass “For the Evangelization of Peoples” #18 can be found in the Roman Missal in the section titled
“Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasion.”

The readings for the Mass for the Evangelization of Peoples can be found in the Lectionary for **Weekday Masses IV #872.**

Eucharistic Prayer V3.

Old Testament Readings (choose one):

- Isaiah 2:1-5
- Isaiah 56:1, 6-7
- Isaiah 60:1-6
- Jonah 3:10-4:11
- Zechariah 8:20-23

New Testament Readings (choose one):

- Acts 1:3-8
- Acts 11:19-26
- Acts 13:46-49
- Romans 10:9-18
- Ephesians 3:2-12
- Timothy 2:1-8

Evangelization of Peoples Mass and Readings

Responsorial Psalms (choose one):

1. R/ Their message goes out through all the earth
 - Psalms 19:2-3, R/
 - Psalms 19:4-5, R/
2. R/ O God, let all the nations praise you!
 - Psalms 67:2-3, R/
 - Psalms 67:5, R/
 - Psalms 67:7-8, R/
3. R/ Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all nations OR R/ Go out to the world and teach all the nations
 - Psalms 96:1-2a, R/
 - Psalms 96:2b-3, R/
 - Psalms 96:7-8a, R/
 - Psalms 96:9-10a
4. R/ The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power OR All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God
 - Psalms 98:1, 2-3b, R/
 - Psalms 98:3c-4, R/
 - Psalms 98:5-6
5. R/ Go out to all the world and tell the Good News
 - Psalms 117:1bc, R/
 - Psalms 117:2, R/

Evangelization of Peoples Mass and Readings

Alleluia (choose one):

1. Go and teach all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, until the end of the world. (Matthew 28:19a, 20b)
2. Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel. (Mark 16:15)
3. God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Gospel (choose one):

- Matthew 28:16-20
- Mark 15:15-20
- Luke 24:44-53
- John 11:45-52
- John 7:11, 17-23
- John 10:1-21



Guided Petitions

For those in the many places in the world where the Gospel has not been shared with clarity and with love, *we pray to the Lord.*

For those in our country who have never experienced the joy of the Gospel, *we pray to the Lord.*

For those in our communities who have not experienced the loving care of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, *we pray to the Lord.*

For those within our own families: our parents, siblings, spouse, or children, who have forgotten the love of the Father, or who feel far from the presence of God's Spirit, *we pray to the Lord.*

For this community, for those of us who feel burdened in love for the soul of another, *we pray to the Lord.*

