

For local parishes that will honor this call from Pope Francis who has proclaimed Saturday as “a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria, the Middle East, and throughout the world” with the celebration of a Mass, the faithful can gather at the same hour as Pope Francis (7 to midnight, Rome, thus 10AM to 3PM PST) during which time a Mass should be offered. The Mass may be:

a Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice (see *Roman Missal* pages 1297-1298 and *Lectionary* no. 887). As Pope Francis has called for us to “gather in prayer and in a spirit of penance” it would be appropriate to wear purple Mass vestments and, in accord with the Mass for the Preservation of Peace and Justice, to make use of one of the two Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation (*Roman Missal* pages 758 – 771) which contain proper Prefaces.

or, alternatively, as it is the vigil of the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom we invoke under her title of Queen of Peace, and being a Saturday, the optional memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary (see *Roman Missal* pages 1039-1047 especially formulary 6 on page 1044 and *Lectionary* nos. 707, 709-712) may be used in conjunction with the Preface I or II of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*Roman Missal* pages 590 - 593) with white Mass vestments.

In both cases the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) should contain petitions 1) for peace in Syria as well as 2) for the Christians of that land where the followers of our Lord were first called Christian (see Acts 11:26), and 3) for leaders of nations to be peacemakers. Before the final blessing, one of the Prayers Over the People may be prayed, especially 19. or 22. (*Roman Missal* page 688).

In the Archdiocese of Seattle, The Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain has given permission to use any of these Masses for Various Needs and Occasions for the Sunday Liturgies.