

# Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

## Suggestions for Leading Worship



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**RE:** Liturgical Suggestions for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

**Sunday or Feast Day date:** January 31-February 1, 2009

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Dear Fathers and Deacons,

### An Overview...

The role of the prophet is highlighted this weekend – and God’s word has something to say about what that role is. From the prophet Jeremiah, we are told that the prophet is one who is sent to speak the word of the Lord, not the prophet’s word alone. What strength the prophet has comes not from the adulation of the people, but from the Lord. God will support those whom God has chosen. “*I am with you,*” says the Lord. If there is anything that has to do with the prophetic word we preach, it may well be that “pushback” from the hearers is a sign that this word is indeed fruitful. How often do we as hearers of the word put up barriers so that we in fact do not hear God’s prophetic word? Beware of the predetermined suppositions that sap the Word of its power.

### Some Faith Sharing Questions...

1. When do you remember a time when you refused to accept an insight from the Word of God?
2. Who speaks the prophetic word of God today? How do you know this?
3. What would you consider to be qualities needed for *one who preaches*?

### **Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...**

1. The Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling would be appropriate, with the focus on the missionary charge received at baptism. Or, if the third form (Form C) of the Penitential Rite is chosen, here are some sample strophes: “You came to preach the good news of salvation; You came to call all to share your glory; you came to reveal your Father’s love to all in the world.”
2. The first Opening Prayer is recommended. *Love* appears three times in this brief Collect. Be careful not to speak this word without awareness of the day-to-day effort needed to live this word out in the manner and memory of Christ for the sake of the dear neighbor.
3. Eucharistic Prayer IV is recommended as it highlights Jesus’ own love live for the sake of others....” to the poor, to prisoners and to those in sorrow...” Note that it has its own mandatory Preface.
4. The Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III is recommended.

### **Looking Ahead...**

1. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is February 2. It is the traditional day upon which candles are blessed. You may wish to invite persons to bring candles for this purpose to the Mass.
2. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25, this year. You need to have ashes – and all other physical and spiritual preparation – ready.
3. The Rite of Election is celebrated at St. Joseph Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent each year, this year on March 1, at 2:00 and again at 5:30 pm. Information about the Rite can be found on the diocesan website, [www.diobr.org/worship](http://www.diobr.org/worship)

## **SAMPLE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*Priest:* The God who authors life gives us all that we need. And so we pray:

*Deacon* (or other minister if there is no deacon):

1. That God's call to the vocation of priesthood, or of religious life, might be heard in the hearts and minds of many in our parish and diocese, we pray to the Lord...
2. For leaders in the church, that they always speak and act with the truth and wisdom of Jesus, we pray to the Lord...
3. That leaders of nations may use their authority to bring life and goodness to their peoples, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those who are sick and suffering, that they receive healing through those who bring them the presence of Jesus in sacraments and in care, we pray to the Lord...
5. That all of us here continue to be formed by the teachings of Jesus, we pray to the Lord...
6. For a greater appreciation of stewardship as a way of life and its fruitfulness in our parish, we pray to the Lord...
7. In peace and in silence, we offer our needs to the Father...

*[pause; the presider alone concludes]*

*Priest:* Good and gracious God,  
you call us to life and holiness;  
hear our prayers  
that we may follow your Son Jesus more closely.  
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.