

Congregational Prayer Chains

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Has your congregation established a prayer chain? If not, think about using this template to start one. If you already have one, this may be useful for the prayer chain captain.

Prayer chain members play an important role in their congregations. They are often asked to pray for those who are ill, in distress or in mourning. This is a position of trust, responsibility and confidentiality. Here are a few suggestions.

Don't name the person for whom you are praying unless they have given you clear permission to do so. Do not go into detail or repeat specific facts about their situation, whether praying aloud in a group or during conversation, that might further distress or embarrass someone who is already having a difficult time.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:6-7

There are different types of prayer: adoration (praising God), confession (realizing and confessing our faults and wrongdoings), thanksgiving (giving thanks for God's love and care), intercession (praying for those around us) and petition (praying for our own needs).

Sample Daily Personal Prayer

Beginning

Holy One, (or other favourite address for God)

Pray for the world, your community and leaders

I ask your blessings for the leaders of our country and our community. May they rule with wisdom and courage, and may they be good stewards of the resources under their responsibility. Comfort those who are affected by war and strife, and give strength to those who are undergoing adversity.

Pray for your church and congregation, its leaders and activities

Grant our minister(s) and church leaders the strength to carry on their work as they guide the congregation and its groups to do your will. May all that is done in this place be for the upbuilding of the church and to the greater glory of Jesus Christ. Bless our church and be with us every day.

Pray specifically for those who have made requests, and generally for those in need.

We pray for specific situations [for example, X and his family as they grieve the death of his mother.] Be with those who are experiencing loss or illness, and with all who are in need of prayer.

Pray for those who in your wider community

We pray for the people in our community who have not yet come to faith. Give us hearts to care for those who are lonely. May our church be a safe haven for those who are cast aside, ignored, or forgotten by their families and society. Help us, Lord, to show them care, compassion and kindness.

Insert the Prayer Partnership prayer for the day, or a prayer from another devotional aid.

End

We offer our prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen**