

## Prayers of the Faithful

For women and men who are victims of domestic violence, may God help them free themselves from abuse and live safely in the peace of Christ. *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

For women who are suffering physical, emotional, economic or sexual abuse in their own homes, may they find the strength to free themselves from the violence and live in peace.

For children traumatized by violence in their own homes, may God protect them from the violence, free them from the abuse and heal their wounds. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all men and women who abuse their partners, whether physically, emotionally, economically or sexually, may God help them recognize their abusive behavior and find help to turn lives around and be instruments of peace.

For our community of faith, that we become as compassionate and sensitive toward victims of domestic violence as Jesus would be.

For all victims of domestic violence, may they feel neither guilt nor shame but have the courage to seek help in order to free themselves from abuse.

For all of us and our parish that we might not judge victims of domestic violence but offer them the support they need to free themselves from abuse.

For victims of domestic violence – those who suffer emotional, physical or sexual abuse – at the hands of a loved one, we pray for a cessation of the violence and for help and support for the victim and perpetrator. We pray to the Lord...

For perpetrators of domestic violence that they may stop their abuse and seek professional help. We pray to the Lord ...

For those who suffer domestic violence that they may know they are not alone, they are loved and help is only a phone call away. We pray to the Lord ...

For those who witness domestic violence – especially children – that they may understand that violence is never an expression of love, is never acceptable and must never be imitated. We pray to the Lord ...

For victims of domestic violence that they may know that their suffering is not a cross to bear or a punishment from God. We pray to the Lord ...

For victims of abuse, may they know God's love and understand that they are not alone. May they be guided to help, support and safety, we pray to the Lord.

For our families, may they know God's love and may they share this love with kindness and consideration for one another, free from abuse and controlling behaviors, we pray to the Lord.

## **Prayers of the Faithful**

For our youth, may they experience healthy relationships, free from abuse and controlling behaviors, we pray to the Lord.

For our children who may be living in homes where domestic violence occurs, may they be protected and may the adults seek help and safety, we pray to the Lord.

For perpetrators of abuse in our homes, may they know God's love and seek help for conversion and healing, we pray to the Lord.

For victims of physical or emotional domestic violence, that they may find the courage needed to seek help, the affirmation, support and shelter they and their families need to heal and the strength to move forward in new ways.

Lord, this day and night, there are people living in fear and pain.

Children, women and, yes, men, too, for whom home is not a place of peace, but of terrible violence. Bring your strength to all victims of domestic abuse.

Help victims of domestic abuse find the inner courage to reach out, call for help, and find a place where they can begin to heal.

Help us, too, to be instruments of your peace and to assist the victims of domestic abuse & their families with finding safety and hope for a better future.

Lord, may your protective love enfold all who suffer or witness violence in their own homes and bring them through these dark days and nights.

From now on, may your light outshine any doubt, despair, or hurt experienced by victims of domestic abuse. And bring these dear ones through their trials to the kindness and goodness they justly deserve.

Lord, we give you thanks that you call us out of silence to name hidden, domestic violence.

We pray for all victims of domestic violence who despite suffering from violence, continue to care for family and to offer support to others.

We pray for women who are trafficked as domestic or sex workers and who do not know how to find words to name their pain or a way into the future.

We pray for transformation of our societies that often find it easier to judge the victims of violence than to solve the problems of injustice.

We ask for continued courage to stand against all forms of oppression and violence in our world.

We pray for right and healthy relations between women and men that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms and learn to celebrate our diversity and interdependence.

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We ask that you knit our hearts, our vision & our actions together across our community that we may all be totally free to live life abundantly in your love.

We look forward to the age of peace, when violence is banished and we are able to love and to be loved, and when the work and wealth of our world is justly shared.

Amen.

### Prayer for Healing for Victims of Domestic Abuse

Lord, I adore you and give you thanks for creating me to be just who I am. You created me to enjoy the fullness of life, Your life in me.

Heal me of any incidents of abuse in my life or in the lives of my children that have made us feel unworthy or inferior.

Heal us of all experiences of abuse in our home that have made us feel guilty and ashamed, that has caused us to reject ourselves and to lose hope.

Surround me with Your light, Jesus, and penetrate the very depths of my being with that light. Let there remain no areas of darkness in me or in my children, but transform our whole being with the healing light of Your love.

Open me completely to receive Your love, Jesus.

Adapted from Prayer for Family Healing [www.faithleap.org](http://www.faithleap.org)

## Domestic Violence Awareness Liturgy

*This liturgy is created to compliment the Order of Worship found in the ELW*

*Composed by Rev. Diane Wildow)*

### Prayers of Intercession

Surrounded by violence and cruelty, let us pray for a world restored and for all whom God has made.

God of healing, hear the cries of all who are being beaten and battered through intimate partner violence, those who are isolated, silenced, numb, and unable to trust. Give them clarity in the midst of confusion, deliverance from danger, healing from hurt, and help amidst their helplessness. Watch over them at home, at work, at church, in court, and as they travel, and show them a way out of their pain and suffering. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, broaden our understanding of family violence in all its forms – emotional, verbal, physical, sexual, economic, spiritual, and psychological. Guard the abused from shame and humiliation. Keep them out of harm's way amidst the anger, rage, coercion, and betrayal of their abusers. Pour out upon them your guidance and wisdom as they are forced to make difficult decisions on the part of themselves and their families. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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God in whom we trust, save and protect our children who are both witnesses to violence and victims themselves. Provide them with caregivers who will love and nurture them in the midst of being violated by those they trust. Keep them ever safe from all harm. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of justice, reveal to us those who are perpetrators of domestic violence, those who crave power and control, yet profess to love their victims. Help us to hold them accountable for their actions, and to show them a better way to live, the way of surrender to you, the one who alone holds power, and the one who is love. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of true power, be with all our systems of justice and those who have been entrusted with authority over others. Guide all police officers, attorneys, judges, lawmakers, and religious leaders in the decisions they make and the counsel they give. Fill them with your compassion and keep them from abuse of power. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God in whose image we are made, women and girls are undervalued across the globe. Help us to affirm their gifts and their personhood, as they are beautifully and wonderfully created. Spare them from sexual harassment, molestation, and ritual abuse. Defend them from violent crimes, being kept in captivity, and atrocities of war, and help us to love and respect them as a part of your good creation. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of truth, we have often interpreted the Bible in ways that justify and encourage domestic violence. Yet your Scriptures tell stories of violence against women. Let the presence of these stories in your holy Word give us the courage to tell our stories, so that we might help another in the midst of their secret terror and fear. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of action, we, your holy Church, find ourselves doubtful to believe, slow to show compassion, paralyzed to act, and withholders of hope. Give us understanding and patience. Help us to respect the decisions of those who have been violated. Keep us from dictating what another should do or how they should live, as we have not walked in their shoes. Show us that we, the Church, are called to be a survivor's last hope. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of eternity, we give you thanks for those who are no longer with us, those who paid with their lives for crimes never committed, those who died and are now forever free from abuse and torture. Receive them into your eternal keeping, and keep them ever in our memory, that together we might be empowered to spend our lives working for an end to violence. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, that you have heard our prayers and ask all these things in the name of Jesus, the one who died for us, and was raised, that we too might be raised from death and hell.  
**Amen.**