

The Leonine Prayers

November 19, 2017

The Leonine prayers were prescribed by Pope Leo XIII in 1884 and comprise the recitation of three Hail Mary's; the Hail Holy Queen, a prayer invoking Mary's intercession for the Church; the prayer to St. Michael; and three times the invocation to the Sacred Heart. These prayers were ordered on the occasion of the furious assault launched against the Church by freemasonry. The prayers' aim is to obtain an end to the satanic persecution against God and His Church. The persecutions that prompted these prayers may have changed somewhat, but because the Church is still being persecuted, the prayers are always timely. In our day, we continue to have attacks against the Church and its teaching, particularly against the unborn and marriage. There is much to pray for and our Holy Mother the Church needs our constant support, so let us unite with the celebrant and devoutly say these prayers for these intentions. The prayers are used only at Low Masses and can be omitted if there is a homily or another paraliturgical function such as a procession or other devotion.

These prayers are usually recited with the priest kneeling at the lower step leading up to the altar. Upon completion, the priest rises, goes to the altar and takes the chalice in his left hand, then descends back down to the lower step to genuflect if the Blessed Sacrament is present or otherwise to make a profound bow. Upon receiving the biretta from the server, he returns to the sacristy. At Low Mass the procession back to the sacristy is done in silence.

Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP

Pastor, Regina Caeli Parish