

# Domestic Missionaries of Saint Thorlák



## Collection of Prayers for the Clergy and People of Iceland

“The purpose of our prayers and our sacrifices is to be an apostle of the apostles: to pray for them whilst they evangelize souls...”

-St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face

“The harvest is rich, but the laborers are few;  
beg the harvest master to send out laborers for his harvest.”

- Matthew 9: 35-38

# Domestic Missionaries of Saint Thorlák

The Domestic Missionaries of St. Thorlák are missionaries-in-place whose work is to pray from where we are, in our current circumstances, in our present states of body and mind. We are "domestic," meaning, staying in place; we pray from wherever we are able to be, transforming "everywhere" into one, common household, one family of God: "Domestic" Missionaries of St. Thorlák do our work from within the "home" of God's Household. This Domestic form of missionary work differs from that of missionaries who leave home to do their work elsewhere, publicly.

Our Missionary focus is *prayer* in any way we are capable, including all forms of communication: fully spoken, low speaking, variably spoken and non-speaking. Our prayer takes the form of however we best express our hearts and intentions to God, in the place best suited to our abilities: at home, in chapel, outdoors; standing, kneeling, sitting, walking; wherever we connect fully with God at any given moment. Many Domestic Missionaries spend their time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, but others may pray better in motion. Some "practice the presence of God" throughout the day, offering as we go, and some simply focus on the breath in prayer (e.g., breathe in "My Jesus," breathe out "Mercy") to create a "chapel of the heart" wherever we happen to be. Domestic Missionary prayer deliberately minimizes physical and social demands to keep our efforts focused on prayer.

Within this guidebook will be suggested prayers for your consideration and use as they are helpful. While the methods each missionary uses will be those best suited to their means of expression, the *intentions* of our prayers will be the uniform, specific, and consistent among missionaries. These are also outlined in this guide.

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# Domestic Missionaries of Saint Thorlák

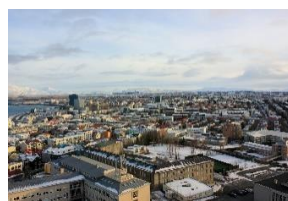
## Prayer Intentions

1) For the Bishop, priests, deacons, seminarians, acolytes, and consecrated religious in Iceland.

May they abandon themselves to the will of God the Father and receive the consolation of Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all that they do. May their every material and spiritual need be met, good measure and flowing over.

2) For the people of Iceland.

May all hearts harbored in Iceland turn with love toward God. May they know His Mercy, Healing and Truth; and may God provide generously for all their needs of body, mind and spirit.



## St. Thorlák Thorhallsson, Patron of Iceland

*Prayers and reflections on this page are from the Novena in Honor of St. Thorlac (2018)*



St. Thorlák lived in Iceland from 1133-1193. At that time, Iceland was populated by poor farmers and seafarers, frequently subject to harsh climatic conditions and fluctuations in the availability of food. He himself came from a family in good social standing whose money ran out during a downturn in mercantile activity, and from complete poverty he went to live with the scholars at Oddi, who trained him for the priesthood. In his religious career, he was a deacon, a parish priest, a theological scholar, a Canon Regular of the Order of St. Augustine, a consecrated abbot of a monastery and a bishop. In each setting, St. Thorlák conducted himself as anywhere else: in full obedience to God.

St. Thorlák never took his rank lightly, and felt the higher one rose, the greater his responsibility to live uprightly. In particular, he believed those in the clergy and public offices had the greatest burden of good living as examples for all to see. St. Thorlák tended many different walks of life among his flocks: peasants, married, single, prominent leaders, monks and fellow priests. He saw them all equally, as brothers and sisters in Christ, and expected no less from them.

### Let Us Pray

Almighty God, St. Thorlák took great care to lead others to You in ways that were loving and gentle. He wished for everyone to live harmoniously according to Your plan, that where two or more gather in faith, You become present. May the pastors of Your Church follow St. Thorlák's example in their perseverance, forbearance and striving for concord. Help the people of Iceland to hear Your voice through these holy men, and not grieve them by chasing discord with Your Church and its teaching. Through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

### Litany to St. Thorlák

Saint Thorlák, quietly humble and pure of heart. Pray for us!  
Saint Thorlák, mentor in wisdom. Pray for us!  
Saint Thorlák, gentle pastor. Pray for us!  
Saint Thorlák, merciful confessor. Pray for us!  
Saint Thorlák, champion of families and holy matrimony. Pray for us!  
Saint Thorlák, defender of Catholic living in all states of life. Pray for us!  
Saint Thorlák, fatherly intercessor. Pray for us!  
Saint Thorlák, true ambassador for Christ. Pray for us!  
Saint Thorlák, devoted patron of Iceland. Pray for us!

## Other Holy Examples and Patrons to Domestic Missionary Work

**Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection** (Quotations from *The Practice of the Presence of God*)



**“We do not always have to be in church to be with God. We can make of our hearts an oratory where we can withdraw from time to time to converse with him there, gently, humbly, and lovingly. Everyone is capable of these familiar conversations with God, some more, some less. He knows what we can do.” (62)**

“My God, you are always close to me. In obedience to you, I must now apply myself to outward things. Yet, as I do, I pray that you will give me the grace of your presence. And to this end I ask that you will assist my work, receive its fruits as an offering to you, and all the while direct all my affections to you.”

“That there needed neither art nor science for going to GOD, but only a heart resolutely determined to apply itself to nothing but Him, or for His sake, and to love Him only.”

“A little lifting up of the heart suffices; a little remembrance of God, an interior act of adoration, even though made on the march and with sword in hand, are prayers which, short though they may be, are nevertheless very pleasing to God, and far from making a soldier lose his courage on the most dangerous occasions, bolster it. Let him then think of God as much as possible so that he will gradually become accustomed to this little but holy exercise; no one will notice it and nothing is easier than to repeat often during the day these little acts of interior adoration.”

“That we ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of GOD, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed. That we should not wonder if, in the beginning, we often failed in our endeavors, but that at last we should gain a habit, which will naturally produce its acts in us, without our care, and to our exceeding great delight.”

“We must know before we can love. In order to know God, we must often think of Him; and when we come to love Him, we shall then also think of Him often, for our heart will be with our treasure.”

## **Prayer for Priests by St. Thérèse of The Child Jesus and the Holy Face, Patroness of Missions**

(Via Archdiocese of Philadelphia, [phillyevang.org/pray4priests](http://phillyevang.org/pray4priests). Accessed 10/14/2023.)

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart, where none may touch them.

Keep unstained their anointed hands,  
which daily touch Your Sacred Body.  
Keep unsullied their lips,  
daily purpled with your Precious Blood.

Keep pure and unearthly their hearts,  
sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.  
Let Your holy love surround them  
and shield them from the world's contagion.

Bless their labors with abundant fruit  
and may the souls to whom they minister  
be their joy and consolation here; and in heaven,  
their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.

## **Mother Teresa's Prayer for Priests**

(Via Archdiocese of Philadelphia, [phillyevang.org/pray4priests](http://phillyevang.org/pray4priests). Accessed 10/14/2023.)

Lord Jesus, You have chosen Your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim Your word and to act in Your Name. For so great a gift to Your Church, we give You praise and thanksgiving. We ask You to fill them with the fire of Your love that their ministry may reveal Your presence in the Church.

Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that Your power shine out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them *never be crushed*; in their doubts *never despair*; in temptation *never be destroyed*; in persecution *never abandoned*.

Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of Your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them Your Spirit, and help them to praise Your heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit put Your word on their lips and Your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the broken hearted.

And may the gift of Mary be Your gift to every priest. Grant that she, who formed You in her human image, may form them in Your divine image, by the power of Your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## A Reading From Ezekiel 34:11-16 (Via Catholic Public Domain Version Bible)

“For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I myself will seek my sheep, and I myself will visit them. Just as a shepherd visits his flock, in the day when he will be in the midst of his sheep that were scattered, so will I visit my sheep. And I will deliver them from all the places to which they had been scattered in the day of gloom and darkness. And I will lead them away from the peoples, and I will gather them from the lands, and I will bring them into their own land. And I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, by the rivers, and in all the settlements of the land. I will feed them in very fertile pastures, and their pastures will be on the lofty mountains of Israel. There they will rest on the green grass, and they will be fed in the fat pastures, on the mountains of Israel. I will feed my sheep, and I will cause them to lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek what had been lost. And I will lead back again what had been cast aside. And I will bind up what had been broken. And I will strengthen what had been infirm. And I will preserve what was fat and strong. And I will feed them on judgment.”

## Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Prime) - Public Domain

V/ O God, + come to my assistance.

R/ O Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### Hymn

Remember, O Creator Lord!  
That in the Virgin's sacred womb  
Thou was conceived, and of her flesh  
Did our mortality assume.  
Mother of grace, O Mary blest!  
To thee, sweet fount of love, we fly;  
Shield us through life, and take us hence  
To your dear bosom when we die.  
O Jesus! Born of Virgin bright,  
Immortal glory be to Thee;  
Praise to the Father infinite,  
And Holy Ghost eternally. Amen.



Icelandic medieval wooden statue of the Holy Mother and Child. It is believed to be from the 14th century and was donated to the Catholic Church in 1926. When Pope John Paul II visited Iceland in 1989, he crowned the statue.

### **Antiphon**

Mary was taken up into heaven:  
The angels rejoice, and with praises bless the Lord!

### **A Reading From Psalm 53**

O God, save me in your name: and judge me in your strength.  
O Lord, hear my prayer: and hearken to the words of my mouth.  
For strangers have risen up against me, and the mighty have sought after my soul: and have not set God before their eyes.  
Behold, God is my helper: and the Lord upholds my soul.  
Turn back the evil upon my enemies: and destroy them in your truth.  
Freely I sacrifice unto thee: and will praise thy name, O Lord, for it is good.  
For you have delivered me out of all trouble: and my eyes have looked down upon my enemies.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **A Reading From Psalm 84**

You have blessed your land, O Lord: you have freed the captivity of Jacob.  
You have forgiven the iniquity of your people: you have covered all their sins.  
You have softened all your anger: you have turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

Convert us, O God our Savior: and turn away your anger from us.  
Will you be angry with us forever: or will you stretch out your wrath from generation to generation? You will turn again, O God, and quicken us: and your people shall rejoice in you.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation. I will hearken what the Lord God shall say within me: for he will speak peace unto his people.

Unto his Saints likewise: and to those who are converted in heart. Surely his salvation is near to them who fear him: that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together: justice and peace have kissed each other.  
Truth is sprung out of the earth: and justice hath looked down from heaven.  
For the lord shall put forth his goodness: and our land shall yield her fruit.  
Justice shall walk before him: and shall set his footsteps in the way.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



## **A Reading From Psalm 116**

Praise the Lord, all you nations: acclaim him, all you peoples. For his mercy is confirmed upon us: and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **Antiphon**

Mary was taken up into heaven:

The angels rejoice, and with praises bless the Lord!

### **Canticle**

V/ Who is she that comes forth as the morning rising, fair as the moon, bright as the sun, terrible as an army set in battle array?

R/ Thanks be to God

V/ Vouchsafe that I may praise thee, O sacred Virgin.

R/ Give me strength against our enemies.

V/ O lord, hear my prayer.

R/ And let my cry come unto thee.

### **Let us Pray**

O God, who did choose the chaste chamber of the blessed Virgin Mary to dwell therein; grant, we beseech you, that, fortified with her defense, we may find our joy in taking part in her commemoration.

Who lives and reigns, world without end.

R/ Amen

V/ O Lord, hear our prayers.

R/ And let our cries come unto you.

V/ Let us bless the Lord

R/ Thanks be to God.

V/ May the Lord bless us+, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

R/ Amen.

## Petitions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Used by the Seven Sisters Apostolate, and prayed by St. Padre Pio  
(Via Archdiocese of Philadelphia, phillyevang.org/pray4priests. Accessed 10/14/2023.)

O my Jesus, you said, "Verily I say unto you: Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened unto you." Behold, I knock, I seek and I ask for the grace of\_\_\_\_\_. *Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory Be...* >> Sacred Heart of Jesus, I put all my trust in You!

O my Jesus, you said: "Verily I say unto you: Whatsoever you shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you." Behold, in Your name, I ask the Father for the grace of\_\_\_\_\_. *Our Father...Hail Mary...Glory Be...* >> Sacred Heart of Jesus, I put all my trust in You!

O my Jesus, you said: "Verily I say unto you: Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." I, encouraged by Your infallible words, now ask for the grace of\_\_\_\_\_. *Our Father... Hail Mary...Glory Be...* >> Sacred Heart of Jesus, I put all my trust in You.

O Jesus, to whom one thing alone is impossible, namely, not to have compassion on the afflicted: Have mercy on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of Thee through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Your and our tender Mother. *Hail, Holy Queen... St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, pray for us!*

## Psalms Suitable for Prayer (Via Catholic Public Domain Version Bible)

Psalm 56:2 *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me. For my soul trusts in you.*

Psalm 27:9 *O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance, and reign over them and exalt them, even unto eternity.*

Psalm 19:3 *May he send you help from the sanctuary and watch over you from Zion.*

Psalm 14:1-2 *O Lord, who will dwell in your tabernacle? Or who will rest on your holy mountain? He who walks without blemish and who works justice.*

## Ideas for Intentions and Intercessory Petitions

As Used by the Seven Sisters Apostolate

- Surrender to God's Will and Way
- Proper nutrition and household provision
- Fidelity to vows, fasting, prayer and rule of life
- Alertness, safety in travel
- Opportunity for exercise, rest and leisure
- Good health care and help with challenges
- Prudence and safety in physical labor
- Healthy and Godly friendships
- Willing participation and support of communities
- Mutual striving toward community goals and mission
  - Time management, boundaries, others willing to accept delegated tasks
  - Availability of competent help in all capacities needed
  - Continued growth in Beatitudinal life, virtues, humility
  - Growth in compassion and understanding the hidden needs of others
  - Joy and thriving in living the Kerygma
  - Seeking and accepting reconciliation, forgiveness and healing where needed
  - That holiness and mercy may flourish through community example
  - That hearts may turn to the One, True God with trust and love
  - That consolation will come in times of exhaustion and discouragement
  - For an increase in vocations and attentiveness to the prompt of the Holy Spirit

You may add your own petitions and promptings in this space:

**Pray without ceasing.** (*1 Thessalonians 5:17*)

**Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.**  
(*1 Corinthians 10:31*)

## Prayers offered by St. Thorlák during his time as Bishop of Skálholt

<http://www.vsnrweb-publications.org.uk/Text%20Series/Thorlaks%20saga.pdf> / Accessed 10/14/2023.

### Jesu Nostra Redemptio

Jesus, our redemption, love and desire,  
God, Creator of all things,  
becomes man in the fullness of time.

What mercy made thee  
bear our crimes,  
to suffer a cruel death  
that we might be saved from death!

Descending into Hell's prison,  
freeing thy captives,  
Thy noble triumph won,  
dwelling at the Father's right hand.

Let pity compel thee  
to overcome our evils,

granting pardon,  
fulfil and satisfy us with thy face.

Be our joy,  
who will be our future prize;  
let all our glory be in Thee  
forever, throughout all ages.  
Silent reflection upon:  
The ransom with which  
God redeemed mankind  
True love for God, and for men  
The desire of everlasting bliss  
and life with God  
The fear of Judgment Day  
The Second Coming of Christ  
to judge all mankind.

### Nocte Surgentes Vigilemus

Father, we praise thee, now the night is  
over; active and watchful, stand we all  
before thee; singing, we offer prayer and  
meditation: thus we adore thee.

Monarch of all things,  
fit us for thy mansions;  
banish our weakness,  
health and wholeness sending;  
bring us to heaven, where thy saints united  
joy without ending.

All-holy Father, Son and equal Spirit,  
Trinity blessed, send us thy salvation;  
thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding  
through all creation.

### Ecce iam noctis tenuatur umbra

LO! the dim shadows of the night are  
waning;  
radiantly glowing, dawn of day returns;  
fervent in spirit, to the mighty Father  
we devoutly pray.

So shall our Maker, of His great  
compassion,  
banish all sickness, kindly health  
bestowing;  
and may He grant us, of a Father's  
goodness,  
mansions in heaven.

This He vouchsafe us, God forever blessed,  
Father eternal, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Whose is the glory which through all  
creation  
ever resounds. Amen.

### Primo dierum omnium

HAIL day! whereon the One in Three  
first formed the earth by sure decree,  
the day its Maker rose again,  
and vanquished death, and burst our chain.

Away with sleep and slothful ease!  
We raise our hearts and bend our knees,  
and early seek the Lord of all,  
obedient to the Prophet's call:

That He may hearken to our prayer,  
stretch forth His strong right arm to spare,  
and every past offense forgiven,  
restore us to our homes in heaven.

Assembled here this holy day,  
this holiest hour we raise the lay;  
and O that He to whom we sing,  
may now reward our offering!

O Father of unclouded light,  
keep us this day as in Thy sight,  
in word and deed that we may be  
from every touch of evil free.

That this our body's mortal frame  
may know no sins, and fear no shame,  
nor fire hereafter be the end  
of passions which our bosoms rend.

Redeemer of the world, we pray  
that Thou wouldst wash our sins away,  
and give us, of Thy boundless grace,  
the blessings of the heavenly place.

That we, thence exiled by our sin,  
hereafter may be welcomed in:  
that blessed time awaiting now,  
with hymns of glory here we bow.

Most holy Father, hear our cry,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord most High  
who, with the Holy Ghost and Thee  
doth live and reign eternally.

### Psalm 1 with Gloria

Via Catholic Public Domain Version Bible

Blessed is the man who has not followed the counsel of the impious, and has not remained in the way of sinners, and has not sat in the chair of pestilence.

His will is with the law of the Lord, and he will meditate on his law, day and night. And he will be like a tree that has been planted beside running waters, which will provide its fruit in its time, and its leaf will not fall away, and all things whatsoever that he does will prosper.

Not so the impious, not so. For they are like the dust that the wind casts along the face of the earth.

Therefore, the impious will not prevail again in judgment, nor sinners in the council of the just.

For the Lord knows the way of the just. And the path of the impious will pass away.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
AS it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end: AMEN.

## **Divine Mercy Chaplet** (All References to Divine Mercy Chaplet: See *Diary of Saint Faustina*, 474-475, 950).

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a wonderful prayer to offer for both the people and the clergy: “For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on Iceland, and on the whole world.”

A Chaplet for Clergy and Religious Persons includes the following intentions are added at the beginning of each decade. (See Beckman, K. <https://catholicexchange.com/st-faustina-the-divine-mercy-chaplet-for-priests/> Accessed 10/14/2023.)

**First decade:** Eternal Father, we bring to You the souls of clergy, priests and religious. Immerse them in Your unfathomable mercy that they will be clean, healed, free and holy. Keep them in the embrace of Your merciful love and truth.

**Second decade:** Eternal Father, we bring to You the souls of clergy, priests and religious who are struggling with themselves and others. Immerse them in Your unfathomable mercy that they will be clean, healed, free and holy. Renew them in their identity, mission and relationship.

**Third decade:** Eternal Father, we bring to You the souls of cardinals and bishops, the clergy and all those in leadership of the Church, who have weighty responsibility. Immerse them in Your unfathomable mercy that they will be clean, healed, free, and holy. May the Sanctifier grant them wisdom and courage.

**Fourth decade:** Eternal Father, we bring to You the souls of clergy and religious persons who have grown lukewarm, discouraged, or duplicitous. Immerse them in Your unfathomable mercy that they will be clean, healed free, and holy. May the power of the Cross transfigure and raise them up.

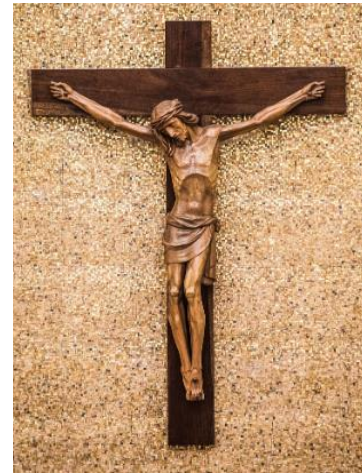
**Fifth decade:** Eternal Father, we bring to You the souls of clergy, priests and religious persons who wholeheartedly strive to fulfill their vocation to radiate the love of the heart of Jesus. Immerse them in Your unfathomable mercy that they will be clean, healed, free, and holy. Keep them safe from the enemies of the priesthood and Church.

**Closing Prayer:** Eternal Father, in whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion exhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself.

# Litany for Priests

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/litany-for-priests-244>  
Accessed 10/14/2023

Jesus, meek and humble of heart,  
give all priests Thy spirit of humility;  
Jesus, poor and worn out for souls,  
give all priests Thy spirit of zeal;  
Jesus, full of patience and mercy for sinners,  
give all priests Thy spirit of compassion;  
Jesus, victim for the sins of the world,  
give all priests Thy spirit of sacrifice;  
Jesus, lover of the little and the poor,  
give all priests Thy spirit of charity.



Mary, Queen of the Clergy, pray for us;  
and obtain for us numerous and holy priests and religious. **Amen.**

## Chaplet for Clergy - To be prayed on the rosary

Adapted from *In Sinu Jesu: When Heart Speaks to Heart* - Ignatius Press. [sfcatholic.org/bishop-swain/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/08/Prayers-of-Reparations.pdf](http://sfcatholic.org/bishop-swain/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2018/08/Prayers-of-Reparations.pdf) Accessed 10/14/2023

God, Come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me. Glory be ...

(On each of the Our Father beads) Eternal Father, I offer Thee The Precious Blood of Thy Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb without blemish or spot, in reparation for my sins and for the sins and needs of all Thy clergy.

(On each of the Hail Mary beads): By thy Precious Blood, O Jesus, Purify and sanctify thy clergy.

(At the Glory be to the Father): O Father, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth is named, Have mercy on all thy clergy, and wash them in the Blood of the Lamb.

