

**Priest:** Brothers and sisters, on this Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Lord and pointed others to Christ, let us bring our prayers before God our Father.

**Reader:** For the holy Catholic Church:  
that she may faithfully proclaim Christ to the world and, like Saint John the Baptist, prepare hearts to receive the Lord.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Reader:** For Pope Leo, Bishop Patrick, priests, deacons, and all who preach the Gospel:  
that they may boldly proclaim God's truth with humility, courage, and joy.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Reader:** For our nation and all who exercise authority:  
that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, defending justice, truth, and the dignity of every human person.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Reader:** For those who are searching for meaning, faith, or hope in their lives:  
that, through the witness of Christians, they may be led to encounter Jesus Christ.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Reader:** For parents, grandparents, teachers, and catechists:  
that they may faithfully hand on the faith and help the young to grow in love of God and His Church.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Reader:** For those who suffer because they stand for what is right and true:  
that, encouraged by the example of Saint John the Baptist, they may remain steadfast in faith and trust in God.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Reader:** For the sick, the housebound, and all who are burdened by anxiety, loneliness, or suffering:  
that Christ may bring them healing, strength, and peace.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Reader:** For the faithful departed:  
that they may rejoice forever in the presence of the Lamb of God whom Saint John proclaimed.

**Lord, hear us.**

**Reader:** Let us now offer our own prayers in silence. *(pause)*

**Reader:** Let us ask the prayers of Our Lady, Help of Christians.

**All:** Hail Mary...

**Priest:** Heavenly Father, you chose Saint John the Baptist to prepare the way for your Son. Hear the prayers we offer with confidence and grant them according to your holy will. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.