

3 WAYS CATHOLICS CAN RESPOND TO GUN VIOLENCE

PRAY



Prayer and good thoughts aren't enough. But prayer does two things. First, it reminds us that our response to violence must always be grounded in the love and mercy of Christ. Second, it keeps us from despair and gives us hope enough to take action because when we pray we entrust our lives to God who accompanies us even in our fear, grief, and anger. God will never abandon us.

- Pray for those who have died
- Pray for those who were wounded and are struggling to survive and for their families and friends
- Pray for the first-responders, care-givers, and good Samaritans
- Pray for those who committed the violence, for mercy for them in both life and death
- Pray for lawmakers and those who have influence to change the structures that promote and enable gun violence
- Remember all these persons in the intercessions at Sunday and daily Mass

[*Click here for a Prayer in Time of Violence](#)

REFLECT



As Christians, we are members of the body of Christ. That means that we never act alone. We have the Scriptures and the tradition of the Church, the communion of saints, and the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us. Discern how you are being called to action by reflecting on Jesus in the Gospels, the teaching of the Church, and the lives of the saints. Be informed.

- Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church:
 - 2234-2243: On the duties of civil authorities and citizens
 - 2258-2301: On respect for human life and the dignity of persons
 - 2302-2317: On safeguarding peace

[*Click here to know what the United States Bishops say about gun violence](#)

[*Click here to read what Pope Francis said about the wide actions of violence](#)

→ ACT ←

At the end of the Mass, we are commissioned to “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by [our] life.” We cannot remain isolated in the comfort of our churches. We are mandated to put our faith into visible action by the daily works of our lives. Find ways, big and small, to take actions that are doable for you but that also challenge you to grow deeper in faith and show more boldly the credibility of your Christian witness. Make a commitment to do small things with great love.

- Donate blood or give to a charity that assists victims of violence
- Get involved in your parish or diocesan efforts for justice
- Know what Congress is doing to address gun violence and encourage those who represent you to vote for and uphold the common good

[*Click here for the United States Bishops’ “Take Action” website to learn about current legislation and how to contact your local officials.](#)

*If the links do not work, go to TeamRCIA.com or Liturgy.life to download the PDF with hyperlinks.
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