

## Intercessions

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time—January 15, 2023

**Cantor: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer; God of mercy, hear our prayer.**

- For the whole church: that we may grow in our understanding of who we are and in our commitment to what we are called to do. *We pray,*
- For our nation—that our deeply divided government and politics may not deter us from acting on behalf of others, both here and across the world. *We pray,*
- For those who do not know who they are or what they are called to do because their lives are consumed with pain, illness, daily living or basic security. *We pray,*
- For those whose commitment to Jesus is used for personal gain or to divide others. *We pray,*
- For those who—against difficult odds-- continue the work of Dr. Martin Luther King to bring about racial unity. *We pray,*
- For those among us who are hurting in any way; and for those whom this community is called to serve through our personal and parish ministries in Midtown and beyond. *We pray,*
- We pray now for our own concerns, and for a deeper commitment to Jesus and to one another (*pause*). *For all these things, we pray,*

- For the church that seeks to be a light to those in darkness, when its own image and model of leadership are in need of renewal. *We pray,*
- For unity in a world in which oligarchy, plutocracy and autocracy are demanding individual power over others. *We pray,*
- For our own democracy, in which individual power and notoriety are overshadowing our history of governing for the good of the people. *We pray,*
- For the courage to acknowledge our own desires for self-importance within our families or whatever communities we live and work. *We pray,*
- For the gift of discernment in a culture that is attracted to its own versions of gold, frankincense and myrrh. *We pray,*
- We pray for all among us who are sick, dying, grieving or suffering in any way; and for the strengthening and deepening of our parish ministries in this new year. *We pray,*
- We pray now for our own needs, and for the courage to advocate on behalf of those who are regarded as insignificant (*pause*). *For all these things, we pray,*