

A Litany for Prayers in Memory of May 14, 2022 and to pray for Gun Violence Prevention

*(modified from prayers written by the Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane, Bishop Provisional of The
Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, NY)*

Giver of Life and Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in harmony and peace. Surround us with your love as we face the challenges and tragedies of gun violence. For our dear ones, for our neighbors, for strangers and aliens, and those known to you alone, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of Righteousness, you have given our leaders, especially Joseph, our President, Kathy and Josh, our Governors, the members of Congress, the judges of our courts and members of our legislatures, power and responsibility to protect us and to uphold our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

For all who bear such responsibility, for all who struggle to discern what is right in the face of powerful political forces, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of Compassion, we give you thanks for first responders, for police officers, firefighters and EMTs, and all those whose duties bring them to the streets, the lobbies, the malls and the homes where the carnage of gun violence takes place day after day. Give them courage and sound judgment in the heat of the moment and grant them compassion for the victims.

For our brothers and sisters who risk their lives and their serenity as they rush to our aid, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

Merciful God, bind up the wounds of all who suffer from gun violence, those maimed and disfigured, those left alone and grieving, and those who struggle to get through one more day. Bless them with your presence and help them find hope. For the City of Buffalo, our communities of Lewiston and Newfane, our country, and around the world, we weep for those who have been harmed by gun violence.

Today, we remember those who were killed in Buffalo, NY on May 14, 2022:

Roberta A. Drury
Margus D. Morrison
Andre Mackniel,
Aaron Salter
Geraldine Talley
Celestine Chaney
Heyward Patterson
Katherine Massey
Pearl Young
Ruth Whitfield

Those who were shot, and survived:

Zaire Goodman who was treated and released from hospital
Jennifer Warrington who was treated and released from hospital
Christopher Braden who had non-life-threatening injuries

For 19-year-old Payton S. Gendron the shooter, and for his family
For all whose lives are forever marked by the scourge of gun violence, Loving God
Make us instruments of your peace.

Nurturing God, on this Mother's Day we remember the gifts of mothering, for mothers who nurture us, give us the guidance and freedom we need to grow, for comforting us when we are wounded in body or spirit, for believing in and challenging us to be more than we are, and encouraging us to live out our potential.

We remember that there are those for whom Mother's Day is difficult. There are those for whom the relationship between mother and child is strained, or difficult, or non-existent. Those who are distanced from their mothers, and mothers distanced from their children, by geography, or illness, or unhealed hurts, or communication failures.

We remember mothers who have lost loved ones to gun violence and for those who have lost mothers to gun violence. May they feel the comfort of your love, may their memories give them joy, their days be enriched with friendship, and their lives encircled by your love.

For all who love as only a mother loves, and weep as only mothers weep, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

God Who Remembers, may we not forget those who have died, in more than 162 mass shootings with more than 11,500 dead so far this year, in the gun violence that we have allowed to become routine. Receive them into your heart and comfort us with your promise of eternal love and care.

For all who have died, those who die today, and those who will die tomorrow, Loving God

Make us instruments of your peace.

God of Justice, help us, your church, to acknowledge the complexity of the issue at hand and to find our voice. Empower us to change this broken world and to protest the needless deaths caused by gun violence. Give us power to rise above our fear that nothing can be done and grant us the conviction to advocate for change.

For your dream of love and harmony, Loving God
Make us instruments of your peace.

Loving Lord, Source of all healing,
You weep when love gives way to hatred, and our souls, once again, weep for those who have been harmed by gun violence, in Buffalo, in our country, and around the world; where peace is overcome with anger, may our hearts grow bold, and may our communities be transformed by our actions and voices, working through the power of the Holy Spirit. All this we pray in the name of the One who offered his life so that we might live, Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

(Litany of Prayers to pray against gun violence - \written by the Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane, Bishop Provisional of The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, NY, December 2015, found on bishopsagainstgunviolence.org – modified and used with permission)

(Concluding Collect from: "Prayer for People Harmed by Gun Violence" found on page 213 of Planning for Rites and Rituals: Year A...
Jennifer Gamber and Timothy J.S. Seamans, Common Prayer for Children and Families (New York: Church Publishing, Inc., 2019) 112. – modified and used with permission.)