

PRAYERS FOR EVERYDAY

A selection of daily prayers for virtue and holiness, for comfort and peace, for the Church and for loved ones, prayers of praise, thanksgiving and devotion, to the Holy Trinity and to the Communion of Saints.

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A Morning Prayer

God, our Father, help us all through this day so to live that we may bring help to others, credit to ourselves and to the name we bear, and joy to those who love us, and to Thee. Help us to be cheerful when things go wrong; persevering when things are difficult; serene when things are irritating. Enable us to be helpful to those in difficulties; kind to those in need; sympathetic to those whose hearts are sore and sad. Grant that, nothing may make us lose our tempers; nothing may take away our joy; nothing may ruffle our peace; nothing may make us bitter towards any person. So grant that throughout this day, all with whom we work, and those whom we meet, may see in us the reflection of the Master, whose we are, and whom we seek to serve. This we ask for Thy love's sake. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant Me Grace

God, unto whom all hearts are open, unto whom all wills do speak, and from whom no secret thing is hidden, I beseech You, so to cleanse the purpose of my heart with the unutterable gift of Your grace that I may perfectly love You and worthily praise You. Amen.

Today

My life is a gift of God given, not in years, but a day at a time. Today is the day the Lord has made for me, and He may have planned it to be the most important day of my life. Yesterday is gone, never to return. I must not worry about it, but leave it in the hands of God. Tomorrow and all that it holds is God's secret and its coming is not assured. Only today is mine. Each day, arranged by God with infinite wisdom and goodness, is His gift, His act of love for me. In thanksgiving I will offer Him every day of my life the gift of myself—my prayers, works, joys and sufferings. Dear Lord receive it graciously. Amen.

For Courage

Dear God, give me courage, for perhaps I lack it more than anything else. I need courage before men against their threats and against their seductions. I need courage to bear unkindness, mockery, and contradiction. I need courage to fight against the devil, against terrors, and troubles, temptations, ruinous attractions, darkness and false lights, against tears, depression, and, above all, fear. I need Your help, dear God. Strengthen me with Your love and Your grace. Console me with Your blessed presence and grant me the courage to persevere until I am with You forever in heaven. Amen.

Let Daily Prayers Dissolve Your Cares

*We all have cares and problems we cannot
solve alone
But if we go to God in prayer we are never on
"our own"...*
*And if we try to stand alone we are weak and
we will fall.
For God is always Greatest when we're
helpless, lost and small.
And no day is unmeetable if on rising our
first thought
Is to thank God for the blessings that His
loving care has brought...*
*For there can be no failures or hopeless,
unsaved sinners
If we enlist the help of God who makes all
losers winners...*
*So meet Him in the morning and go with Him
through the day
And thank Him for His guidance each evening
when you pray.
And if you follow faithfully this daily way
to pray
You will never in your lifetime face another
"hopeless day".
For like a soaring eagle you too can rise above
The "storms of life" around you on the wings
of prayer and love.*

Helen Steiner Rice

For Holiness

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts
may all be holy.
Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too,
may be holy.
Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love only
what is holy.
Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that
is holy.
Guard me so, O Holy Spirit, that I may always
be holy.
Amen.

Prayer for Faith

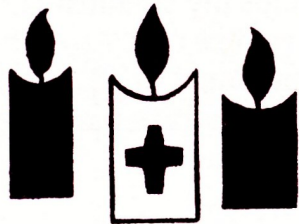
My Jesus, how often I feel very small and
inadequate before great tasks and responsibilities.
What can I do but bring all that I have, even though
it isn't much, and place all this in Your hands, wait
for Your blessing, breaking, thanking and receive
back again with amazing power to reach all who
depend on me, fill them with goodness and still have
more than what I started with? May I never hold
back my gifts from You. May I believe that Your
blessing multiplies my smallest gifts to maximum
powers. May I rejoice that You return the task to me
and I have the personal thrill of seeing many
satisfied by my ministrations. I adore Your wisdom,
Your power, Your sharing.
Amen.

Prayer of Petition

O Father of mercy and source of all good!
I offer my humble petition to You through the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Grant me the grace of lively faith, firm hope, and ardent charity toward You and toward my neighbors. Grant me, too, the grace to be truly penitent for all my sins, and a firm purpose of never offending You again. Grant that I may always live according to Your holy, Your divine good pleasure, to do Your will in all things with a generous and willing heart, and to persevere in Your love all the days of my life.
Amen.

For Peace in the World

Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace bestow upon us, the gift of peace throughout the world, so that all nations may work together and that there may be an end to war. I ask this, Lord, in your name.
Amen.



Prayer to St. Anthony

O good and gentle St. Anthony, your love of God and your concern for His creatures made you worthy, while on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Come to my help in this moment of trouble and anxiety. Your ardent love of God made you worthy to hold the Holy Infant in your arms. Whisper to Him my humble request, if it be for the greater glory of God and the salvation of my soul.
Amen.

For One Burdened with Worry

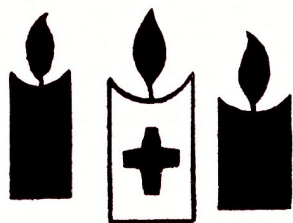
Father, teach me that, as your child, worry has no place in my life. I know that it helps nothing. I know that worry overcomes no difficulty. Often in the past, Lord, I have come to you with a burdened heart. You have answered my prayers and have graciously lifted my heart's burden from me. Yet, I still refuse to leave my burden with you. Always I gather up those heavy bundles of fears and anxieties, and I shoulder them again. Help me dear Lord to overcome these useless thoughts and lift from me once again all anxiety and apprehension. Help me to live just one day at a time with a confident trust in your tender mercy and love. May my heart know your promise that I rest only as I rest in you. I thank you for your love for me and for your help.
Amen.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me.
Amen.

For the Helpless Unborn

Heavenly Father, You create men in Your own image, and You desire that not even the least among us should perish. In Your love for us, You entrusted Your only Son to the holy Virgin Mary. Now, in Your love, protect against the wickedness of the devil those little ones to whom You have given the gift of life.
Amen.



For Peace of Heart

Almighty and Eternal God,
Give me, I beseech You, the great gift of inward peace.
Command the winds and storms of my unruly passions.
Subdue, by Your grace, my proneness to love created things too much,
Give me a love of suffering for Your sake.
Make me forbearing and kind to others, that I may avoid quarrels and contentions.
And teach me constantly to seek after and to acquire that perfect resignation to Your Holy Will which alone brings inner peace.
Amen.

Prayer for Unity of the Church

Almighty and merciful God, You willed that the different nations should become one people through Your Son. Grant in Your kindness that those who glory in being known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity, and that all men, enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in the one Church. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peacemakers

Peace is certainly the characteristic of the messianic age. Jesus came into the world as the Prince of Peace. He came to establish His reign of peace in the world by filling the hearts of all men with His peace, provided they were open to receive this treasured gift.

Peace is the fruit of love. Jesus said: "There is no greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jesus proved His love by laying down His life, "making peace through the blood of His cross."

In His Person the Incarnate Son, the Prince of Peace, reconciled all men to God through His death on the cross. In His human nature He destroyed hatred and restored unity to all mankind in one people and one body. Risen from the dead and raised on high, He sent the Spirit of love into the hearts of men.

Jesus came into the world to teach us how to love. When we learn to love we will enjoy that peace of heart which this world cannot give. Peace on earth is born of love for God, for ourselves and for our neighbor. As we reach out in love to others we will become those peacemakers whom Jesus declared to be the blessed of his Father.

By His death and resurrection Jesus earned that gift of peace for us. How frequently He greeted His apostles after the resurrection with "My peace is My gift to you."

As we become more and more experientially aware of God's infinite love for us, we will enjoy that peace which the world cannot give. As we radiate this love we, like Jesus, will become peacemakers.

(Based on Matthew 5-9)

I Adore You, Holy Spirit

I adore You, eternal Holy Spirit, and I give You thanks for the infinite love with which You brought about the ineffable mystery of the Incarnation. I thank you for the infinite love with which You formed the sacred body of our Lord Jesus Christ out of the most pure blood of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to become in the Eucharist the food of my soul. I beg You to enlighten my mind and to purify my heart and the hearts of all men, that all may know the benefits of Your love and receive worthily this Most Blessed Sacrament.
Amen.

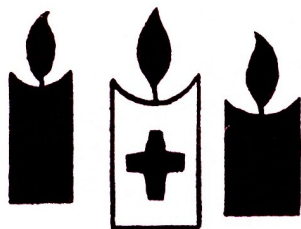
Saint Jude, Patron of Hopeless Cases

Most holy apostle, Saint Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the Church honors and invokes you universally as the patron of seemingly hopeless cases, of things almost despaired of. Pray for me; I am so helpless and alone. Make use, I implore you, of that particular privilege given to you to bring visible and speedy help where help is almost despaired of.

Come to my assistance in my great need that I may receive the consolation and help of heaven in all necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly, (here make your request) and that I may praise God with you and all the elect forever.

I promise, O blessed Saint Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to honor you always as my special and powerful patron and gratefully to encourage devotion to you.

Amen.



Prayer in Honor of St. Dymphna

Lord, our God, You graciously chose St. Dymphna as patroness of those afflicted with mental and nervous disorders. She is thus an inspiration and a symbol of charity to the thousands who ask her intercession.

Please grant, Lord, through the prayers of this pure youthful martyr, relief and consolation to all suffering such trials, and especially to those for whom we pray.

(Here mention those for whom you wish to pray)

We beg You, Lord, to hear the prayers of St. Dymphna on our behalf. Grant all those for whom we pray patience in their sufferings and resignation to Your divine will. Please fill them with hope, and grant them the relief and cure they so much desire.

We ask this through Christ our Lord Who suffered agony in the garden.

Amen.

Heart Prayer

Saint Michael you were, filled with great charity for God and man. Pray for all whose hearts are afflicted with illness, fear, or loneliness. Teach us to be resigned to God's will in all our trials and sicknesses. Help us to persevere in doing good, so that we may rejoice with you forever in God's kingdom.

Amen.

Complete Trust in God

Do not look forward to the trials and crosses of this life with dread and fear. Rather, look to them with full confidence that, as they arise, God, to whom you belong, will deliver you from them.

He has guided and guarded you thus far in life. Do you but hold fast to His dear hand, and He will lead you safely through all trials. Whenever you cannot stand, He will carry you lovingly in His arms.

Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. The same Eternal Father who cares for you today will take good care of you tomorrow and every day of your life. Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you the unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace then and put aside all useless thoughts, vain dreads, and anxious imaginations.

St. Francis de Sales

St. Teresa's Bookmark

Let nothing disturb you; nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Nothing is wanting to him who possesses God. God alone suffices. Amen.

Humility and Peace

Pay no great attention to who is for or against you. Be sure only that God is with you in whatever you do; keep your conscience clear and God will defend you. For if God decides to help a man, no adversity can harm him. For your part, if you know how to suffer in silence, you will certainly experience God's help. He knows when and how to defend you, and you must therefore leave all in His hands. It is for Him to give help and to free us from all evils.

Be at peace yourself and you will be able to bring peace to others. The peaceful man accomplishes far more than the learned man who is not at peace. For the man subject to his own passions turns good to evil and easily believes evil of others, whereas, the man of goodness and peace finds good in everything. The man who is at peace is not suspicious of others; but the discontented, restless man is harried by suspicion; he is not calm himself nor will he let others be at peace. He often says what ought not to be said, and fails to do what he should; he is intent on the duty of others and neglects his own. Be concerned first of all, therefore, with yourself; then you can be zealous for your neighbor without doing him injustice.

From "The Imitation of Christ"

Prayer of Spouses for Each Other

Lord Jesus, grant that I and my spouse may have a true and understanding love for each other. Grant that we may both be filled with faith and trust. Give us the grace to live with each other in peace and harmony. May we always bear each others' weaknesses and grow from each other's strengths. Help us to grant mutual forgiveness, because we are flawed and grant us patience, kindness, cheerfulness and the spirit of placing above my own perceived good the good of the other.

May the love that brought us together grow and mature with each passing year. Bring us both ever closer to You through our love for each other. Let our love grow to perfection.
Amen.

Parents Prayer to St. Monica

St. Monica, patron of Christian mothers, we entrust to your protection the children whose names you can read in our hearts. Pray for them that they may be granted strength to combat weakness. Give them victory over temptations, guidance to resolve their doubts, and success in all their undertakings. May they enjoy health of mind and body, see beauty and worth in all created things, and serve the Lord with firm faith, joyful hope and enduring love.
Amen.

Prayer for a Family

O dear Jesus, I implore You to grant Your special graces to our family. May our home be the shrine of peace, purity, love, labor and faith. I beg You, dear Jesus, to protect and bless all of us, absent and present, living and dead.

O Mary, as loving Mother of Jesus our Mother too, pray to your Son for our family, and for all families of the world, to guard the cradle of the newborn, the schools of the young and their vocations.

Blessed St. Joseph, holy guardian of Jesus and Mary, assist us by your prayers in all the necessities of life. Ask of Jesus that special grace which He granted to you, to watch over our home at the pillow of the sick and the dying, so that with Mary and with you, heaven may find our family unbroken in the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Amen.

Follow the Holy Family

Lord Jesus, help us always to follow the example of Your Holy Family, so that at the hour of our death, Your glorious Virgin Mother and blessed Joseph may come to us and we may be found worthy to be received by You into Your eternal dwelling place.
Amen.

Prayer for Those Who Are Dear to Me

Have mercy, O Lord,
on all my friends and relatives,
on all my benefactors,
on all who pray for me,
and on all who have asked me
to pray for them.
Give them a spirit of fruitful penance,
mortify in them all vices,
and make all Your virtues flower in them.
Let them, O Lord, so live
that they may be pleasing to You.
Have mercy, O God, on our bishops,
our rulers, our government,
and on the whole Christian people.
Holy Mary, pray for them all.
All you Saints of God, pray for them.
Have mercy, O God, on all
my deceased benefactors
and on all for whom I ought to pray.
Absolve all Your faithful
and give them peace and communion
with all the Saints.
Holy Mother of God, pray for them.
And all you Saints of God,
pray for them.
Amen.

For Relatives Who Have Not the Faith

Merciful Lord, who prayed that there be one flock and one shepherd, I ask the light of faith for those who are related to me who do not know You in Your Eucharistic presence. Give them the joy of Your protecting presence. Bring them into the one fold of which You are the master and Lord. Forgive them their sins and teach them the way of repentance. So that they may be gathered into everlasting communion with You and Your heavenly Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

For Departed Loved Ones

Lord Jesus Christ, Who by the love which You have for men, willed to take upon Yourself our lowly human nature, to live a life of labor, to suffer a most cruel passion, and finally to die on the cross, I beseech You by the infinite merits purchased for us with Your precious blood, to deliver the souls in purgatory and grant them eternal rest.

Accept, O merciful God, the prayers which I offer for them, and call them to the glory of heaven. I commend to You the souls of my relatives, friends and benefactors, and all in need of my prayers.

Most Holy Virgin, Mother of Mercy, Comforter of the Afflicted, obtain for them through your powerful intercession everlasting peace.
Amen.

Daily Prayer for the Holy Souls In Purgatory

Immortal God, holy Lord, Father and Protector of all You have created, we raise our hearts to You today for those who have passed out of this mortal life.

In Your loving mercy, Father of all, be pleased to receive them in Your heavenly company, and forgive the failings and faults they may have done from human frailty.

Your only son, Christ, our Savior, suffered so cruelly that He might deliver them from the second death. By His merits may they share in the glory of His victory over sin and death.

For all the faithful who have died we pray, but in particular for those dear to us, parents, relatives and friends. Nor do we forget all who did good to us while on earth, who helped us by their prayers, their sacrifice and their example. We pray also for any who may have done us harm, as for all who stand in special need of Your forgiveness.

May the merits and prayers of our Virgin Mother, Mary, and those of all Your Angels and Saints, speak for us and assist them now. This we ask in Christ's name.
Amen.

Health of the Sick

Virgin, most holy, Mother of the Word Incarnate, Treasurer of graces, and Refuge of sinners, I fly to Your motherly affection with lively faith, and I beg of you the grace ever to do the will of God. Into Your most holy hands I commit the keeping of my heart, asking You for health of soul and body, in the certain hope that You, my most loving Mother, will hear my prayer. Into the bosom of Your tender mercy, this day, and every day of my life, and most especially at the hour of my death, I commend my soul and body. To You I entrust all my hopes and consolations, all my trials and miseries, my life and the end of my life, that all my actions may be ordered and disposed according to the will of your Divine Son.
Amen.



Spiritual Communion

I believe that You, O Jesus, are truly present in the most holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I love You and desire You. Come into my heart. I embrace You.

Oh, never leave me. May the burning and most sweet power of Your love, O Lord Jesus Christ, I beseech You, absorb my mind that I may die through love of Your love, Who were graciously pleased to die through love of my love.
Amen.

-- St. Francis

Prayer before Holy Communion

Come, O blessed Savior, and nourish my soul with heavenly Food, the Food which contains every sweetness and every delight. Come, Bread of Angels, and satisfy the hunger of my soul. Come, glowing Furnace of Charity, and enkindle in my heart the flame of divine love. Come, Light of the World, and enlighten the darkness of my mind. Come, King of Kings, and make me obedient to Your holy will. Come, loving Savior, and make me meek and humble. Come, Friend of the Sick, and heal the infirmities of my body and the weakness of my soul.

Come, Good Shepherd, my God and my All, and take me to Yourself.

O most holy Mother, Mary Immaculate, prepare my heart to receive my Savior.
Amen.

Prayer After Holy Communion

Dear Lord, help me to remove from my mind every thought or opinion which You would not sanction, every feeling from my heart which You would not approve.

Grant that I may spend the hours of the day gladly working with You according to Your will.

Help me just for today and be with me in it. In the long hours of work, that I may not grow weary or slack in serving You.

In conversations, that they may not be to me occasions of uncharitableness.

In the day's worries and disappointments, that I may be patient with myself and with those around me.

In moments of fatigue and illness, that I may be mindful of others rather than of myself.

In temptations, that I may be generous and loyal, so that when the day is over I may lay it at Your feet, with its successes which are all Yours, and its failures which are all my own, and feel that life is real and peaceful, and blessed when spent with You as the Guest of my soul.
Amen.

Promise to My Guardian Angel

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Kneeling before Thy majesty, I thank Thee, O God, that Thou hast given me a heavenly companion to be at my side, one who leads me according to Thy will, directs me in Thy paths and manifests to me Thy love.

I resolve here in Thy presence to love my holy companion as a brother, and to obey him when he speaks to me through the voice of conscience. If I follow, He will surely lead me to Heaven.

Lord Jesus Christ, my Savior, take my hand and place it in the hand of my Guardian Angel and make the sign of my Redemption over it, Thy blessing, for my salvation. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

St. Michael, Patron of Protectors

By the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of the Seraphim, may God make us worthy to receive into our hearts the fire of His perfect charity.

By the intercession of St. Michael and the heavenly choir of the Cherubim, may God grant us grace to abandon the ways of sin and to follow the path of Christian perfection.
Amen.

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be His Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

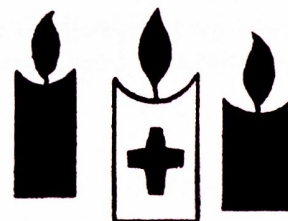
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His Angels and His Saints.

May the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time.
Amen.



Thanksgiving for the Church

Jesus, Divine Master, I bless and thank Your most gentle Heart for the great gift of the Church. She is the Mother who instructs us in the truth, guides us on the way to heaven, and communicates supernatural life to us. She continues Your own saving mission here on earth, as Your Mystical Body.

She is the ark of salvation. She is infallible, indefectible, Catholic. Grant me the grace to love the Church as You loved her and sanctified her in Your Blood. May the world know her, may all sheep enter her fold, may everyone humbly cooperate in Your kingdom.

Amen.

Intercession of all the Saints

Grant, almighty God, that the intercession of holy Mary, Mother of God, of all the holy apostles, martyrs, confessors and virgins, and of all Your elect, may everywhere gladden us. While we recall their merits, may we enjoy their patronage.

Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For a Holy Death

O my Lord and Savior, support me in my last hour by the strong arms of Thy Sacraments and by the power of Thy consolations.

Let the absolving words be said over me, and the holy oil sign and seal me.

Let Thine own body and blood be my food and drink; and let my Mother, Mary, breathe on me and my angel whisper peace to me.

May the glorious saints and my own patrons smile upon me that, in them all and through them all, I may receive the gift of perseverance, and die as I desire to live in Thy Church, in Thy service, and in Thy love.

Amen.

(Cardinal Newman)

Lord, Help Me Be Kind

Lord, help me to be for everyone the one who waits for the other without becoming impatient, who listens without becoming tired, who accepts with thanks and gives with love, who is always available when he is needed, the one to whom you can go when you are in need, who radiates peace from within and who belongs totally to You and is therefore kind to others.

Amen.

Before the Blessed Sacrament

O most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and acts of indifference by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg for the conversion of Sinners.
Amen.

(Fatima Children)

Evening Prayer of Praise

O Blessed Trinity, this night I kneel in praise for all of the blessings that You have granted me during this day. Keep me safe O Triune God; protect and guard me through the night.

Dear Father, through Christ Your Son, in union with the Holy Spirit, forgive me the offences I have committed this day, so that before I sleep I may be at peace with myself, the world and You.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures on earth; Praise Him all Saints and Angels above; Praise to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit now and forever.
Amen.

Prayer of Consecration to the Sacred Heart

Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before Thy altar. We are Thine, and Thine we wish to be; but, to be more surely united with Thee, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to Thy most Sacred Heart.

Many indeed have never known Thee; many too, despising Thy precepts, have rejected Thee. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to Thy sacred Heart. Be Thou King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken Thee, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned Thee; grant that they may quickly return to Thy Father's house lest they die of wretchedness and hunger.

Be Thou King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and unity of faith, so that there may be but one flock and one Shepherd.

Be Thou King of all those who are still involved in the darkness of idolatry or of Islamism, and refuse not to draw them into the light and kingdom of God. Turn Thine eyes of mercy towards the children of the race, once Thy chosen people: of old they called down upon themselves the Blood of the Savior; may it now descend upon them, a laver of redemption and of life.

Grant, O Lord, to Thy Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give peace and order to all nations, and make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: "Praise be to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to it be glory and honor forever."
Amen.

Composed by Pope Leo XIII, calling it, "*the greatest act of my pontificate.*"

A Prayer for Friends....

Guardian Angel watch over those whose names you can read in my heart. Guard them with every care and make their way easy and their labors fruitful. Dry their tears if they weep; sanctify their joys; raise their courage if they weaken; restore their hope if they lose heart, their health if they be ill, truth if they err, repentance if they fall....
Amen.

Prayers for the Holy Father

O God, look down with favor upon our Holy Father, whom You have appointed supreme pastor of Your Church. Grant, we beseech You, that both his word And his example may benefit those over whom he has been placed, so that together with the flock entrusted to his care he may attain life everlasting. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, pour in fullness Your richest blessings upon our Holy Church, the Pope, and all the clergy. Grant perseverance to the just, conversion to sinners; enlighten the unbelievers; bless our relatives, friends and benefactors; assist the dying; deliver the souls in purgatory, and extend over all hearts the gentle dominion of Your love.

Lord Jesus, shelter our Holy Father the Pope under the protection of Your Sacred Heart. Be his light, his strength and his consolation.
Amen.

For Priests

Poor, weak and miserable as I am, I have come to spend some time alone with You Oh My God, in reparation for the priests who have forgotten that they are Your chosen souls. Especially dear God, do I offer this time for the priest who at this moment needs it most. In praying for consecrated souls, help me to remember my own utter weakness, misery and nothingness.

Were it not for Your grace, I would be far worse than those for whom I pray.

O My God, help those priests who are faithful to remain faithful; to those who are falling, stretch forth Your Divine Hand that they may grasp it as their support. In the great ocean of Your mercy, lift those poor unfortunate ones who have fallen, that being engulfed therein they may receive the grace to return to Your Great Loving Heart.
Amen.

Prayer for Seminarians

O Jesus, Eternal High Priest, I offer You through Your Immaculate Mother Mary, Your own Precious Blood, in all the Masses throughout the world, as a petition for graces for all seminarians, Your future priests.
Amen.

Christian Apostle's Prayer

Almighty and eternal God,
may Thy grace enkindle in all men
love for the many unfortunate people
whom poverty and misery reduce
to a condition of life unworthy
of human beings.
Arouse in the hearts
of those who call Thee Father,
a hunger and thirst for social justice
and for fraternal charity
in deeds and in truth.
Grant, O Lord,
peace in our days,
peace to our souls,
peace to families,
peace to our country,
peace among nations.
Amen.

From Pius XII

An Evening Prayer

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of mercy, pray for
me that I may be preserved this night from all evil,
whether of body or soul. Dear St. Joseph, all ye
saints and angels, and especially you, my guardian
angel and my chosen patron, watch over me. I
commend myself to your protection now and
always.
Amen.

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Trust in God—Sirach 2

1My child, when you come to serve the Lord,*

prepare yourself for trials.a

2Be sincere of heart and steadfast,

and do not be impetuous in time of adversity.

3Cling to him, do not leave him,

that you may prosper in your last days.

4Accept whatever happens to you;

in periods of humiliation be patient.

5For in fire gold is tested,

and the chosen, in the crucible of humiliation.b

6Trust in God, and he will help you;

make your ways straight and hope in him.

7You that fear the Lord, wait for his mercy,

do not stray lest you fall.

8You that fear the Lord, trust in him,

and your reward will not be lost.

9You that fear the Lord, hope for good things,

for lasting joy and mercy.

10Consider the generations long past and see:

has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed?

Has anyone persevered in his fear and been forsaken?

has anyone called upon him and been ignored?c

11For the Lord is compassionate and merciful;

forgives sins and saves in time of trouble.

12Woe to timid hearts and drooping hands,*

to the sinner who walks a double path!

13Woe to the faint of heart! For they do not trust,

and therefore have no shelter!

14Woe to you that have lost hope!

what will you do at the Lord's visitation?

15Those who fear the Lord do not disobey his words;

those who love him keep his ways.d

16Those who fear the Lord seek to please him;

those who love him are filled with his law.

17Those who fear the Lord prepare their hearts

and humble themselves before him.

18Let us fall into the hands of the Lord

and not into the hands of mortals,

For equal to his majesty is his mercy;

and equal to his name are his works.e

* [2:1–11] Serving the Lord is not without its trials (v. 1); but no matter what happens, the genuine believer will remain sincere, steadfast, and faithful (vv. 2–3). Misfortune and humiliation are means of purification to prove one's worth (vv. 4–5). Ben Sira believed that patience and unwavering trust in God are ultimately rewarded with the benefits of God's mercy and of lasting joy (vv. 6–11).

* [2:12–18] A stern warning to those who compromise their faith in time of affliction; they fail in courage and trust and therefore have no security (vv. 12–14). But those who fear the Lord through obedience, reverence, love, and humility find his "mercy equal to his majesty" (vv. 15–18).

