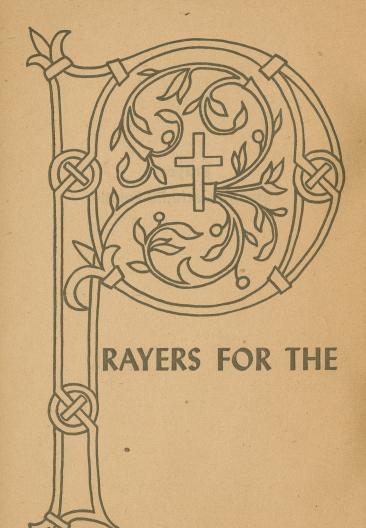




Prayers for the Catholic Family



LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D. Divine Word Missionary

CATHOLIC FAMILY

CATECHETICAL GUILD EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY ST. PAUL 2, MINNESOTA

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Spec

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God has appointed, in addition to the sacraments, prayer as the source of grace. He has made prayer an absolute condition for the bestowal of the graces you need for your sanctification and salvation. It is a fundamental principle of religion that if you pray well, you will live well. Much prayer, much grace; little prayer, little grace; no prayer, no grace.

This book offers a selection of prayers which will be used by family members. Part 1 consists of prayers relating to the family and its different members; part 2 contains simple forms of morning and night prayers, as well as prayers commonly said during the day, with a simplified form of assist-

ing at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

The purpose of Prayers for the Catholic Family is to encourage you to pray. It contains a careful selection of the finest and most loved prayers, the majority of which have been enriched with indulgences. These prayers have been simplified to make them more personal. May you find in them a treasury of richest graces to help you to deepen your union with God, Our Lady, and the Saints, and thereby to sanctify and save your soul.

INDULGENCED PRAYERS AND EJACULATIONS

To GAIN an indulgence one must be in the state of grace, have a general intention of gaining indulgences, and fulfill the prescribed conditions. To gain a plenary indulgence one must also detest all venial sins.

The usual conditions are:

1. Confession. Weekly confession suffices for all the plenary indulgences to be gained during that time.

2. Communion. Weekly Communion suffices for all the

plenary indulgences to be gained during that time.

3. Visit to a church. The visit must be repeated for each

plenary indulgence which requires this condition.

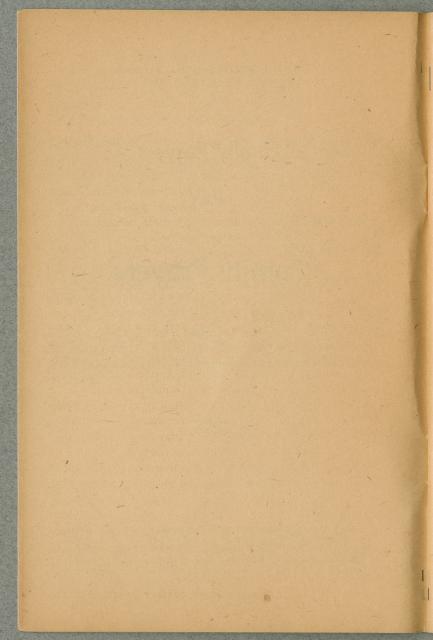
4. Prayers for the intention of the Holy Father. One Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory be to the Father or any other equivalent prayers suffice. They must be said orally and repeated for each plenary indulgence which requires this condition.

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NOTE: The numbers in parentheses in this book refer to the section numbers in the *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum* (1950), the latest official edition of indulgenced prayers. The (*) indicates that a plenary indulgence may be gained once a month under the usual conditions: confession, Communion, visit to a church, and prayers for the Holy Father's intentions.

Part I

Family Prayers



Family Prayers

PRAYERS FOR A CHRISTIAN FAMILY

God of goodness and mercy, to Your fatherly protection we commend our family, our household, and all that belongs to us. We entrust all to Your love and keeping. Fill our home with Your blessings as You filled the holy House of Nazareth with the presence of Your divine Son.

Lord Jesus, above all things else, keep far from us the stain of sin. We want You alone to reign over us. Help each one of us to obey Your holy laws, love You sincerely, and imitate Your example, the example of Mary, Your Mother and ours, and the example of Your holy guardian, Saint Joseph.

Lord, preserve us and our home from all evils and misfortunes, but grant that we may be ever resigned to Your divine Will even in the sorrows which it may please You to send us, or in any cross You may permit to come to us.

Finally, give all of us the grace to live in perfect harmony and charity toward our neighbor. Grant that every one of us may deserve by a holy life the comfort of Your holy sacraments at the hour of death.

Jesus, bless and protect our family. Mary, Mother of grace and mercy, defend us against the wicked spirit. Reconcile us with Your Son and entrust us to His keeping that we may be made worthy of His promises.

Saint Joseph, foster-father of our Saviour, guardian of His

Prayers for the Catholic Family

holy Mother, head of the Holy Family, intercede for us, bless us, and defend our home at all times. Saint Michael, defend us against all evil that might threaten our souls. Saint Gabriel, make us understand the holy Will of God. Saint Raphael, keep us free from all sickness and from every danger to our lives. Our holy Guardian Angels, keep us safely on the path of salvation. Our holy Patrons, pray for us at the throne of God.

Bless this house, God the Father, who created us, God the Son, who suffered for us upon the Cross, and God the Holy Spirit, who sanctified us in baptism. May the one God in three divine Persons preserve our bodies, purify our minds, direct our hearts and bring us all to everlasting life.

Glory be to the Father, glory be to the Son, glory be to the

Holy Spirit! Amen.

500 days. (707)

O Lord, through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we beg You to guard this family from all danger. And as we humbly worship You with all our hearts, in Your mercy graciously protect us from all the snares of the enemy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

3 years. (708)*

O Lord, we pray You to visit this home and drive far from it all snares of the enemy. Let Your holy angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be always upon us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

5 years. (62)*

Mary, bless this home where your Name is always praised. Praise forever be to Mary Immaculate, the Virgin Mother, blessed among women, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Queen of Paradise.

O God, may Your blessing graciously descend upon our family, and may the graces and gifts of Your Holy Spirit sanctify us all.

May Your most just, most high, and most adorable Will be done in all things; may it be praised and glorified by us at all times.

Jesus, may Your most holy and sweet Name, in which alone there is salvation, generously bring happiness and blessing to each member of our family.

Holy Spirit, God of Love, give us peace and true love, in-

nocence, piety, and the fear of the Lord.

Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, watch over us with motherly care and preserve us from all dangers of soul and body.

Good Saint Joseph, through your prayers obtain success in our undertakings and labors, and abundant merits for our

trials and sufferings.

Holy guardian angels, protect all the members of our family from the snares of the enemy and from every misfortune and lead us safely to our eternal home.

Dear God, preserve us from an unprovided death and grant us the grace of final perseverance in Your love. May we re-

ceive the last sacraments worthily.

May Your blessing, O Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, descend upon us and remain with us forever. Amen.

Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, You revealed to Saint Margaret Mary Your desire to rule over Christian families. Behold, in order to please You, we present ourselves before You this day to proclaim Your reign over our family.

Prayers for the Catholic Family

14 From now on we want to live Your life. We desire that the virtues to which You have promised peace on earth may flower in our family. We are determined to keep far from us the spirit of the world which You have condemned.

Be the King of our minds by the simplicity of our faith. Be the King of our hearts by our love of You alone; help us to keep alive this flame of love in our hearts by receiving Holy

Communion frequently.

Sacred Heart, be pleased to preside over us when we assemble. Bless our spiritual and temporal affairs, ward off all trouble, sanctify our joys, and give us consolation in sorrows.

If any of us should have the misfortune of offending You, Heart of Jesus, give him the grace to remember that You are

kind and merciful to the repentant sinner.

When the hour of separation strikes and death enters our family circle, whether we go or whether we stay, help us all to submit humbly to Your eternal decrees. Let it be our consolation to remember that the day will come when our entire family, once more united in heaven, will praise Your glory and goodness forever.

May the immaculate heart of Mary and the glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph be pleased to offer You this our act of consecration and keep the memory of it alive in our hearts each

day of our lives.

Glory to the Heart of Jesus, our King and our Father! 7 years (705)*

TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, our most loving Redeemer, You came to enlighten the world with Your teaching and example. You willed to spend the greater part of Your life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the poor home of Nazareth. In this way You sanctified that Family which was to be an example for all Christian families. Graciously accept our family which we dedicate and consecrate to You this day. Be pleased to protect, guard, and keep it in holy fear, in peace, and in the harmony of Christian charity. By conforming ourselves to the divine model of Your Family, may we all attain to eternal happiness.

Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, by your merciful intercession make this our humble offering acceptable to

Jesus, and obtain for us graces and blessings.

Saint Joseph, most holy guardian of Jesus, and Mary, help us by your prayers in all our spiritual and temporal needs so that we may praise Jesus, our divine Saviour, together with Mary and you for all eternity.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be (three times)

500 days. (706)*

Lord Jesus Christ who, being subject to Mary and Joseph, sanctified family life by Your beautiful virtues, grant that we, with the help of Mary and Joseph, may be taught by the example of Your holy Family, and may after death enjoy its everlasting companionship. Who live and reign forever. Amen.

5 years (276)*

Lord Jesus, help us ever to follow the example of Your holy Family, that in the hour of our death Your glorious Virgin Mother together with Saint Joseph may come to meet us, and we may be worthy to be received by You into everlasting dwellings. Who live and reign forever. Amen.

3 years. (643)*

DEDICATION OF ONE'S FAMILY

Most loving Jesus, who by Your sublime and beautiful virtues of humility, obedience, poverty, modesty, charity, patience, and gentleness blessed with peace and happiness the family which You chose on earth; in Your mercy look upon this family, humbly kneeling before You and imploring Your mercy. Remember that this family belongs to You, for we

have dedicated and devoted ourselves to You in a special way. Look upon us in Your loving kindness, preserve us from danger, give us help in time of need, and grant us the grace to persevere to the end in the imitation of Your holy Family, so that having revered You and loved You faithfully on earth, we may praise You eternally in heaven.

Mary, sweetest Mother, to your intercession we have recourse, knowing that your divine Son will hear your prayers. Glorious patriarch, Saint Joseph, help us by your powerful prayers and offer our prayers to Jesus through Mary's hands. Amen.

FOR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

O God, who poured the gifts of charity into the hearts of Your faithful by the grace of the Holy Spirit, grant health of mind and body to Your servants for whom we pray, that they may love You with all their strength and perform with perfect love what is pleasing to You. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOR FRIENDS

O Lord, I beg You to bless with a very special blessing the friends of my heart. Give them an increase of faith, hope and love; give them a hunger and thirst for You and all heavenly things. Make them dwell in the sunshine of Your approving smile and be more and more delicately alert to Your Voice speaking to their conscience. Lead them always to the full and glad accomplishment of Your adorable Will. Grant that we may all enter into Your joy in our dear and everlasting Home of Love. Amen.

FOR BENEFACTORS

May it please You, O Lord, to reward with eternal life all those who do good to us for Your Name's sake. Amen.

O God, who, because of Your great love of this world, reconciled earth to heaven through Your only-begotten Son, grant that we, who by the darkness of our sins are turned aside from brotherly love, may by Your light shed forth in our souls, embrace our friends in You, and our enemies for Your sake in a bond of mutual affection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND FOR THE SICK

PRAYER FOR HEALTH

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I come to ask of Your infinite mercy the gift of health and strength that I may serve You more faithfully and love You more sincerely than in the past. I wish to be well and strong if this be Your good pleasure and for Your greater glory. Filled with high resolves and determined to perform my tasks most perfectly for love of You, I wish to be enabled to go back to my duties.

If it be Your Will, I will continue to bear with patience my sickness and my suffering. But if, in Your designs, I may be restored to health and strength, I will endeavor to show my gratitude by a constant and faithful service rendered to You. Amen.

FOR A CURE

Gentle Jesus, who cured the sick and laid a healing hand upon the lame, the blind and the crippled, look with compassion upon me in my suffering. If it is not Your Will to cure me, then give me strength to bear my burden and offer it up to You. You suffered so much for me. Give me grace to offer my sufferings in union with Your own, in reparation for my

18 Prayers for the Catholic Family sins and those of others, for the needs of this troubled world, and for the release of the souls in purgatory. Mary, compassionate Mother, pray for your weary child. Health of the Sick, Comforter of the Afflicted, pray for me. Amen.

Keep me, O Lord, as the apple of Your eye; beneath the

shadow of Your wings protect me.

500 days. (18)*

FOR THE SICK

Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of Your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to You in Your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

EJACULATORY PRAYERS

Your Will be done.

500 days. (32)*

May the most just, the most high, and the most lovable Will of God be in all things done, praised and evermore exalted.

500 days. (4)*

Teach me, O Lord, to do Your Will, for You are my God.

500 days. (11)

My God, I give You thanks for what You give, and for what You take away; Your Will be done.

All through You, with You, and in You, O my God.

Abide with me, Lord, and be my true joy. (29)

Heart of Jesus, I put my trust in You.

300 days. (12)

300 days. (226)* Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Your love for me.

300 days. (229)

goodness.

300 days. (232)*

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I give myself to You through Mary.

300 days. (238)*

All for You, most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

300 days. (234)

To Jesus, the Divine Physician

Jesus, Divine Physician, You have created nature and all the wondrous functions of the human body. You are the Master of Your creation. You can and do suspend the laws of nature for those who have faith in Your goodness and entreat You in fervent prayer. You promised that my prayers would be heard when You said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened." You also said, "All things whatsoever you ask in prayer, believe that you shall receive, and they shall come to you." Full of confidence in these promises, I beg You to help me in my present affliction: (mention your request).

Jesus, Divine Physician, during Your lifetime You cured sickness and disease, and even raised the dead to life, because people asked You to do so in prayer. I firmly believe that You will hear my prayers also, if this should be the Will of God. Through the intercession of Your dear Mother of Sorrows, who was so closely associated with You during Your holy Passion, I ask for the grace to understand more and more the infinite love of Your Sacred Heart for me. I firmly believe that You love me with a love that ordains all things for my own good even though what You ordain might be difficult for my nature to bear; a love that will eventually turn

20 Prayers for the Catholic Family

to good all that I may at the moment consider evil. I love

Your Heart that loves me so much.

Jesus, Divine Physician, I thank You for being my best Friend in my illness and my Companion in suffering, loving me with a Heart human like my own; a Heart that can understand my sorrows and problems since It has experienced all that I must bear; a Heart that can sympathize with me and befriend me in my hour of need; a Heart that can love me with the love of the best of friends. Like a real furnace of fire Your Heart burns all for me with a love that knows no end, because It has its source in the depths of the Godhead—all for me, as if there were no other to share Its infinite warmth. Not all the affection You pour out upon countless other souls lessens Your love for me. Even when I forget You and begin to complain in my illness, You pray for me. Even when I disappoint You by trying to shake off the cross You have placed upon my shoulders, You sacrifice Yourself for me at Holy Mass. When I have pain, You are ready to console and strengthen me, for Your Sacred Heart ever calls to me, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Dearest Jesus, Divine Physician, behold how I am burdened with this cross of illness. I come to You and beg You to give me rest.

Jesus, Divine Physician, help me to realize that it is only through the Cross that I can attain to its glory; that it is only through suffering that I can possess the kingdom of heaven. Before Your own dear Mother was crowned Queen of heaven, she became the Mother of Sorrows. All the saints suffered during their lifetime. I, too, have been blessed with suffering. This is the only way I can follow You, for You said, "If any one wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself,

and take up his cross and follow Me."

Jesus, Divine Physician, I unite myself with You as You

Prayers for Health and for the Sick offer Yourself during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and renew Your sacrifice of Calvary. Give my heart sentiments like Your own, so that through frequent Holy Communion and prayer I may become a worthy co-victim with You, holy and pleasing to God, and that all the actions, sufferings, tears, and disappointments of my life may be thus consecrated to You as a sacrifice for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, especially my own. Everything that You send me, or permit in my life, whether favorable or unfavorable, sweet or bitter-even this illness which I must bear-is acceptable to me, for I have resolved to conform myself to the divine Will in all things. You invite me to do so, for You said, "Take my yoke upon you. My yoke is easy and my burden light." May God's Will always be my will! Jesus, Divine Physician, cure me! Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.

To Our Lady, Health of the Sick

My dearest Mother Mary, I confidently invoke you as the Health of the Sick. You are the loving Mother especially of those who are blessed with a cross of sickness. Behold me in my suffering and have pity on me. I humbly plead for this special request: (mention your request).

Mother of Perpetual Help, I beg you to present my petition to your divine Son. If you will pray for me, I cannot be refused, for your prayers before God are all-powerful. With childlike trust I abandon myself to God's will concerning my request.

Sweet Mother of Mercy, I love you! I put all my confidence in you. I offer to God through your hands every suffering that I must bear, with all the love of my heart. Make every pain an act of love for God, an act of atonement for my sins, and an act meritorious for the salvation of souls, especially my

Prayers for the Catholic Family
own. Teach me patience and resignation to the holy Will of
God, in imitation of you, dear Mother of Sorrows. My
Mother, you are my hope! For the sake of your beloved Jesus,
I beg you to grant my prayer. Amen.

V. Pray for us, Our Lady, Health of the Sick.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Grant us, Your servants, we beg You, O Lord God, that we may be blessed with health of soul and body, and by the glorious intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, be freed from the sorrows of this present life and enjoy everlasting bliss. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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PRAYERS FOR A HAPPY DEATH

To ALMIGHTY GOD

My adorable Creator, I ask of You the greatest of all Your graces, that of a holy death. No matter how greatly I have till now abused the life You have given me, grant me the grace to end it in Your holy love.

Let me die like the holy patriarchs, forsaking this valley of tears without sadness, to enter into the joy of eternal rest in my own true homeland.

Let me die like the glorious Saint Joseph, in the arms of Jesus and Mary, repeating in turn each of these sweet Names which I hope to praise throughout eternity.

Let me die like the Immaculate and Blessed Virgin, in the purest love and desire to be reunited to the object of my love. Let me die like Jesus on the Cross, with the most lively sentiments of hatred for sin, of charity toward You, Heavenly Father, and of perfect resignation in my agony. Holy Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit. Be merciful to me!

Jesus, who died for me, grant me the grace of dying in an

act of perfect love for You.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for me now and at the hour of my death.

My guardian angel, my holy patron saints, do not forsake me at the hour of my death.

Saint Joseph, obtain for me the grace of dying the death of the just. Amen.

To Jesus Crucified

Most merciful Lord Jesus, by Your agony and sweat of Blood, by Your holy Death, we beg of You, deliver us from a sudden and unprovided death.

Most kind Lord Jesus, by Your most painful and shameful scourging and crowning with thorns, by Your holy Cross and Bitter Passion, by Your loving kindness, we humbly pray, do not allow us to die without Your holy sacraments.

Dearly beloved Lord Jesus, by all Your labors and sorrows, by Your Precious Blood and sacred Wounds, by Your last words on the Cross: "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" and "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit," we most earnestly beg You to deliver us from a sudden death. Grant us, we pray, time for repentance and a happy death in the state of grace so that we may be able to love, praise, and thank You forever. Amen.

Our Father.

Hail Mary.

Glory be.

500 days (641)*

Most holy Virgin Mary, ever standing before the throne of the Most Holy Trinity to intercede for your children, pray for me in all my needs. Give thanks for me, help me, aid me in my struggle against evil, and obtain for me the pardon of all my sins.

Virgin Mother, my hope, help me especially at the hour of my death. When I can no longer give any sign of the use of reason, then encourage me, make the sign of the cross for me, and fight for me against the enemy. Make in my name a profession of faith, favor me with a testimony of my salvation, and never let me despair of the mercy of God. Help me to overcome the wicked enemy. And when I can no longer say, "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I place my soul in your hands," say it for me. And when I can no longer hear human words of consolation, be near to comfort me. Leave me not before I have been judged.

And if I have to expiate my sins in purgatory, pray for me earnestly and admonish my friends to do so also that I may soon enjoy the blessed sight of God. Lessen my sufferings, deliver me speedily, and lead my soul into heaven with you so that, united with all the elect, I may there praise my God

and you for all eternity. Amen.

INDULGENCED PRAYERS

Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you. Refuge of sinners, Mother of the dying, do not forsake us at the hour of our death. Obtain for us the grace of perfect sorrow, sincere contrition, the pardon and remission of our sins, a worthy receiving of the holy Viaticum, and the consolation of the sacrament of extreme unction, in order that we may appear with greater security be-

Prayers for a Happy Death
fore the throne of the just but merciful Judge, our God and our Redeemer. Amen.

500 days. (642)

Joseph, foster-father of Jesus, most pure spouse of the Virgin Mary, pray for us daily to the same Jesus, the Son of God, that we, being defended by the power of His grace and striving faithfully in life, may be crowned by Him at the hour of death.

500 days. (477)

Lord Jesus, help us ever to follow the example of Your holy Family so that in the hour of our death Your glorious Virgin Mother together with Saint Joseph may come to meet us, and we may be worthy to be received by You into everlasting dwellings. Who live and reign forever. Amen.

3 years. (643)*

Lord Jesus, pour into us the spirit of Your love, so that in the hour of our death we may be worthy to overcome the enemy and attain the heavenly crown. Who live and reign forever. Amen.

3 years. (648)*

Grant, we beg of You, O Lord, that in the hour of our death we may be refreshed by Your holy sacraments and delivered from all guilt and so deserve to be received with joy into the arms of Your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

3 years. (649)*

PRAYERS OF PARENTS FOR EACH OTHER

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, King and Center of all hearts, dwell in our hearts and be our King. Grant us by Your grace to love each other earnestly and chastely, as You have loved Your immaculate bride, the Church, and delivered Yourself up for her.

Bestow upon us mutual love and Christian forbearance so pleasing to You and a mutual patience in bearing each other's shortcomings, for nobody is without them. Do not allow the least misunderstanding to disturb that harmony of spirit which is the foundation of mutual help in the many and various hardships of life, because woman was created and united inseparably to her husband to provide such help.

Lord God, grant that both of us may constantly and earnestly strive to lead a perfect Christian life so that the divine image of Your mystical union with holy Church, imprinted upon us on the happy day of our marriage, may shine forth

more and more clearly.

We pray You to grant that our good example of Christian living may be a source of inspiration to our children and encourage them to conform their lives also to Your holy Law. Finally, after this exile, may we be found worthy, by the help of Your grace, which we earnestly implore, to be taken to heaven, there to be joined with our children forever and to praise and thank You through everlasting ages. Amen.

300 days. (769)

O God, You have ordained and sanctified the holy state of matrimony for replenishing the earth, for mutual consolation, and as a type of the union of Christ and His Church. Give to us who have entered into this sacred relation, the grace both thankfully to accept its blessings and faithfully to fulfill its duties.

Accompany our union with Your constant assistance to enable us to live together in peace and love and in the careful discharge of all our duties to You and to each other.

Deliver us from all evil temper and from every heedless action which may in any way embitter or weaken the tie by which You have bound us together. Make us true and affectionate, eager to please, and ready to deny our own will and inclination in all things. Let not the trials and crosses of this life make us murmur, nor let our earthly prosperity cause us to forget You, the Author and Giver of all blessings; but, by patience and meekness, by prayer and thankfulness, and by the power of Your grace given us especially through frequent Holy Communion may we be sanctified and prepared for an eternal union with You in heaven.

Most Holy Heart of Jesus, King of all hearts, dwell and reign in our hearts and, by Your grace, cause us to love each other sincerely and to bring forth fruit unto eternal life. Amen.

Merciful God, we humbly beg You to send Your blessing continually upon our family and to make us thankful for all that You have already done for us. As You have made us one through the grace of matrimony, grant that, united in love of You and of each other in You, we may be of one heart and of one mind. Help us to live together in peace and holiness as faithful members of Your Church, sacrificing ourselves, and being a mutual help, comfort, and support to each other all the days of our life.

O God, Lover of families, You are our Father and You desire nothing so much as the happiness of Your children. Our happiness in the married state depends upon our living according to Your holy laws, which are an expression of Your Will, and upon our using the means You have given us for

our own sanctification and that of our children. Let us not spoil that happiness by interfering with Your divine plan

in our regard.

Father in heaven, You have given us a noble work to do for You, for society, and for ourselves. Help us to be ever conscious of the dignity of parenthood and its grave responsibility. You have made us co-sharers with You in bringing human beings into existence. You entrusted us with the salvation of the souls of our children. We thank You for the privilege of enjoying, with the priesthood, the greatest ministry in the world—that of the education of the conscience and the training of the souls of our children. Give us Your grace that we may always be faithful in our mission of fashioning their young hearts and minds according to the Divine Model, Christ.

May we be truly Catholic parents. Help us to take proper care not only of the bodies and minds of our children, but especially of their souls, by guarding them against sin, aiding them in the practice of virtue, counseling them in their problems, instructing them and, above all, praying for them. May we be what You intend us to be, so that we may fulfill our duties worthily. We cannot impart character, virtue, and nobility if we do not ourselves have these qualities; nor can we teach respect for You, for religion, and ourselves if we are lacking in this respect. We cannot expect our children to be faithful to their duties toward us if we are unfaithful in our duties to them.

Therefore, dear God, make us deeply religious parents. Without Your help and religion, we cannot meet and solve the problems and difficulties of our married life. Let our children see that we love You and our neighbor and that we practice our religion conscientiously, especially by receiving the sacraments frequently and by praying, so that they may

Prayers of Parents for Each Other be drawn to imitate our example. May we thereby attract and enjoy the most intimate confidence of our children. Make us

loving, but firm, in working for their welfare: may we temper strength and rule with loving gentleness. Help us to love our children sincerely and to be ready to make any sacrifice for them, not so much for their temporal as for their spiritual

well-being.

Heavenly Father, bless us with health and strength, if it be Your Will, and with whatever else Your divine Providence shall see to be best for our souls and bodies. Prepare us day by day for our departure from this world so that together we may inherit eternal life in Your heavenly kingdom, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

God of grace and wisdom, give us the grace to live together in holy peace and happiness. Show us how to be patient and kind, slow to speak harshly, and quick to forgive each other. Let us be like the Holy Family of Nazareth-simple and peace-loving, helpful to our neighbors, cheerful in bearing our share of the burdens, both of Church and State, and solicitous about setting a good example in our community. Good Saint Anne and Saint Joachim, parents of our Lady, bless our family life. Amen.

PRAYERS OF PARENTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN

O Lord God, You have called us to the holy state of matrimony and have been pleased to make our union fruitful. You have given us happiness in the sublime state of life in which You have placed us by a certain likeness to Your own infinite fruitfulness.

With all our hearts we recommend to You our dear children. We entrust them to Your fatherly care and all-powerful protection so that they may grow daily in Your holy fear. May they lead perfect Christian lives and be a source of consolation not only to us who have given them bodies, but also

and especially to You who are their Creator.

Behold, O Lord, in what a world they must live! World-lings everywhere try to deceive minds and hearts with dangerous words, with false doctrines and wicked example. Guard our children, O Lord; help and defend them. Grant us the grace to be able to guide them in the paths of virtue and in the way of Your commandments. We will do this by the good example of our own life, by rigid observance of Your holy law and that of our holy Mother, the Church. In order that we may do so faithfully, make us conscious of our grave obligations to Your divine justice. But all our efforts will fail unless You, O Almighty and Merciful God, shall make them fruitful by Your heavenly blessing.

Trusting in the great goodness and mercy You have shown us, we humbly ask Your blessing from the bottom of our hearts. We ask it for ourselves and for the children whom You have graciously given us. We dedicate them to You, O Lord. Keep them as the apple of Your eye, and protect them under the shadow of Your wings. Make us worthy to reach heaven together with them, where forever we may praise

Prayers of Parents for Their Children 31 and thank You, our Father, for the loving care You have given our entire family. Amen.

300 days. (770)

Almighty and Eternal God, I humbly turn to You in prayer for our children, that You may bless them and give them Your grace. Enlighten their minds that they may find joy in listening to Your holy doctrine and in following the path of virtue. Protect their innocence and guard them from all temptations of sin and bad company. Help them to be obedient to Your holy laws and to serve You faithfully all their lives so that they may save their immortal souls. May they ever please You and one day be the joy and support of their parents.

O God, give us the grace to bring up our children in the fear and love of You and to teach them by our own good example so that, when You shall come to demand of us an account of them, we may not be found wanting but may entrust them again to You, from whom we have received them, to be heirs of Your eternal Kingdom. Through Your infinite mercy and the kind prayers of Your loving Mother Mary, may we be reunited as one happy family in Your heavenly

home. Amen.

I thank You, Heavenly Father, for Your boundless goodness, wisdom, and power, which You manifest in my family. Enclose us in Your Heart. May no happiness or suffering of this earth, no temptation or trial, ever separate us from Your love or cast us into the horrible darkness of sin.

My God and Father, be pleased to grant this grace to my children whom, in Baptism, You have made Your own, and whom You have entrusted to me, in order that I may rear them in supernatural love of You. Help me to maintain and

FOR FIDELITY IN A MOTHER'S VOCATION

Dear God, give me the grace to appreciate the dignity of motherhood, which You have been pleased to bestow upon me, and to fulfill its duties according to Your Will. By my prayers and good example, may I lead my husband and my children closer to Your Sacred Heart. Make me a devoted wife to my husband and a good mother to my children after the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Almighty God, I thank You for the blessed care and protection with which You embrace my family. I humbly submit to Your decrees and resign myself to Your Divine Providence. I grasp Your guiding hand and I shall never follow my own ways lest they lead me astray. Your good pleasure shall be my happiness; Your commandments shall be my only rule of conduct. Your Will shall be my will, and Your service shall be the object of all my desires.

Lord, grant me peace of mind because of my trust in Your Providence, an unwavering and cheerful courage founded on my faith in Your tremendous love, faithfulness to duty resulting from a constant awareness of Your presence, and a firm hope of eternal reward.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I implore Your blessing upon my family that we all may serve

FOR HER CHILDREN

Holy Mary, Mother of God, help me in all my problems. Teach me patience and wisdom. Show me how to train my children to be worthy children of God. Let me be kind and loving, but keep me from foolish indulgence.

Pray for my children, dear Mother. Keep them from all danger, especially from spiritual danger. Help them to become useful citizens of their own country, but let them not

forget the Kingdom of God.

Jesus of Bethlehem, make my children love each other and their home. Help them to work and pray together in holy peace.

Holy Family of Nazareth, be with us all-father, mother

and children-every day of our lives.

I humbly greet you, faithful guardian angels of my children. I give you heartfelt thanks for all the love and goodness you show them. Someday I shall repay your care for them with thanks more worthy than I can now give, and before the whole heavenly court shall acknowledge their debt of gratitude to your guidance and protection. Continue to watch over them. Provide for all their needs of body and soul. Pray also for me, for my husband, and for my whole family, that we may all one day rejoice in your blessed company in heaven. Amen.

Our Lady of Providence, my Queen and my Mother, to you I confide the children God has entrusted to me. While they are small, provide for them safety of body, mind, and heart. When I shall no longer be with them, when the responsibilities and greater temptations of life shall be theirs, then, O

My Lady, pray for my sons and daughters. Continue to be the Mother of Providence.

Above all, my Queen, be with my children when the Angel of Death hovers near. I beg you to take my children into eternity in the arms of your loving providence so that forever they may praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

FOR THE CONVERSION OF A CHILD

Heart of Jesus, I humbly kneel before You, adoring You as the Heart of my Lord and my God. Pardon the sins by which I have offended You and rendered myself unworthy of Your blessings. For Your own sake, for the honor and glory of Your infinite mercy, listen to my prayer for grace and salvation for my child who has strayed. From all eternity You have loved him (her); have mercy on him (her) now. You want my son (daughter) to be converted and live. Effect in him (her) what You have decreed. From the Cross You drew all to Yourself; loosen the bonds in which he (she) lies chained. You have bought him (her) at a great price; take possession of Your property. Lead him (her) to the fountain of pardon and grace which You have opened in Your Church that he (she) may receive new life.

Heart of Jesus, listen to the prayers of Your Blessed Mother and of Your saints for this my child. Listen to my prayers, for You cannot hear unmoved a mother's prayer for her child. Grant me what is dearest to me on earth, the salvation of my child, and I will eternally praise Your holy name. Amen.

PRAYER OF AN EXPECTANT MOTHER

Almighty God, in Your wisdom You have entrusted to me a soul to rear for Your honor and glory. It is a great responsibility. I am proud and a little afraid, but I trust in Your fatherly goodness and the intercession of the Mother of Jesus,

Prayers of Parents for Their Children
who knew all the hopes and fears of one who expects a child.

Dear God, give me courage and fortitude when I need it. Let my child be born strong and healthy and filled with heavenly grace. Good Saint Elizabeth, cousin of our Lady and mother of John the Baptist, pray for me and the child to come.

Mary, most pure Virgin and Mother of God, I remind you of the blessed moment when you saw for the first time your newly born Child and folded Him in your arms. Through this joy of your maternal heart, obtain for me the grace that I and my child may be protected from all danger.

Mary, Mother of my Saviour, I remind you of the unspeakable joy you felt when, after three days of painful seeking, you again found your divine Son. Through this joy, obtain for me the grace to bring into the world a healthy and well-

formed child.

Most glorious Virgin Mary, I remind you of the heavenly joy that flooded your maternal heart when your Son appeared to you after His Resurrection. Through this great joy, obtain for my child the blessings of holy baptism, so that my child may be admitted to the Church, the Mystical Body of your-Divine Son, and to the company of all the saints. Amen.

CHILDREN'S PRAYER FOR THEIR PARENTS

ALMIGHTY and Everlasting God, You have called us into life by means of our parents who thereby share in Your divine power. Mercifully hear the prayer of childlike love which we offer to You for those with whom You have shared Your fatherly kindness, that they might lavish upon us, on our journey through life, the consoling gift of Your holy and generous love.

Dear Lord, fill our parents with Your choicest blessings and enrich their souls with Your holy grace. Grant that they may faithfully and constantly guard that likeness to Your spiritual union with Your Church which You have imprinted upon them on their wedding day. Fill them with Your spirit of holy fear, which is the beginning of wisdom, and enable them to impart it always to their children. Thus may they ever walk in the way of Your commandments; and may their children be their joy in this earthly exile and their crown of glory in their heavenly home.

Finally, Lord God, grant that both our father and our mother may reach a ripe old age and enjoy continuous health in mind and body. May they deserve to sing Your praises forever in our heavenly homeland together with us, their children. May they give You abundant thanks for having bestowed upon them in this valley of tears the great privilege of sharing in Your infinite fruitfulness and Your divine

fatherhood. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR HELP IN ONE'S VOCATION

FOR CHOOSING ONE'S VOCATION

God of wisdom and of counsel, You see in my heart a sincere desire to please You alone and to conform myself entirely to Your holy Will in the choice of my state in life. Grant me, I humbly implore You, by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, my Mother, and my holy Parents, the grace to know what state in life I should choose and to embrace it when known, in order that thus I may seek Your glory and increase it, work out my own salvation, and deserve the heavenly reward which You have promised to those who do Your holy Will. Amen.

300 days. (711)

For Housewives

Jesus, gentle Master who took pity on the housewife at Cana whose wine had failed, help me now in the care of my household. Give me strength and wisdom in my daily duties, prudence in my management, and patience in every trying task.

Mary, who kept the little home in Nazareth, watch over me and help me especially when things go wrong. Make me skillful in every household art. Ask your Son to bless my home as once before at your request He blessed the home of the newly married couple of Cana. Watch over our family, Holy Family of Nazareth. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, be with us all the day. Amen.

FOR A GOOD HUSBAND OR WIFE

Jesus, Lover of the young, the dearest Friend I have, in all confidence I open my heart to You to beg Your light and help in the important task of planning my future. Give me

38 Prayers for the Catholic Family the light of Your grace, that I may decide wisely concerning

the person who is to be my partner through life.

Dearest Jesus, send me such a one whom in Your divine wisdom You judge best suited to be united with me in marriage. May his (her) character reflect some of the traits of Your own Sacred Heart. May he (she) be upright, loyal, pure, sincere and noble, so that with united efforts and with pure and unselfish love we both may strive to perfect ourselves in soul and body, as well as the children it may please You to entrust to our care. Bless our friendship before marriage; may sin have no part in it. May our mutual love bind us so closely that our future home may ever be most like Your own at Nazareth.

Mary Immaculate, sweet Mother of the young, to your special care I entrust the decision I am to make as to my future husband (wife). You are my Guiding Star! Direct me to the person with whom I can best co-operate in doing God's holy Will and with whom I can live in peace, love, and harmony in this life and attain to eternal joys in the next. Amen.

FOR STUDENTS

Holy Spirit, Giver of all good gifts, enter into my mind and heart. Give me the gift of knowledge and the grace to use it wisely. Help me in all my endeavors. Give me perseverance and fortitude. Help my memory, that I may remember what I learn and recall it when necessary. Guide me in the classroom. You who are the Way, the Truth and the Life, let me not be deceived by false teaching. Our Lady of Good Studies, pray for me. Amen.

Most Holy Virgin Mary, when you bore Jesus our Saviour, you shed the everlasting Light upon the world. Mother of divine knowledge, whose merciful intercession has obtained the grace of an increase in knowledge and piety for countless minds that were unlettered and ignorant, I choose you as the guide and patroness of my studies.

Mother of successful studies, through your prayers may the Holy Spirit fill my soul with light and courage, prudence and humility. May He give me good will, intelligence, memory, ability, and above all, a spirit of docility in mind and heart, that I may act in all things according to the counsels of divine Wisdom.

Good Mother, defend me against the spirit of pride and presumption, of vain curiosity and instability. Keep me from every occasion of falling; keep me from all erroneous opinions and from all things that might corrupt my faith and disturb the clearness of my understanding, the purity of my heart, and the peace of my soul.

Mary, grant that under your protection I may ever be obedient to the directions and teachings of the holy Church, my Mother, and may advance in the way of truth and virtue surely, courageously, and without wavering. May I at last attain to the knowledge, the love, and the everlasting possession of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

500 days. (765)

FOR WORKERS

O God of the poor and the humble, who was born in a stable and worked in a carpenter's shop, look down in pity on the workers of this world. Give us work that we may keep our families in comfort and live without fear. Teach us to be content with our lot and never let us be tempted to dishonesty. When it seems necessary to fight against injustice, O God of might and right, send Your Holy Spirit upon us that we may know what is right and have strength to do it. Protect us from violence and give us peace. Good Saint Joseph, friend of the workman, pray for us. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world and King of Peace, to Your most Sacred Heart I dedicate my life in the service of my country. I consecrate to You, through the hands of Your Blessed Mother, my soul, my body, my actions, and all that I am, for Your honor and glory and for the salvation of my soul.

Preserve me, dear Lord, from the spiritual and moral dangers of military life. Help me to obey Your commandments, to receive the Sacraments ferquently, and to pray fervently. Keep my body pure and my soul holy. Give me courage to serve and defend our country with honor and dignity. And may my faith be so deep that it will make all pain more bearable and death itself a martyr's sacrifice.

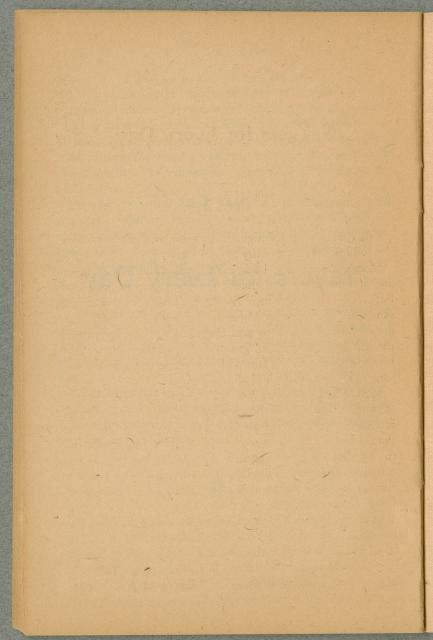
Sacred Heart, be ever with me in danger; strengthen me in hardships; console me in sadness. And when my time of service is over, may I return sound in mind, body, and soul

to my loved ones at home to enjoy the peace of a truly Catholic life.

Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our beloved country, protect me from evil and help me to love you and your loving Son with all my heart so that I may serve worthily my God and my country. Amen.

Part 2

Prayers for Every Day



Prayers for Every Day

MORNING PRAYERS

COME, Holy Spirit, enlighten my mind and strengthen my

will that I may say my prayers devoutly.

Most Holy Trinity, I adore You with childlike reverence and love. I praise and thank You for the great love and fatherly kindness in which You have created, redeemed, and sanctified me. With my whole heart I thank You for having preserved me during the past night and for having granted me this new day. Out of gratitude for all these graces and favors, I wish to love You with my whole heart, my whole soul, my whole mind, and all my strength.

My God, I dedicate to You anew my body and my soul. I offer up to You all my thoughts and words, actions and sufferings of this day, to please You, to honor You, to give You thanks for all the graces received, to make reparation for all the offenses committed against You, and to implore the triumph of the Church, especially the conversion of pagans and sinners and the fulfillment of all the intentions of the Sacred

Heart of Jesus.

Jesus, my Divine Redeemer, in Your Sacred Heart, in Your blood shed for us, in all Your holy labors here on earth, and in all the Holy Masses which will be offered throughout the whole world today, I commend my actions, as well as those of my relatives and of all mankind. I also desire to gain today as many indulgences as I can.

44 Prayers for the Catholic Family

Holy Spirit, Guide and Ruler of hearts, fill my weak heart with the strength of Your all-powerful grace, so that today all my actions may be in accord with Your divine Will.

Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus and my Mother, keep me from all sin. Protect me in all dangers of soul and body. Help me today to perform my duties most faithfully so that I may glorify God and save my soul.

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom His love commits me here; ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

300 days. (452)*

Saint Joseph and my holy Patron Saint, be my protectors today and forever, especially in the hour of my death.

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

MORNING OFFERINGS

My God, I offer You all my actions of this day for the intentions and for the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I desire to sanctify every beat of my heart, my every thought, my simplest words and works, by uniting them to Its infinite merits. I wish to make reparation for my sins by casting them into the furnace of Its merciful love.

My God, I ask of You, for myself and for those whom I hold dear, the grace to fulfill perfectly Your holy Will, to accept for love of You the joys and sorrows of this passing life, so that we may one day be united together in heaven for all eternity. Amen. (St. Therese of the Child Jesus)

Lord Jesus Christ, in union with that divine intention with which You offered to God Your praises on earth through Your most Sacred Heart, and now offer them in the sacrament of the Eucharist everywhere even to the end of time, I most gladly offer You throughout this entire day, all my thoughts and intentions, all my affections and desires, all my words and deeds, in imitation of the most holy heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculate.

3 years. (97)*

My God, I adore You, and I love You with all my heart. I thank You for having created me, made me a Christian, and preserved me this night. I offer You the actions of this day. Grant that all of them may be in accordance with Your holy Will and for Your greater glory. Protect me from sin and from all evil. Let Your grace be always with me. Amen.

500 days. (61)

Lord Jesus, I unite myself to Your perpetual, unceasing, universal Sacrifice. I offer myself to You every day of my life and every moment of every day, according to Your most holy and adorable Will. Since You have been the Victim of my salvation, I wish to be the victim of Your love. Accept my desire, take my offering, and graciously hear my prayer. Let me live for love of You; let me die for love of You; let my last heartbeat be an act of perfect love.

500 days. (104)

FOR BLESSING UPON THE DAY

O Lord, into Your hands and into the hands of Your holy angels this day I entrust my soul, my relatives, my benefactors, my friends and enemies, and all Your Catholic people.

O Lord, by the merits and prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all Your saints, keep us today from all evil and unruly desires, from all sins and temptations of the devil, from a sudden and unprovided death, and from the pains of hell.

46 Prayers for the Catholic Family

Enlighten my heart with the grace of Your Holy Spirit. Grant that I may ever be obedient to Your commandments. Let me never be separated from You, O God, who live and reign with God the Father and the same Holy Spirit forever. Amen. (St. Edmund)

3 years. (55)*

Lord God Almighty, You have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Defend us in it by Your mighty power, that this day we may not fall into sin but that all our words may be spoken and all our thoughts and actions directed in such a manner as always to be pleasing in Your sight. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

5 years (60)*

Lord, we beg of You, go before us with Your gracious inspiration in all our doings and help us with your continual assistance, that our every prayer and work may begin from You and be duly ended by You. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

300 days. (680)

Merciful Lord, You are never weary of speaking to my poor heart. Grant me grace that, if today I hear Your voice, my heart may not be hardened.

300 days. (33)

O Lord, deign to keep us from sin this day.

500 days. (21)



NIGHT PRAYERS

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten my mind and strengthen my will that I may say my prayers devoutly.

My God and Father, praise and thanks to You for the undeserved love with which You have protected me today in so many dangers of body and soul and for all the graces and favors I have received from You. This day has now passed, but my works shall follow after me. Grant that when my last hour comes, all evil may be atoned for, and all the duties You have entrusted to me may be faithfully finished.

Holy Spirit, enlighten my mind that I may clearly see my sins; move my heart that I may be truly sorry for them and

amend my life.

(Pause to examine your conscience.)

My God and Father, have mercy on me according to Your great mercy. I am deeply sorry for all my sins because I have deserved to be punished by You, the all-knowing and just Judge, in this life and in the life to come, but much more because I have offended and grieved You, the most high and most lovable Good. Pardon me, O God! I am firmly resolved never to offend You again. Help me with Your grace.

Eternal Father, I offer You the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins and for all the intentions of

our Holy Church.

God Holy Spirit, Father of love and holiness, fill my heart with the fire of Your love, that I may serve You with a chaste

body and please You with a pure heart.

In Your name, O Lord, I take my rest. Grant that my every breath may praise and glorify You. Have mercy on the sick, on poor sinners now in the sleep of spiritual death, on all men who need Your help, as also on the suffering souls in purgatory. And to me grant the grace that I may always rest in and be ever zealous in doing Your holy Will.

Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, and after Him my only hope, my Guardian Angel, Saint Joseph, and my holy

Prayers for the Catholic Family
Patron Saint, protect me during this night and during my whole life, especially in the hour of my death.

For the conversion of the whole world, for the intentions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and for my own intentions:

Our Father. Hail Mary.

For the poor souls in purgatory: Good Lord Jesus, give unto them eternal rest! My Jesus, mercy! Jesus, Mary, Joseph! Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

For a happy death: Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul! Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last agony! Jesus, Mary, Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with

you!

7 years for each invocation. (636) Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

FOR BLESSING FOR THE NIGHT

Jesus Christ, my God, I adore You and thank You for all the graces You have given me this day. I offer You my sleep and all the moments of this night, and I beg of You to keep me without sin. Therefore, I put myself within Your sacred side and under the mantle of Our Lady, my Mother. Let Your holy angels stand about me and keep me in peace, and let Your blessing be upon me. (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

3 years. (99)

I adore You, my God, and I love You with all my heart. I thank You for having created me, for having made me a Christian, and for having preserved me this day. Pardon me for the evil I have done today. If I have done anything good, be pleased to accept it. Protect me while I take my rest and deliver me from all dangers. May Your grace be always with me. Amen.

500 days. (63)

O Lord, we pray You to visit this home and drive far from it all snares of the enemy. Let Your holy angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace and let Your blessing be always upon us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

5 years. (62)*

O Lord, deign to keep us from sin this night.

500 days. (21)

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PRAYERS DURING THE DAY

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

THE ANGELICAL SALUTATION

Hail Mary, full of grace! the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE ANGELUS

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived by the Holy Ghost. Hail Mary, etc.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word. Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Let us pray.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of Christ Thy Son by the message of an angel, so, by His Passion and Cross, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

10 years. (331)*

GRACE BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts which we are about to receive from Your bounty. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We give You thanks, Almighty God, for all Your benefits, who live and reign world without end. Amen.

300 days. (683)

May it please You, O Lord, to reward with eternal life all those who do good to us for Your Name's sake. Amen.

300 days. (666)

V. Let us praise the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

V. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

Acts of the Theological Virtues and of Contrition faith

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I believe that Your Divine Son became Man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because You have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

3 years, (36)*

HOPE

O my God, relying on Your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

3 years. (36)*

LOVE

O my God, I love You above all things with my whole

Prayers for the Catholic Family

heart and soul, because You are all-good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

3 years. (36)*

CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

3 years. (36)*

EJACULATORY PRAYERS

My God, I believe in You, I hope in You, I love You above all things with all my soul, with all my heart, and with all my strength. I love You because You are infinitely good and worthy of being loved; and because I love You, I repent with all my heart of having offended You. Have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.

300 days. (37)

I believe in You, I hope in You, I love You, I adore You, O Blessed Trinity, one God. Have mercy on me now and at the hour of my death and save me.

300 days. (40)

Almighty and Eternal God, give us an increase of faith, hope and charity; and, that we may deserve to obtain what You promise, make us love what You command. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

5 years. (42)*

FAITH

Most Holy Trinity, we adore You and through Mary we im-

Prayers During the Day
plore You: give to all mankind unity in the faith and courage

faithfully to profess it.

300 days. (30)*

My God, make us to be of one mind in the truth and of one heart in charity.

300 days. (10)

Lord, increase our faith.

500 days. (38)*

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Your love for me.

300 days. (230)

HOPE

Heart of love, I put all my trust in You; for I fear all things from my own weakness but I hope for all things from Your goodness.

300 days. (232)*

Heart of Jesus, I put my trust in You.

300 days. (226)*

LOVE

Most Holy Trinity, dwelling in my soul by Your grace, make me love You more and more.

300 days. (12)

My God, grant that I may love You, and let the only reward of my love be to love You more and more.

300 days (6)

My God, I love You.

300 days. (39)

O my soul, love the Love that loves you from eternity.

300 days. (41)

Jesus, my God, I love You above all things.

300 days. (72)

My Jesus, You are Love itself. Enkindle in my heart that

Prayers for the Catholic Family divine fire which consumes the saints and transforms them into You.

300 days. (74)

Jesus, for love of You, with You, and for You.

300 days. (81)

Jesus, with all my heart I cling to You.

300 days. (83)*

Sweet Heart of my Jesus, grant that I may always love You more.

300 days. (224)*

Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us, set our hearts on fire with love of You.

500 days. (225)*

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Your love for me.
300 days. (230)

Sweet Heart of Jesus, be my love.

300 days. (237)

Sacred Heart of Jesus, let me love You and make You loved.
300 days. (240)

COC

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Preparation for the Sacrifice

I SPEAK TO GOD

(Confiteor to the Epistle)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. I come to Your altar, O God, for You alone can make my heart happy in this Holy Mass.

But before I give You Jesus in this Holy Mass, I beg You to cleanse my soul from sin.

1. Confiteor

Forgive me, O God,

For disobeying Your commandments,

For turning away from You by sin,

For bringing death to my soul by losing Your grace,

For being so ungrateful to You when You have been so good to me,

For wounding Your loving Heart,

For nailing Jesus to the Cross by my sin.

I am sorry for my sins, not only because I should be punished for them, but above all because I have injured You, my God, who are so good. You deserve all my love.

I confess to Almighty God, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to all the saints, and to the whole Church that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, through my own fault.

Have mercy on me, O God! Forgive me my sins and bring me to everlasting life. Help me to offer this Holy Mass with a pure heart. Fill my heart with joy by giving me Jesus and Your grace in Holy Communion.

2. The Kyrie

Have mercy on me, O God!

God the Father, my Creator and my Father, have mercy on me! God the Son, my Brother and my Saviour, have mercy on me! God the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier of my soul by grace, have mercy on me!

Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, have mercy on me and forgive me my sins, that I may offer up this Holy Mass to You with a clean heart.

3. The Gloria

Glory be to You, O God in heaven. May You give peace to all people on earth! I praise You, I thank You, I adore You!

Jesus, Lamb of God, Son of the Heavenly Father! O Jesus, since You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on me and hear my prayer. You are the most holy God. Forgive me and take away my sins.

4. Prayers

I pray to You, O God; for the grace

To keep Your commandments and never to offend You by sin;

To listen to the voice of Your grace;

To love my neighbor as myself;

To save my soul;

To be happy with You in heaven forever.

I also ask these same graces for my mother and father, my brothers and sisters, my relatives and friends, and for the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO ME (Epistle to the Offertory)

1. The Epistle

Teach me, O God, through this letter which Your Apostle wrote to us.

He is Your messenger.

"As a good and loving child of God, be kind, humble, and pure. Be patient with one another and forgive one another, just as our Lord has forgiven you. But, above all, love God and one another; this is true holiness. Let the word of Jesus live in your hearts. Pray to God.

"Whatever you do, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Jesus Christ, our Lord." (St. Paul's letter to the Colossians, Chapter 3.)

I thank You, O God, for teaching me!

2. The Gospel

Teach me, O God, through Jesus, Your own Divine Son!

And seeing the crowds, Jesus went up to the mountain. And when He was seated, His disciples came to Him. He taught them saying:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (From the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 5.)

I thank You, Jesus, for Your holy words. Help me to do what You teach me.

3. Credo

O my God, I believe all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because You have made them known.

I believe that the Holy Mass is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This sacrifice is not offered in a bloody manner as it once was on Calvary, but it is offered on this altar in an unbloody manner, under the appearances of bread and wine. Lord Jesus, strengthen my faith. Amen.

THE SACRIFICE

MY GIFT TO GOD-MYSELF

I. Offertory

O God, I offer You this bread in place of myself. Upon this golden paten I offer You my body and soul, my thoughts and words and actions—my whole life.

By this gift I want to tell You that I adore You as my Creator, obey You as my Father, and love You as my dearest

Friend.

Please accept this gift. Take away what does not please You in it. May this offering help all the faithful, living and dead. May it take away my sins and those of the whole world. May it save the souls of all of us.

O God, I offer You this wine in place of myself. Into the chalice I put all my joys, pains, and sufferings, so that they may be offered for Your honor. I humbly offer You all my needs and prayers and all the needs and prayers of the people I love. Please accept these gifts through the hands of the priest. May this offering be pleasing to You and win pardon and salvation for the whole world.

Come, Holy Spirit, and bless these gifts of bread and wine, which we offer for the honor of the most Blessed Trinity.

As the priest washes his hands, so wash my soul from sin, O God, that it may always be pure and innocent. Have mercy on me and do not let me offend You again.

I beg You, once more, to accept these gifts of bread and wine, O most Holy Trinity, in honor of the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus, and in honor of the Blessed Virgin and all the saints. May they pray for us all that we may save our souls and reach heaven. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

MY GIFT TO GOD—JESUS

II. Consecration

1. The Preface

As Jesus thanked You, His Father, at the Last Supper, for the great miracle of the Holy Eucharist, so now I lift my heart to thank You with Him for the blessings of this great Sacrament. It is right that I should thank You at all times through Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom the angels praise and adore Your divine majesty and holiness. I join my voice with theirs as they sing forever in heaven:

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory."

Thanks be to You, dear Jesus, for coming to us in the Name of the Lord in this Holy Mass.

2. The Canon

As Jesus prayed for His Church at the Last Supper, so now I join the priest in praying to You, most merciful Father, through Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, that You may kindly accept and bless this sacrifice, this gift of bread and wine, which takes my place on the altar, and will soon be changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

I offer this sacrifice to You for the whole Catholic Church. Grant her peace. Protect and guide her throughout the whole world. Bless our Holy Father, and our Bishop, and all those who believe in You.

Bless my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, my family, my relatives and friends, especially: (here mention those you want to remember). Bless all those near and dear to me for whom I am offering this Mass, that through this Sacrifice we may all save our souls and one day be with You in heaven.

I unite myself with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all Your saints, in whose prayers for us I have the greatest confidence.

Please accept our gift, O God, and because of this Sacrifice, give us peace. Do not let us lose our souls but lead us to heaven. Bless our gift with the greatest blessing: change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus, Your dearest Son.

3. The Consecration

As the priest whispers over the bread the same words which You spoke at the Last Supper—THIS IS MY BODY—a miracle takes place! You change that bread into Your own Body, through Your own power which You have given to the priest. I look at the Sacred Host, and in adoration I say: MY LORD AND MY GOD!

Jesus, for You I live! Jesus, for You I die! Jesus, I am Yours in life and in death!

As the priest whispers over the wine, This is My Blood, I believe that You change the wine into Your own Blood which was shed for me on the Cross. I look at the holy chalice, and in adoration I say: MY LORD AND MY GOD!

Hail, true Blood of my Jesus, shed for me on the Cross. Cleanse my heart from sin and save my soul!

4. After the Consecration

I give You Jesus, O God! He is present here on this altar under the appearances of bread and wine. He is our Sacrifice. Kindly accept this pure and holy Sacrifice. As Abel killed a lamb and burned all of it and offered it to You as a sacrifice, so I now offer You Your dear Son Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world by His Death on the Cross.

I believe that His Sacrifice is now offered again in this Holy Mass, not in a bloody manner as on Calvary, but in an unbloody manner. On this altar He offers Himself to You with the same love and obedience to Your holy Will as He offered Himself on the Cross. His desire is to wash away our sins and to give us the graces He bought for us by His sufferings and death.

I offer myself with You, O Jesus! I join all my thoughts, words, actions, sufferings, and joys with Your Sacrifice. I want to become one sacrifice to the heavenly Father together with You. I am ready to accept from God all that He may send me—whether joys or sufferings. I want to do God's Will with the same love and obedience that You offer Yourself in this Holy Mass. I know that my actions and sufferings and my whole life will be very pleasing to God because I am offering myself with You.

O God, remember our dead. I pray for the poor souls in purgatory, especially (here mention the souls you want to pray for). Grant to them a place of rest, light, and peace in Your heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

And also forgive us, poor sinners, who trust in Your mercy. Give us the grace to reach heaven and be happy with You and all the saints.

Through Jesus and with Jesus and in Jesus, may honor and glory be given to You, o HEAVENLY FATHER, and to You, o HOLY SPIRIT, forever. Amen.

GOD'S GIFT TO ME
III. Communion

1. Our Father I pray to You as Jesus taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven,

62 Prayers for the Catholic Family

Hallowed be Thy Name,

Thy Kingdom come,

Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil. Amen.

I beg for my daily Bread of Holy Communion. Keep me from sin and give peace to the world, through Jesus in Holy Communion.

2. Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, give us peace.

3. Prayers before Communion:

Jesus, who said to the Apostles: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you," give peace to Your holy Church and to me, a poor sinner. Jesus give me Yourself in Holy Communion. May the receiving of Your Body and Blood keep me from all dangers, especially from sin, and make me always obey Your commandments. Never let me lose You again by sin.

Jesus, let Holy Communion be like a medicine that will heal my sick soul and help me to love You as You want me to love You.

Lord, I am not worthy that You should come into my heart, but say only one word, and my soul will be healed. (3 times)

(Note: If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, make this Act of

Spiritual Communion:)

Jesus, my Saviour, You are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament to be the Food of my soul. Since I cannot now receive You in this Sacrament, I beg You to come to me in a hidden way by spiritual Communion.

I love You above all things, and I want to have You in my heart. Come and give light to my mind and strength to my will. Fill my heart with a great love for You. Unite me so closely with You that I may be more like You, and that I may no longer live, but You may live and rule in me forever.

O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine!

All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!

4. Prayers after Communion

Jesus, may Your Body and Blood which I have received change me more and more into Yourself, through Your holy grace. Do not let any stain of sin remain in me. May this sacrament keep me pure and holy.

My Heavenly Father, I have given Jesus to You on this altar as the best gift I can offer You:

A-to adore You, my God and Creator.

L—to love You, my best Friend, who loves me and is ever kind to me.

T—to thank You for all the good things You have given me for my body and my soul.

A—to ask You to give to me, to those whom I love, and to the whole world, Your graces and blessings.

R—to make reparation for all the sins by which I and all men have grieved Your loving Heart.

At Holy Communion You have given me the best gift that You can give me: Your own dearest Son, Jesus. When I received Him, all the graces which He bought for me on the

Prayers for the Catholic Family 64 Cross and which He offers me in this Mass have come to me.

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, for Your gift. May Jesus make me holy through Communion so that I may see God forever in heaven. Amen.

5. The Blessing

I now kneel down to beg You to bless me: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

6. The Last Gospel

Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God, the Second Person of the most Blessed Trinity, equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit. You never had a beginning and will never have an end. You lived with God from all eternity.

Iesus, I believe that You became man and were born of the Blessed Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. You offered Your Body and Blood as a sacrifice for me on the Cross. You redeemed me by Your suffering and death.

Jesus, I believe that You rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and now live in glory with Your Father and the Holy Spirit. You will come as a glorious King to judge all men.

Thank You, dearest Jesus, for all You have done to save my soul. Thank You for this Holy Mass. May the graces and blessings of this Holy Sacrifice stay with me today and every day of my life.

O Blessed Virgin Mary, my Mother, thank God for me. Thank Him for Holy Mass and help me never to forget that

HOLY MASS

IS MY GREATEST GIFT TO GOD

AND

GOD'S GREATEST GIFT TO ME.

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