



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JULY 27, 2025

In today's Gospel passage (cf. Lk 11:1-13), Saint Luke narrates the circumstances in which Jesus teaches the "Lord's Prayer". They, the disciples, already know how to pray by reciting the formulas of the Jewish tradition, but they too wish to experience the same "quality" of Jesus' prayer because they can confirm that prayer is an essential dimension in their Master's life. Indeed each of his important actions is marked by long pauses in prayer. Moreover, they are fascinated because they see that he does not pray like the other teachers of the time, but rather his prayer is an intimate bond with the Father, so much so that they wish to be a part of these moments of union with God, in order to completely savour its sweetness.

Thus, one day they wait for Jesus to finish praying in a secluded place and then they ask him: "Lord, teach us to pray" (v. 1). In responding to the disciples' explicit question, Jesus does not provide an abstract definition of prayer, nor does he teach an efficient technique to pray in order to "obtain" something. Instead, he invites his own to experience prayer, by putting them directly in communication with the Father, causing them to feel nostalgic for a personal relationship with God, with the Father. Herein lies the novelty of Christian prayer! It is a dialogue between people who love each other, a dialogue based on trust, sustained by listening and open to a commitment to solidarity. It is the dialogue of a Son with his Father, a dialogue between children and their Father. This is Christian prayer.

Hence, he delivers the "Lord's Prayer" to them, perhaps the most precious gift left to us by the Divine Master during his earthly mission. After revealing to us his mystery as Son and brother, with that prayer Jesus allows us to enter into God's paternity. I want to underscore this: when Jesus teaches us the "Our Father", he allows us to enter into God's paternity and he points the way to enter into a prayerful and direct dialogue with him, through the path of filial intimacy. It is a dialogue between a father and his son, of a son with his father. What we ask in the "Our Father" is already fulfilled for us in his Only-begotten Son: the sanctification of the Name, the advent of the Kingdom, the gift of bread, of forgiveness and of delivery from evil. As we ask, we open our hand to receive; to receive the gifts that the Father has shown us in his Son. The prayer that the Lord taught us is the synthesis of every prayer and we address it to the Father, always in communion with our brothers and sisters. Sometimes distractions can occur in prayer, but we often feel the need to stop at the first word, "Father", and feel that paternity in our heart.

Jesus then recounts the parable of the importune friend and Jesus says: "we must persevere in prayer". My thoughts turn to what children do when they are three-and-a-half years old: they begin to ask about things they do not understand. In my country, it is called "the 'why' age", I think it is also the same here. Children begin to look at their father and ask: Why Dad? Why Dad? They ask for explanations. Let us be careful: when the father begins to explain why, they come up with another question without listening to the entire explanation. What is happening? Children feel insecure about many things that they are only partially beginning to understand. They only wish to attract the father's gaze, and thus the "why, why, why?". If we pause on the first word of the "Our Father", we will be doing the same as when we were children: attracting the father's gaze upon us: saying, "Father, Father" and also asking, "why?", and he will look at us.

Let us ask Mary, woman of prayer to help us pray the "Our Father" in unity with Jesus in order to live the Gospel guided by the Holy Spirit.

POPE FRANCIS — July 28, 2019

Prayer for the Fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Theme: “Blessed are those who have not lost hope” (Sir 14:2)

How beautiful are these words of yours, Lord!
Help us to continue our pilgrimage
through time,
animated by the hope that comes from You!
Help us in this divisive world,
to bring the hope of communion.
Help us in this world, wounded by wars,
to bring the hope of peace.
Help us in this world,
which is dehumanizing,
to bring the beauty of an ancient smile.
Help us to be, for our grandchildren,
for our loved ones and for everyone we meet,
the memory of your tenderness.
Help us to bring, in a world distracted
from You,
the Hope of a new life that only You can give!
For in You, Lord, nothing is lost
For in You, Lord, everything begins again!
Amen

Oración por el Quinto Día Mundial de los Abuelos y de los Ancianos

Tema: “Bienaventurados los que no han perdido la esperanza” (Sir 14:2)

¡Cuán hermosas son estas palabras tuyas,
Señor!
¡Ayúdanos a continuar nuestra peregrinación
a través del tiempo,
animados por la esperanza que proviene de Ti!
Ayúdanos en este mundo divisivo,
a llevar la esperanza de la comunión.
Ayúdanos en este mundo, herido por las guerras,
a llevar la esperanza de la paz.
Ayúdanos en este mundo, que deshumaniza,
a llevar la belleza de una sonrisa antigua.
Ayúdanos a ser, para nuestros nietos, para
nuestros seres queridos y para todos los que
encontramos, la memoria de tu ternura.
Ayúdanos a traer, en un mundo distraído de Ti,
la esperanza de una nueva vida
que solo Tú puedes dar.
¡Porque en Ti, Señor, nada se pierde!
¡Porque en Ti, Señor, todo comienza de nuevo!
Amén

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Saturday, July 26</u>	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, July 27</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM
<u>Tuesday, July 29</u> Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus	11:00 AM
<u>Wednesday, July 30</u> +Dolores Sedlmeir	11:00 AM
<u>Thursday, July 31</u> St. Ignatius of Loyola	11:00 AM
<u>Friday, August 1</u> St. Alphonsus Liguori	11:00 AM

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>Saturday, August 2</u> +Asdreed Apelian	5:00 PM
<u>Sunday, August 3</u> For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	9:00 AM

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

XVII Domingo Ordinario

<u>Sabado 26 de Julio</u> +Flor del Carmen Alfaro	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 27 de Julio</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM
<u>Martes 29 de Julio</u> Sts. Martha, María y Lazaro	12:00 PM
<u>Miercoles 30 de Julio</u>	12:00 PM
<u>Jueves 31 de Julio</u> San Ignacio	12:00 PM
<u>Viernes 1 de Agosto</u> San Alfonso María de Liguori	12:00 PM

XVIII Domingo Ordinario

<u>Sabado 2 de Agosto</u> +Marvin Castillo Courtade	7:00 PM
<u>Domingo 3 de Agosto</u> Por la Comunidad Parroquial	11:00 AM & 1:00 PM