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BELOVED

A Collection of
Timeless Catholic Prayers

MARGARET M. DVORAK



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From the Author: This prayer book was compiled from sources that include internet websites, old prayer books, prayer leaflets, booklets, church bulletins, Mass cards, and holy cards, all of which I have been collecting most of my life. I have made every effort to contact copyright holders for permissions.

INTRODUCTION



Praised Be Jesus Christ!

The prayers and devotions I share with you come from the rich tradition of the Catholic Church. It is a beautiful collection of vocal prayers that will bring you comfort, hope, and strength while deepening your faith and love for God. These prayers are a gift from God to us—his beloved children. They are to be loved and cherished, shared with others, and passed down from generation to generation.

Included here are prayers that will lift your heart and mind to God—prayers that offer praise, adoration, and thanksgiving to our heavenly Father. You will find traditional prayers to the Holy Trinity, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, along with prayers to St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother asking them to intercede for us. There are also prayers for a variety of occasions that may be prayed in order or chosen individually for your own specific spiritual or temporal needs. Then there are prayers written by the saints and inspired by the Holy Spirit that can lead us to the same graces sought by these holy men and women when we struggle to carry life's crosses. They are profound and heartfelt prayers that will help us grow closer to Jesus.

The rosary, the Stations of the Cross, the chaplets, and other devotional prayers are presented to you with Scripture I've found personally inspiring. Praying with Scripture benefits both those desiring to understand Scripture more deeply and those who are

looking for a way to keep their prayer life from becoming mundane by presenting these classic prayers in the context of the mysteries of our faith. In the book *The Way of Perfection*, St. Teresa of Ávila suggests that vocal prayers, like those found in this book, can lead us to deep, contemplative prayer: “All prayer begins with vocal prayer—such as the Our Father and the Hail Mary—then by meditation on the meaning of what is being said, the soul will be led to contemplative prayer.”

These prayers and my accompanying Scripture selection will help lead you to the kind of contemplative prayer St. Teresa speaks about.

We may pray the same prayers over the span of our lives, but their meanings can change with our life experiences. There may be a day when you are facing a particularly difficult situation and the Chaplet of St. Michael takes on a special meaning. After praying the chaplet you may be inspired to pray in your own words, asking the holy angels to protect you and guide you. Another day, a Scripture verse or short aspiration may speak to your heart. I would suggest you make a copy of the prayer, tape it up on your kitchen window or anywhere you will see it often, and let it brighten up your day!

Whether you have been praying for years or are just starting out your prayer life, I pray that this collection of timeless Catholic prayers and devotions will inspire you, touch you, bring you joy, and lead you to love God with all your heart.

May God abundantly bless you and your loved ones today and always.

MARGARET M. DVORAK
“MARY, MOTHER OF GOD, PRAY FOR US.”

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

The First Joyful Mystery: ***The Annunciation***

The fruit of the mystery is humility.

~ I offer this decade for (say your intention).

Our Father

“In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary” (Luke 1:26–27).

Hail Mary

“And coming to her, he said, ‘Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you’” (Luke 1:28).

Hail Mary

“But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God’” (Luke 1:29–30).

Hail Mary

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High....” (Luke 1:31–32).

Hail Mary

CHAPLETS



*Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16–18

The word chaplet is from the French word meaning “wreath” or “little crown,” and is often referred to as a mini-rosary or a small rosary. A chaplet is a set of devotional prayers that honor the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Mother, the angels, or a particular saint. There are many different types of chaplets, yet they are all a series of special prayers intended to deepen your devotion and increase your faith. Chaplets have a different number or arrangement of beads and the number of beads used depends on the prayers. Most chaplets can be recited with ordinary rosary beads. Although chaplets are usually made with beads, they can be made with knots on a string or any method for counting. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Chaplet of St. Michael, the Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, and the Chaplet of the Most Precious Blood are among the most recited and beloved chaplets.

THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Your task is to write down everything that I make known to you about My mercy, for the benefit of those who by reading these things will be comforted in their souls and will have the courage to approach me.

*DIVINE MERCY IN MY SOUL (1693)**

St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (1905–1938) was a Polish nun, visionary, and the apostle of Divine Mercy. She was a member of the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland. Beginning in 1931, and until her death in 1938, she received visitations and revelations from Jesus. In 1934, as instructed by our Lord, she began recording these mystical experiences in a personal diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*. St. Faustina was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II on April 30, 2000, the first Sunday after Easter, on Divine Mercy Sunday. The Catholic Church celebrates the feast of St. Faustina on October 5.

How to Pray the Chaplet

In his revelations to St. Faustina, Jesus entrusted to her the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Jesus said to her, as stated in *Divine Mercy in My Soul*: “Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My Mercy” (687).

*The numerals in parentheses in this chapter correspond with the paragraph numbers found in the margins of St. Faustina’s diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*.

the following words: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. In conclusion, three times you will recite these words: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us and on the whole world (476).”

I have provided passages from Scripture to contemplate as you pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Each Scripture verse, along with the powerful words, “For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world,” will touch your heart and help you realize just what our Lord went through in his passion for each one of us and prayerfully pleads the mercy of God upon us.

THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Our Father

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.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.

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“Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane”
(Matthew 26:36).

*For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,
have mercy on us and on the whole world.*
(Say this prayer after each Scripture passage below.)

“He said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray’”
(Matthew 26:36).

“He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress” (Matthew 26:37).

“Then he said to them, ‘My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me’” (Matthew 26:38).

“He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying...”
(Matthew 26:39).

“‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will’” (Matthew 26:39).

“When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep”
(Matthew 26:40).

“He said to Peter, ‘So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?’” (Matthew 26:40)

“Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).

“‘The hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners....Look, my betrayer is at hand’” (Matthew 26:45–46).

***The Fourth Sorrow of Mary:
Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Calvary***

Our Father

“And carrying the cross himself he went out...” (John 19:17).

Hail Mary

“They took hold of a certain Simon, a Cyrenian...and...made him carry [the cross] behind Jesus” (Luke 23:26).

Hail Mary

“A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him” (Luke 23:27).

Hail Mary

“Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children’” (Luke 23:28).

Hail Mary

“They brought him to the place of Golgotha (which is translated Place of the Skull)” (Mark 15:22).

Hail Mary

“They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it” (Mark 15:23).

Hail Mary

“Then they crucified him, and divided his garments by casting lots for them” (Mark 15:24).

Hail Mary

Mary, Our Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

CATHOLIC PRAYERS



*O Lord, you will open my lips,
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.*

PSALM 51:17

MORNING PRAYERS

The Sign of the Cross

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

*LORD, in the morning you will hear my voice;
in the morning I will plead before you and wait.*

PSALM 5:3–4

The Glory Be (The Doxology)

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

PRAYERS FOR THE POPE, PRIESTS, AND VOCATIONS

*The harvest is abundant
but the laborers are few; so ask the master
of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.*

LUKE 10:2

Prayer for the Pope

Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd, (Name of Pope) a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care may he, as successor to the Apostle of Peter and vicar of Christ, build Your Church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love, which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life.

In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show them that they are needed by the Church; they are needed by souls; they are needed for the work of redemption.

NIGHT PRAYERS

*In peace I will lie down and fall asleep,
For you alone, LORD, make me secure.*

PSALM 4:9

Night Prayer

O Christ, you are the light and day which drives away the night, the ever shining Sun of God and pledge of future light. As now the ev'ning shadows fall please grant us, Lord, we pray, a quiet night to rest in you until the break of day. Remember us, poor mortal men, we humbly ask, O Lord, and may your presence in our souls be now our great reward.

LITTLE OFFICE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Short Prayer at Night

O my God, I thank you for having preserved me today and for having given me so many blessings and graces. I renew my dedication to you and ask pardon for all my sins.

*~ Review the day, be thankful for the good things
that have happened and have true sorrow for your sins.*

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell, but most of all because I have offended Thee, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

Prayer to Redeem Lost Time

O my God! Source of all mercy! I acknowledge Your sovereign power. While recalling the wasted years that are past, I believe that You, Lord, can in an instant turn this loss to gain. Miserable as I am, yet I firmly believe that You can do all things. Please restore to me the time lost, giving me Your grace, both now and in the future, that I may appear before You in “wedding garments.” Amen.

ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA

Night Prayer

Jesus Christ, my God, I adore you and I thank you for the many favors you have bestowed on me this day. I offer you my sleep and all the moments of this night, and I pray you to preserve me from sin. Therefore, I place myself in your most sacred side, and under the mantle of our blessed Lady, my Mother. May the holy angels assist me and keep me in peace, and may your blessing be upon me. Amen.

ST. ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

When you awake in the night, transport yourself quickly in spirit before the Tabernacle, saying: “Behold, my God, I come to adore You, to praise You, to thank You, and love You, and to keep You company with all the Angels.”

ST. JOHN VIANNEY
