

April: The Lord's Prayer (part 3)

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ‘This is how you are to pray:

Our Father in heaven,

- 1. hallowed be your name,***
- 2. your kingdom come, your will be done,***
- 3. on earth as in heaven.***
- 4. Give us today our daily bread;***
- 5. and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;***
- 6. and do not subject us to the final test,***
- 7. but deliver us from the evil one,***

if you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.”

Matt 6:5-15



To recap; Jesus, the second person of the Godhead, gives us instruction on how to address Him and what to ask for. And this is a huge advantage as to how we should orient our prayer, our worship and our lives.

I mentioned in the last two articles that *“The Lord’s Prayer”* is also known as *“The Perfect Prayer”*. Why? Because this is the only time that Jesus said ***“This is how you are to pray.”*** The prayer He gave is also an outline for how to pray. We put God first then think about ourselves;

Let’s review petitions 4 thru 7 in the prayer:

- 4. Give us today our daily bread;***
- 5. and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;***
- 6. and do not subject us to the final test,***
- 7. but deliver us from the evil one,***



In the introduction and first 3 petitions we focus on God and acknowledge that He is almighty and we are not. With the next four petitions we acknowledge that we are not God and He is. That isn’t at all meant to demean or belittle mankind, but to allow us to recognize, meditate and act upon the separating effect of sin. Restated: Sin separates us from God so we must separate ourselves from sin before we can reunite with God. That is the whole enchilada. How do we do that?



- 4. Give us today our daily bread;*** (Learn to rely on the providence of God)
- 5. and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;*** (Live the Golden Rule)
- 6. and do not subject us to the final test,*** (Live in God’s will, draw close and seek His protection in difficult times)
- 7. but deliver us from the evil one,*** (Ask for and follow God’s guidance in all things)

Sure, that all sounds easy but can we really live like that? Yes, we can and we must. Jesus told us so.



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The April business meeting is on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7:00pm. The Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, April 12th at 5:45pm. The Respect Life Rosary resumes after the 5:45 mass; please go! Don't forget to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually.

Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in law enforcement and the military. Pray that politicians have a conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all, pray that Holy Mother Church around the world can withstand the buffets of her enemies. Pray for our priests and for our new Holy Father Pope Francis.