

## ADDITIONAL PRAYERS FOR ANY OCCASION

*"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."  
Rom. 5:5*

### **PRAYER OF ACCEPTANCE**

Acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing or situation - some fact of my life - unacceptable to me, and I can find no security until I accept that person, place, thing or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment.

Nothing, absolutely nothing happens in God's world by mistake... Unless I accept life completely on life's terms, I cannot be happy. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me and my attitudes. Give me the strength to do so, Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.

### **PRAYER OF A CHILD OF GOD**

God our loving Father, You invited all people to (Matt. 18:3) "change and become like children" if we want to enter the kingdom of heaven; give us the courage to make the necessary changes in our lives to please You.

You said that the greatest in Heaven is the one who humbles herself and becomes like a child; teach us to be trusting of You, clear-eyed in our motives and honest in our loving of others.

You promised that whoever welcomes one such child in Your name, welcomes You; open our eyes and hearts to all the children in our lives. Let us treat them as if they were Your Son, Jesus.

Enlighten our minds that we may see Your ways to ensure that no child need be scandalized or hurt in any way.

We ask for the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### **PRAYER FOR THE REVERENCE OF LIFE**

*(from Sault Ste. Marie Regional C.W.L.)*

Almighty God, Giver of all that is good,  
We thank You for the precious gift of life.

**RESPONSE: LORD, HEAR OUR  
PRAYER!**

For life in the womb,  
Coming from Your creative power...R

For the life of children,  
Making us glad with their freshness and  
promise...R.

For the life of young people,  
Hoping for a better world...R.

For the life of the handicapped and the  
disabled,  
Teaching us humility...R.

For the life of the elderly,  
Witnessing to the ageless values of patience  
and wisdom...R.

Like Blessed Mary,  
May we always say "YES" to your gift...R.

May we always defend and promote it,  
From conception to its natural end...R.

And bring us at last, O Father,  
To the fullness of eternal life in Jesus Christ,  
Our Lord.

**AMEN!**



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## ***A PSALM FOR THE DYING***

Relatives and friends, I am about to leave;  
my last breath does not say "goodbye,"  
for my love for you is truly timeless,  
beyond the touch of boney death.  
I leave myself not to the undertaker,  
for decoration in his house of the dead,  
but to your memory, with love.

I leave my thoughts, my laughter, my dreams,  
to you whom I have treasured  
beyond gold and precious gems.  
I give you what no thief can steal,  
the memories of our times together:  
the tender, love-filled moments,  
the successes we have shared,  
the hard times that brought us closer  
together  
and the roads we have walked side by side.

I also leave you a solemn promise  
that after I am home in the bosom of God,  
I will still be present,  
whenever and wherever you call on me.  
My energy will be drawn to you  
by the magnet of our love.  
Whenever you are in need, call me:  
I will come to you,  
with my arms full of wisdom and light  
to open up your blocked paths,  
to untangle your knots  
and to be your avenue to God.

And all I take with me as I leave  
is your love and the millions of memories  
of all that we have shared.  
So I truly enter my new life  
as a millionaire.

Fear not nor grieve at my departure,  
you whom I have loved so much,  
for my roots and yours  
are forever intertwined.

"A Psalm for the Dying" by Fr. Edward  
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Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim.

## ***PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO MOURN***

O Lord, You are always close to the broken  
hearted, look down upon (N) in his/her grief.  
Comfort him/her in Your mercy and lead  
him/her to Your garden of joy. We make this  
prayer through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

### ***BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION***

**PRAYER:** Lord of all life, we gather today to  
celebrate the gift of (N) in our lives. Come  
among us and bless us with Your grace, we  
ask this through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**READING:** 1 Cor. 13:4-7 or Eph. 4:15-16

**PETITIONS:**

**RESPONSE:** Hear us, O Lord!

With thanks to God for revealing Jesus to us  
through (N), we pray...

With thanks for the love of Christ, which is  
mirrored in the life of (N), we pray...

May (N) always be free in the Spirit of Christ,  
we pray..

**PRAYER:** Dear God in Heaven, we thank You  
for the gifts You have given our family  
through (N). Continue to hold him/her in  
the palm of Your hand as You guide his/her  
steps in the coming year. We make our  
prayer through Jesus, Your Son and our  
Brother. Amen.

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### ***MOTHER'S DAY & FATHER'S DAY***

These special days are a great time to  
strengthen family bonds.

**READING:** 1 Cor. 13:1-7 or John 14:27 or  
John 15:16-17

**SPOUSES'S BLESSING:** God of all families  
on earth, I thank You for the blessing of (N)  
in my life. You have graced me with his/her  
companionship as we journey back to You  
in Heaven. Thank You for the gift of our  
children, Lord; they bring light to our eyes  
and joy to our hearts!

Bless our family Lord, guide us and show us how to become instruments of Your peace in the world today. We ask the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary and Joseph - to carry our prayers to You. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S PETITIONS:**

**RESPONSE:** Bless our Mother/Father.  
Lord.

Grant Your blessing to our Mother/Father on this special day which honours her/him, we pray...

Keep us in Your care so that we might live in the pattern of the Holy Family, we pray ...

For those who have not been blessed with the love that fills our home, we pray ...

**TOGETHER ALL:** Pray the Our Father or Hail Mary or sing an appropriate song.

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**MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY**

This is a blessed occasion for any married couple, a time to look back in thanksgiving, a time to look forward in faith and hope, and a time to look upon each other with love.

**READING:** Eph. 5:22-32 or Phil. 4:6-7 or Psalm 131:1-2, John 4: 7-12

**PRAYER:** (prayed together by the spouses)

God of all loves, thank You for filling our hearts and home with this love we have for each other. We look back over the years and marvel at Your guidance through times of struggle and times of joy. Continue to bless our union Lord, keep it strong so that we may make visible Your love for the world. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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*A tree planted  
near running  
water that  
yields its fruit  
in due season,  
and whose leaves  
never fade.*

**BAPTISM**

**READING:** Eph. 3:14-21 or 1 Peter 1:3-5

**PRAYER:** (N), God has called you by your name, He has made you His child. Jesus has paid for you with a great price, may you remain faithful to His call. The Holy Spirit dwells in you as in a temple, may you be filled with His gifts. We ask Mary, the mother of Jesus, to watch over you in a special way, as she guided the steps of her Son. May you bring joy, peace and love to our awaiting world; and one day, may God the Father smile upon you and say, "This is my beloved son/daughter, in whom I am well pleased." Amen.

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**FIRST COMMUNION**

**PRAYER:** Today we celebrate the wonderful Promise of the Last Supper, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**READING:** Matt. 26:26-28 or John 4:7-8 or John 15 9-10

**PETITIONS:**

**RESPONSE:** Lord Jesus, You are the bread of life!

We are grateful for the Bread of Life You give us, with joy we pray...

We thank and praise You for (N)'s First Communion which we celebrate, with joy, we pray...

May we all be one at the eternal banquet forever, with joy, we pray...

**PRAYER:** May the blessing of Almighty God come upon you (N), give you the fullness of His life, and make you strong in faith, hope and love, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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***IN TIME OF SUFFERING***

**READING:** Luke 6:17-19 or 1 John 4:18 or James 5:13-15a

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***THANKSGIVING***

**PRAYER:** In the spirit of humble praise we give thanks, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**READING:** Psalm 106:1-2 or Phil. 4:4-9

**PETITIONS:**

**RESPONSE:** We thank You, Lord!

For our family, friends, relatives and those who teach us God's way, we pray...

For our home and for the many things You surround us with in goodness, we pray...

For all creation, for sights and sounds and all our senses, we pray...

**PRAYER:** Giver of all good gifts, we thank You today, especially for the fruits of the earth and the way that You provide for our every need. Bless all those who labour, Lord, may they see their work as a part of Your creation. Have mercy on those who suffer from hunger, cold and poverty; lighten their burden and gently hold them in Your care. We make this prayer through Jesus, the true Lord of the harvest. Amen.

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***ADVENT SERVICE***

**PRAYER:** As we seek to prepare for the coming of the Lord, we pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**READING:** 1st Sunday            Matt. 1:18-21  
                  2nd Sunday            1 John 4:7,16,17  
                  3rd Sunday    Hebrews 11:1-3, 32-34  
                  4th Sunday            Psalm 149:1-6a

**PETITIONS:**

**RESPONSE:** We wait for You, Lord.

Help us to make room in our hearts for You, Lord, we pray...

Help us to proclaim Your coming, Lord, we pray...

Help us to live in Your love, Lord, we pray...

**PRAYER:** Creator of the Universe, may our Advent be a time of preparation. Help us reflect on the power of the light to dispel darkness in our world and in our lives. Touch our hearts with the warmth of Your love. May the increasing light of these Advent candles brighten our minds and hearts to be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love, so that we are ready again to receive Jesus, the Light of the world, in true peace. Amen.

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***CHRISTMAS***

**READING:** Luke 2:8-14

**PETITIONS:**

**RESPONSE:** Glory to God in the highest!

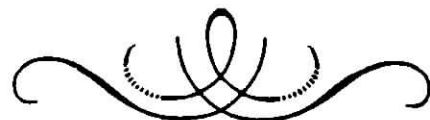
We celebrate the great gift of God's Son, Jesus himself and we pray...

May our family become more and more like the Holy Family, we pray...

May peace fill our hearts, our home and our world, we pray...

**PRAYER:** May the happiness of this day bring new hope in the year ahead and joy to our hearts today, we ask this through Jesus, our new-born Saviour. Amen.

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## ***NEW YEAR PEACE CELEBRATION***

**READING:** John 15:11-17 or 1 Peter 1:3-5 or  
John 10:20-27

**PRAYER:** Dear God in Heaven, and so,  
another year begins! Bless us with Your  
love and good health, Lord. Help us to be  
Your instruments of peace in the world  
today, teaching us where and how to reach  
out to others in the light of Your  
compassion. Forgive our weaknesses in the  
past Lord, help to grow closer to You with  
each passing day. We make this prayer,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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***Resource:***

Goodwin, L.J. Christian Family Celebrations:  
Prayer Services for Special Moments.  
Huntington, Indiana: Our Sunday Visitor  
Publishing, 1992.

