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# CATHOLIC PRAYERS

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for the Sick



These prayers have been compiled for the benefit  
of clients, families and friends  
of Entrust Care LLC and printed March, 2020.



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## INTRODUCTION

As we consider the need for accompaniment when dying or gravely ill, a booklet like this gives helpful reading and prayers for family and caregivers as well as the person who wants to pray.

In this edition, we included quotes from the Saints especially St. Josemaria to help a sick or dying person prepare well for their encounter with Our Lord.

Relevant Radio generously designed their advertisement for the app which can be used and played simultaneously with these prayers and it offers other wonderful devotions in their “pray” section.





## BASIC PRAYERS

### Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name;  
your kingdom come;  
your 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 your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.



## Glory Be

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



## Prayer to the Angels

Bless the Lord, all you Angels: You who  
are mighty in strength, who fulfill His  
commandments, hearkening unto the  
voice of His words.

He hath given His Angels charge  
concerning you,  
To keep you in all your ways.



## The Apostle's Creed

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 Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.

Amen.



## Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of your just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.



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## Guardian Angel Prayer

Angel of God,  
my guardian dear,  
To whom God's love  
commits me here,  
Ever this day,  
be at my side,  
To light and guard,  
Rule and guide.



## Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares  
of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.





## The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

my spirit rejoices in  
God my Savior





## The Angelus

*(Can be said at 6am, 12pm, and 6pm)*

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:  
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed  
art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of your  
womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us  
sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me  
according to your word.

Hail Mary . . .

And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary . . .

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be  
made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Your grace into  
our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ,  
your Son, was made known by the message of an angel,  
may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of  
His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.





## Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.



## Prayer of Trust

O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, your love, and your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to you, we shall see your hand, your purpose, your will through all things.

## DEVOTIONS

### Praying the Rosary

1. Make the Sign of the Cross.
2. Holding the Crucifix, say the *Apostles' Creed*.
3. On the first bead, say an *Our Father*.
4. Say one *Hail Mary* on each of the next three beads.
5. Say the *Glory Be*.
6. For each of the five decades, announce the Mystery (perhaps followed by a brief reading from Scripture) then say the *Our Father*.



The **Five Joyful Mysteries** are traditionally prayed on Mondays, Saturdays, and, during the season of Advent, on Sundays:

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation in the Temple
5. The Finding in the Temple

The **Five Sorrowful Mysteries** are traditionally prayed on Tuesdays, Fridays, and, during the season of Lent, on Sundays:

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death

The **Five Glorious Mysteries** are traditionally prayed on Wednesdays and, outside the seasons of Advent and Lent, on Sundays:

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation of Mary

*continued on next page*



The **Five Luminous Mysteries** are traditionally prayed on Thursdays:

1. The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. Jesus' Proclamation of the Coming of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist



7. While fingering each of the ten beads of the decade, next say ten *Hail Marys* while meditating on the Mystery. Then say a *Glory Be*.

(After finishing each decade, some say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: *O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell; lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy.*)

8. After saying the five decades, say the *Hail, Holy Queen*, followed by this dialogue and prayer:

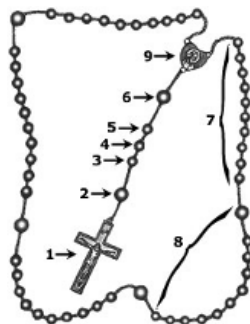
**V.** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.  
*O God whose only begotten Son has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant we beseech you that while meditating on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what we contain and obtain what we promise.*

*Conclude the Rosary with the Sign of the Cross.*

## Chaplet of Divine Mercy

The Chaplet of Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.



### 1. Make the Sign of the Cross

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

### 2. Optional Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us.

*(repeat three times)*

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you!

### 3. 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.

### 4. Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst 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.

### 5. The Apostles' Creed

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again



from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

## **6. The Eternal Father**

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

## **7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade**

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

## **8. Repeat for the remaining decades**

Saying the “Eternal Father” (6) on the “Our Father” bead and then 10 “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion” (7) on the following “Hail Mary” beads.

## **9. Conclude with Holy God *(repeat three times)***

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

## **10. Optional Closing Prayer**

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.



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## LITANIES

### Litany of Loreto (to follow Rosary)

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, *have mercy on us.*  
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*  
God the Father of heaven, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*  
God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*  
Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*  
Holy Mary, *pray for us. (repeat after each line)*  
Holy Mother of God,  
Holy Virgin of virgins,  
Mother of Christ,  
Mother of divine grace,  
Mother most pure,  
Mother most chaste,  
Mother inviolate,  
Mother undefiled,  
Mother most amiable,  
Mother most admirable,  
Mother of good counsel,  
Mother of our Creator,  
Mother of our Savior,  
Virgin most prudent,  
Virgin most venerable,  
Virgin most renowned,  
Virgin most powerful,  
Virgin most merciful,  
Virgin most faithful,  
Mirror of justice,  
Seat of wisdom,  
Cause of our joy,  
Spiritual vessel,  
Vessel of honor,  
Singular vessel of devotion,

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Mystical rose,  
Tower of David,  
Tower of ivory,  
House of gold,  
Ark of the covenant,  
Gate of heaven,  
Morning star,  
Health of the sick,  
Refuge of sinners,  
Comforter of the afflicted,  
Help of Christians,  
Queen of Angels,  
Queen of Patriarchs,  
Queen of Prophets,  
Queen of Apostles,  
Queen of Martyrs,  
Queen of Confessors,  
Queen of Virgins,  
Queen of all Saints,  
Queen conceived without original sin,  
Queen assumed into heaven,  
Queen of the most holy Rosary,  
Queen of Families,  
Queen of Peace,  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us, O Lord.*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*  
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, *that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*  
*Let us pray,* Grant, we beseech you, Lord God, that we your servants may rejoice in continual health of mind and body and, by the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, may we be delivered from present sorrow to delight in joy eternal. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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## The Litany of the Holy Guardian Angel

Lord, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*  
Lord, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*  
Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*  
God the Father of Heaven.  
*have mercy on us. (repeat after each line)*  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world.  
God the Holy Spirit.  
Holy Trinity, One God.  
Holy Mary, Queen of Heaven, *pray for us.*  
*(repeat after each line)*  
Holy Angel, my Guardian,  
my Protector in all dangers,  
my Defense in all afflictions,  
my most faithful Love,  
my Guide,  
Witness of all my actions,  
my Helper in all my difficulties,  
my Negotiator with God,  
my Advocate,  
lover of Chastity,  
lover of Innocence,  
most obedient to God,  
Director of my soul,  
model of Purity,  
model of Docility,  
my Counselor in doubt,  
my Guardian through life,  
my shield at the hour of Death,  
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins  
of the world

*spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the  
sins of the world  
*graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, Who takes away the  
sins of the world  
*have mercy on us.*

Let Us Pray

O God, with inexpressible  
providence you send your Angels to  
be our Guardians; mercifully grant,  
that we, your servants, may always  
be defended by their protection  
and enjoy their eternal company,  
through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Who  
lives and reigns with You, in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit, One God,  
world without end. Amen.





## The Litany of St. Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us. (*repeat after each line*)

Christ,

Lord,

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, One God,

Holy Mary, *pray for us.* (*repeat after each line*)

Saint Joseph,

Illustrious son of David,

Light of the patriarchs,

Spouse of the Mother of God,

Chaste guardian of the Virgin,

Foster-father of the Son of God,

Watchful defender of Christ,

Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph most just,

Joseph most chaste,

Joseph most prudent,

Joseph most valiant,

Joseph most obedient,

Joseph most faithful,

Mirror of patience,

Lover of poverty,

Model of workmen,

Glory of domestic life,

Guardian of virgins,

Pillar of families,

Solace of the afflicted,

Hope of the sick,

Patron of the dying,

Terror of demons,

Protector of Holy Church,

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,

Graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,

Have mercy on us.

V. He made him the lord of His household,

R. And prince over all His possessions.

Let us pray, – O God, in your ineffable providence you were pleased to choose Blessed Joseph to be the spouse of your most holy Mother; grant, we beg you, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our Protector: You who live and reign forever and ever. Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Litany of Blessed Virgin Mary should be Litany of Loreto (after Rosary description)

## SCRIPTURE

### Gospel of Luke 1:42-55

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

*And Mary said:*

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

My spirit rejoices in God my savior.

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;

behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is His name

His mercy is from age to age

to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm,

dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones

but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry He has filled with good things;

the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant,

remembering his mercy

according to his promise to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.



## The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1-7

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So to them He addressed this parable.

“What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.”

## The Parable of the Lost Coin

Luke 15:8-10

“Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.’ In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”



## The Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

Then he said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need.

So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.

Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.

His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began.

Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing.

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He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean.

The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him.

He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'

He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"



He was lost and  
has been found

## INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES from Saints

### St. Josemaria Escriva

"When you think about death, do not be afraid, in spite of your sins... For he already knows that you love him... and what stuff you are made of.

—If you seek him, he will welcome you as the father welcomed the prodigal son; but you have to seek him!"

"You were consoled by the idea that life is to be spent, burned in the service of God.

—And spending ourselves entirely for him is how we shall be freed from death, which brings us the possession of Life."

"Don't make a tragedy out of death, for it is not one. Only unloving children do not look forward to meeting their parents."

"The great Christian revolution has been to convert pain into fruitful suffering and to turn a bad thing into something good. We have deprived the devil of this weapon; and with it we conquer eternity."

"If at any time you feel uneasy at the thought of our sister death because you see yourself to be such a poor creature, take heart. Heaven awaits us and consider: what will it be like when all the infinite beauty and greatness, and happiness and Love of God will be poured into the poor clay vessel that the human being is, to satisfy it eternally with the freshness of an ever new joy?"

"Our Mother went up to Heaven, body and soul. Tell her often that we, her children, do not want to be separated from her... She will hear you!"

"Those who pray and suffer, leaving action for others, will not shine here on earth; but what a radiant crown they will wear in the kingdom of life! Blessed be the 'apostolate of suffering'!"

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"Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggle increases."

—St. Rose of Lima

"Without the burden of afflictions it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggle increases."

—St. Rose of Lima

"Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul except sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry."

—St. Francis de Sales

"It isn't good to let our thoughts disturb us or worry us at all."

—St. Teresa of Avila

"If God sends you many sufferings it is a sign that He has great plans for you, and certainly wants to make you a saint."

—St. Ignatius of Loyola

"The world's thy ship and not thy home."

—St. Therese of Lisieux

"One must not think that a person who is suffering is not praying. He is offering up his sufferings to God, and many a time he is praying much, more truly than one who goes away by himself and meditates his head off, and, if he has squeezed out a few tears, thinks that is prayer."

—St. Teresa of Avila

"When I shrink from suffering, Jesus reproves me and tells me that He did not refuse to suffer. Then I say 'Jesus, Your will and not mine'. At last I am convinced that only God can make me happy, and in Him I have placed all my hope..."

—St. Gemma Galgani

"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus — a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you."


—St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

"If we only got to heaven, what a sweet and easy thing it will be there to be always saying with the angels and the saints, 'Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus.'"

—St. Philip Neri

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“Death is no more than falling  
blindly into the arms of God.”

–St. Maria Maravillas de Jesus

“Today I was in heaven, in spirit,  
and I saw its unconceivable  
beauties and the happiness that  
awaits us after death. I saw how all  
creatures give ceaseless praise and  
glory to God. I saw how great is  
happiness in God, which spreads  
to all creatures, making them  
happy; and then all the glory and  
praise which springs from this  
happiness returns to its source;  
and they enter into the depths of  
God, contemplating the inner life  
of God, the Father, the Son, and  
the Holy Spirit, whom they will  
never comprehend or fathom. This  
source of happiness is unchanging  
in its essence, but it is always new,  
gushing forth happiness for all  
creatures.”

–St. Faustina

“Trials and tribulations offer us  
a chance to make reparation  
for our past faults and sins. On  
such occasions the Lord comes  
to us like a physician to heal  
the wounds left by our sins.  
Tribulation is the divine medicine.”

–St. Augustine of Hippo

“Yes, I’m like a tired and harassed  
traveler, who reaches the end of his  
journey and falls over. Yes, but I’ll be  
falling into God’s arms!”

–St. Catherine of Siena

“He who bears his sufferings with  
patience for God’s sake, will soon  
arrive at high perfection. He will be  
Master of the world and will already  
have one foot in the other world.”

– St. Giles of Assisi

“Christ’s martyrs feared neither  
death nor pain. He triumphed in  
them who lived in them; and they,  
who lived not for themselves but for  
Him, found in death itself the way  
to life.”

– St. Augustine of Hippo

For I trust, in whatever manner I die,  
that I shall not be deprived of the  
mercy of my God, without which  
my eternal ruin would be inevitable,  
whether I die an unprepared death,  
or whether I have long anticipated  
my end.”

– St. Gertrude

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## POINTS CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Heal the Sick

**1506** Christ invites his disciples to follow him by taking up their cross in their turn.<sup>114</sup> By following him they acquire a new outlook on illness and the sick. Jesus associates them with his own life of poverty and service. He makes them share in his ministry of compassion and healing: "So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them."<sup>115</sup>

**1507** The risen Lord renews this mission ("In my name . . . they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."<sup>116</sup>) and confirms it through the signs that the Church performs by invoking his name.<sup>117</sup> These signs demonstrate in a special way that Jesus is truly "God who saves."<sup>118</sup>

**1508** The Holy Spirit gives to some a special charism of healing<sup>119</sup> so as to make manifest the power of the grace of the risen Lord. But even the most intense prayers do not always obtain the healing of all illnesses. Thus St. Paul must learn from the Lord that "my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness," and that the sufferings to be endured can mean that "in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his Body, that is, the Church."<sup>120</sup>

**1509** "Heal the sick!"<sup>121</sup> The Church has received this charge from the Lord and strives to carry it out by taking care of the sick as well as by accompanying them with her prayer of intercession. She believes in the life-giving presence of Christ, the physician of souls and bodies. This presence is particularly active through the sacraments, and in an altogether special way through the Eucharist, the bread that gives eternal life and that St. Paul suggests is connected with bodily health.<sup>122</sup>

**1510** However, the apostolic Church has its own rite for the sick, attested to by St. James: "Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders [presbyters] of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."<sup>123</sup> Tradition has recognized in this rite one of the seven sacraments.<sup>124</sup>

## A Sacrament of the Sick

**1511** The Church believes and confesses that among the seven sacraments there is one especially intended to strengthen those who are being tried by illness, the Anointing of the Sick:

This sacred anointing of the sick was instituted by Christ our Lord as a true and proper sacrament of the New Testament. It is alluded to indeed by Mark, but is recommended to the faithful and promulgated by James the apostle and brother of the Lord.<sup>125</sup>

**1512** From ancient times in the liturgical traditions of both East and West, we have testimonies to the practice of anointings of the sick with blessed oil. Over the centuries the Anointing of the Sick was conferred more and more exclusively on those at the point of death. Because of this it received the name “Extreme Unction.” Not with standing this evolution the liturgy has never failed to beg the Lord that the sick person may recover his health if it would be conducive to his salvation.<sup>126</sup>

**1513** The Apostolic Constitution *Sacram unctionem infirmorum*,<sup>127</sup> following upon the Second Vatican Council,<sup>128</sup> established that henceforth, in the Roman Rite, the following be observed:

The sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given to those who are seriously ill by anointing them on the forehead and hands with duly blessed oil - pressed from olives or from other plants - saying, only once: “Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.”<sup>129</sup>

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## PRAYERS FOR THE GRAVELY ILL

### Acceptance of Death

Dear God and Father of mine, Lord of life and death, with an immutable decree you have established that, as a just chastisement for our sins, all of us have to die. Look at me here bent low before you. From the bottom of my heart, I abhor my past faults, for which I have merited death a thousand times, a death that I now accept as atonement for my sins and as proof of my submission to your lovable will. O Lord, happily will I die at the moment, in the place, and in the way that you want. And until that day I will take advantage of the days of life that remain in order to fight against my defects and grow in your love, to break the bonds that tie my heart to creatures, and to prepare my soul to appear in your presence; and from this moment on I abandon myself without reserve into the arms of your fatherly providence.

### Prayer for a Happy Death

O my Creator and Father, I beg of you the most important of all your graces: that of final perseverance and a holy death. Despite the fact that I have greatly misused the life you have given me, grant me the grace to live it well from this moment on and to end it in your holy love.

Let me die as the holy patriarchs died, leaving this valley of tears without sadness, to go and enjoy eternal rest in my true homeland.

Let me die as did glorious St. Joseph, accompanied by Jesus and Mary, pronouncing those sweetest of names, which I hope to extol for all eternity.

Let me die as did the Immaculate Virgin, in the purest of love and with the desire of uniting myself to the only object of my love.

Let me die as did Jesus on the cross, fully identified with the will of the Father and made into a holocaust for the sake of love.

Jesus, having accepted death 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.

St. Joseph, my father and lord, win for me the favor of dying as one of the just.



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## Prayer for the Moment of Death

O Lord, my God, from this moment on I accept with a good will, as something coming from your hand, whatever kind of death you want to send me, with all its anguish, pain, and sorrow.

**V.** Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

**R.** I give you my heart and my soul.

**V.** Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

**R.** Assist me in my last agony.

**V.** Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,

**R.** May I sleep and take my rest in peace with you.

This is another resource for families and caregivers.

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