

2 “So when you give something to a needy person, do not make a big show of it, as the hypocrites do in the houses of worship and on the streets. They do it so that people will praise them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. **3** But when you help a needy person, do it in such a way that even your closest friend will not know about it. **4** Then it will be a private matter. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.

Teaching about Prayer

5 “When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites! They love to stand up and pray in the houses of worship and on the street corners, so that everyone will see them. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. **6** But when you pray, go to your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.

7 “When you pray, do not use a lot of meaningless words, as the pagans do, who think that their gods will hear them because their prayers are long. **8** Do not be like them. Your Father already knows what you need before you ask him. **9** This, then, is how you should pray:


‘Our Father in heaven:

May your holy name be honored;

10 may your Kingdom come;
may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today the food we need.

12 Forgive us the wrongs we have done,
as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.

13 Do not bring us to hard testing, but keep us safe from the Evil One.’* 

14 “If you forgive others the wrongs they have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you. **15** But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive the wrongs you have done.

Teaching about Fasting

16 “And when you fast, do not put on a sad face as the hypocrites do. They neglect their appearance so that everyone will see that they are fasting. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. **17** When you go without food, wash your face and comb your hair, **18** so that others cannot know that you are fasting—only your Father, who is unseen, will know. And your Father, who sees what you do in private, will reward you.

Riches in Heaven

19 “Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal. **20** Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. **21** For your heart will always be where your riches are.

The Light of the Body

22 “The eyes are like a lamp for the body. If your eyes are sound, your whole body will be full of light; **23** but if your eyes are no good, your body will be in darkness. So if the light in you is darkness, how terribly dark it will be!

God and Possessions

24 “You cannot be a slave of two masters; you will hate one and love the

* See note related to this verse in the Appendix.



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Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray

Matthew 6
STORY



Matthew 6:9-13 (For the full story, read Matthew 6:5-13.)

9 "This, then, is how you should pray:

'Our Father in heaven:

May your holy name be honored;

10 may your Kingdom come;
may your **will** be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today the food we need.

12 Forgive us the wrongs we have done,
as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.

13 Do not bring us to hard testing,
but keep us safe from the **Evil One**.' . . ."

will desire

Evil One the devil, Satan



following Jesus

2

Reading Plan

Understand It!

One of the first prayers you learned was the Lord's Prayer. This is a special prayer because Jesus taught it. He told us what to say when we speak to God. As we see in this Bible passage from Matthew, we call God *Father*, just as Jesus did. God is our Father because he made us and loves us. We pray that everyone knows that he is holy. We pray that people on earth live as he wants. Then we ask our Father to give us food, which means everything we need. Next we say daring words. We ask God to forgive us as much as we forgive others. We better forgive others a lot then! Finally, we ask our Father to protect us from the things that keep us away from him. The Lord's Prayer is such an important prayer that we pray it at every Mass.

STORY
Matthew 6

Live It!

Here is the Lord's Prayer that we say at Mass.
Learn it by heart.

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.

Tell It!



Using the pictures above, retell this reading in your own words.

