Our Father knows best

After months of unemployment, Mike was glad to find a job but disappointed that it paid considerably less and had poorer benefits than the old one. Jen and her husband prayed for a beautiful house in their favorite neighborhood but the financing fell through and they ended up with a smaller house on the other side of town. What happened to the power of prayer?

Understand that our way isn’t God’s way. God always listens to our prayers but he doesn’t necessarily answer the way we expect. Yet we know no one is more qualified to lead us than the Creator of the universe. We must trust him with all our concerns.

Don’t set your heart on an outcome. Asking God to double your income may not be reasonable. Instead put your worries in his hands. Know that your Father has your best interest in mind and will find what is right for you.

Be open to alternatives. Sometimes taking a different job or buying a less expensive home is the better choice. You may net more personal time and less overall stress.

Let scripture speak to you. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, on your own intelligence rely not; In all your ways be mindful of him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Making pilgrimages to holy sites accomplishes a number of things: it reminds us that our faith is founded on miraculous events that really happened, in a specific place and time (e.g. Calvary Hill, c.A.D.33). Journeying to the site of an apparition or to a church holding saints’ relics also encourages us to reflect on their example of virtue and imitate them in our own lives. Lastly, “Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward heaven” (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), #2691).
Follow the Rosary to treasure

The Rosary is like an ancient treasure map. It has led countless faithful to the treasures of peace, joy, clarity, and contentment. If you follow where it leads, you'll find that a devotion to praying the Rosary can transform your life.

Shelter in a chaotic world. Leading hectic lives can fog the mind, unsettle the soul, and turn us away from God. Yet, our souls are made for peace. Praying the Rosary settles our thoughts. It puts us at ease, creating a peace that is otherworldly.

from Scripture

Luke 18:9-14, God wants only love

In this Gospel passage, Jesus compared the prayers of a proud Pharisee and a humble tax collector—which probably scandalized his audience. Pharisees were considered the model for faithful Jews, while tax collectors, who worked for the Romans (and stole a little extra money on the side), were considered traitors by their fellow Jews.

The Pharisee marched up to a position of honor in the temple to pray, presumably to be seen and admired. His prayer wasn’t really a prayer of thanksgiving, but self-praise. By contrast, the tax collector humbled himself before God and offered only a simple prayer casting himself on God’s mercy. He went home justified.

Promoting oneself in prayer is unnecessary: God already knows and loves us, and he wants us to love him in return. When you love someone, you’d never do anything to hurt them, and if you did, you’d apologize right away and try to fix it. With God, we have to call on his grace and mercy for any wrongdoing. In the end, our love counts for more than anything else we do.

Q & A

Why should I read the Bible?

The Bible is the world’s longest love letter. As part of the deposit of faith, it’s a treasure-trove of our inheritance as children of God. Here are three benefits of reading Scripture:

We encounter God. We not only learn about God from the Bible, but we actually encounter him in our hearts when we pray with Scripture. “In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them” (CCC, #104).

Packed with sound advice. Books like Sirach, Proverbs, and Wisdom have practical advice on how to virtually handle relationships, home life, business, and dealing with difficult people. If we want to know what this looks like in action, the Gospels give us Christ’s teaching and example.

It is a “roadmap” to heaven. Like a map, Scripture outlines what we need to know about God and his saving plan. The Magisterium, who interprets the Scriptures under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, holds the “key” to reading the “map” (CCC, #100).

Feasts & Celebations

Oct. 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary (1571). Pope Gregory XIII named this feast because it was believed that Christians won a critical victory at the Battle of Lepanto after praying the Rosary.

Oct. 15 – St. Teresa of Ávila (1582). Teresa joined the Carmelites, against her father’s wishes. In 1563, she was inspired to reform her order. Despite serious opposition, she founded more than 17 convents of Discalced Carmelites and helped reform the Carmelite friars.

October 17 – St. Ignatius of Antioch (d.c. 107). Successor to St. Peter as Bishop of Antioch, Ignatius was sentenced to death for his faith. On route to Rome, he wrote letters, encouraging his fellow Christians to remain faithful.

Oct. 28 – SS. Simon and Jude (1st Century). St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed that the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After being called by Jesus to be apostles, they eventually traveled to Persia where they preached the Gospel until they were martyred.