

# Prayers to St. Anthony

**The world's best-loved Saint**

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## PRESENTATION

*“Per Antonium ad Jesum” (through Anthony to Jesus) are the memorable words used by Pope Pius XI in 1930, on the occasion of the seventh centennial anniversary of the death of the glorious Saint.*

*And, indeed, this is the mission of St. Anthony, the extraordinary Saint who, in the mysterious designs of divine providence, remains even today a great master of spiritual life, a vivid example of virtue and holiness, a powerful intercessor before God.*

*We know only too well, as Sacred Scriptures and the Church teach us, that the only Mediator between God and men is Jesus Christ. But we likewise know, for our great comfort, that the Saints, our brothers, have tried to imitate Jesus perfectly during their earthly sojourn, and, living a life of faith and heroic charity, have devoted their lives for God and neighbour. Now, near Christ in heaven, they are models of imitation and our intercessors.*

*It is for this reason that the Second Vatican Council teaches that “the Church proclaims the*

*paschal mystery achieved in the saints who have suffered and been glorified with Christ; she proposes them to the faithful as examples drawing all to the Father through Christ, and through their merits she pleads for God's favours" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, n. 104).*

*What is true of all saints is true in a special manner of Anthony, who the people of Padua call simply "The Saint". He was imbued with an ardent love for his Lord, immersed himself in the spirit of the Gospel, lived it himself, preached it everywhere in his sermons, clarified it in his writings, and thus merited to be declared by the Church "the Evangelical Doctor".*

*Even today the Saint continues to be what he was in his earthly life: a light and guide for the Christian people. Even today there emanates from him a message of salvation: the message of acquiring, preserving and augmenting divine grace.*

*Whoever has visited the Basilica in Padua, where his glorious tomb is kept, can observe that St. Anthony is truly an invitation for so many people to return to the Lord, to convert, to begin a new life.*

*In the course of a year countless pilgrims come to pray before the tomb of the Saint. To him*

*they entrust their sufferings, their anxieties, their hopes, and, when they leave, they feel comforted and consoled.*

*At times it is a simple and ingenuous prayer, a prayer that perhaps needs to be enlightened and purified; but, undoubtedly, it is a way of approaching God. Frequently, in fact, the simple and humble are better able to find the way to the Lord than the wise and the great.*

*This prayer book, prepared in the name of St. Anthony, is intended to help the faithful to pray well and to participate fruitfully in the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the reception of the other sacraments. It may also serve to forge a common bond of mutual support among members of “St. Anthony’s Family” in order to help them live more intensely their faith and to become witnesses for it in the world.*

*In this prayer book we offer to the faithful the prayers addressed to the Miracle Worker of Padua and some of the most common prayers which Christians have prayed throughout the centuries. It is a treasured collection of Christian spirituality.*

## IN PRAYER WE SPEAK WITH GOD

*Prayer is directing our affections towards God; it is a devout and friendly talk with Him. It is the tranquillity of a mind illuminated from above.*

*Prayer is also a plea for temporal goods that are necessary to earthly life. But those who pray ask the Lord with a true Christian spirit to subordinate their own wills to His: only the heavenly Father knows what one really needs in the temporal order.*

*Finally, prayer is thanksgiving, that is, an acknowledgement of benefits received, and an offering of all our undertakings to God so that our prayer may be a lasting one.*

\* \* \*

*The Lord manifests Himself to those who pause a while in peace and humility of heart. If you look into murky and turbulent waters, you cannot see your countenance. If you want the face of Christ to appear in your countenance, pause, collect your thoughts in silence, and shut the door of the soul to the noise of exterior things.*

*The greetings of the angels and the blessings of God are not for those who live in public squares, that is, outside of themselves, agitated and distracted. The sweet “Ave” was addressed to the Virgin Mary when she was absorbed in prayer, in the privacy of her house. God, in order to be able to speak to the soul and fill it with the knowledge of his love, leads it to solitude, detaching it from the preoccupations of earthly things. He speaks to the ears of those who are silent and makes them hear His secrets.*

*(From the Sermons of St. Anthony)*





# DAILY PRAYERS

## The Sign of the Cross

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

## The Lord's Prayer

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.

## The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among 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.

## Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever will be, world without end. Amen.

## 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 to the dead; the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from where he shall 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.

## Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love.