

PRAYERS FOR VARIOUS NEEDS

[The following prayers are used at the conclusion of Morning Prayers or else during the day according to one's state in life, or according to one's needs. These prayers appear in prayer books down the years, from *Chl'ib Duši (Spiritual Bread)*, 1851, edited by the Great Enlightener, Father Alexander Duchnovich, also *Moj Molitvennik-My Prayerbook* Pittsburgh, 1941, edited by Father Julius Grigassy to the *Byzantine Book of Prayer* published by the Metropolitan Province of Pittsburgh, 1976. These prayers given here are from the *Byzantine Book of Prayer* pp. 55-71, available from Byzantine Seminary Press, Pittsburgh.

Prayer commending ourselves to God

○ Lord, into your most merciful hands I commend my body and soul, thoughts and acts, desires and intentions. I commend the needs of my body and soul, future and past, my faith and hope, the end of my life, the day and hour of my death, the burial and resurrection of my body. O most merciful God, who clemency the sins of the world can never transcend, take me, a sinner, under the wings of your protection and deliver me from every evil. Cleanse my iniquities, grant me a reformation of my life, and protect me against future transgressions, that I may in no manner ever anger You. Shelter my weakness from passions and evil persons, guard me against my visible and invisible enemies, lead me on the road to salvation and to Yourself, the safe harbor and haven of my desires. Grant me a happy, peaceful, Christian death, and protect me from evil spirits. Be merciful to me, your servant, at the great judgment, and number me among the blessed flock who stand on your right, that, together with them, I may forever glorify You, my Creator. Amen.

Prayer before work

○ Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son of your eternal Father, You have said with your holy lips: "Without Me, you can do nothing." My Lord, I embrace your words with my heart and soul, and bow before your goodness and say: Help me, your unworthy servant, to complete this, my present undertaking, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer after work

○ most sweet Jesus, You are the fulfillment of all blessings. Fill my soul with joy and gladness and save me. Grant that your name may be glorified. For not to us, but to your name, are forever due honor, glory, and adoration. Amen.

Prayer for Priests

○ Lord Jesus Christ, Shepherd of all the faithful: I humbly pray You to look upon your vicar on earth, our Holy Father Pope (*Name*). Bless his work and fulfill his good desires for the welfare of the holy Church. Give him strength and health that in peace he may govern the fold entrusted to his care and lead it to the heavenly kingdom. Amen.

○ Lord, remember our bishops, especially Bishop (*Eparchial Bishop*), and bestow upon them the blessing of body and soul, that, by their word and example, they may point out the way that leads to you. Amen.

○ Lord, bless and protect your representatives on earth, our priests, especially (*Names*), who labor in your vineyard for the salvation of souls redeemed by your most precious Blood. Give them prudence, perseverance, humility, and patience. Enkindle in their hearts the burning ardor which consumed the Apostles. May their lives be as holy as the truth they preach. Make them priests according to your own heart. Let their light so shine before all people that they, seeing their good work, may glorify the heavenly Father. Amen.

○ Lord, enkindle the fire of holy zeal in the heart of all priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only your glory and incite us to an ever-increasing love for You. Give them strength that they may always labor for your glory and for the salvation of our souls. Amen.

Prayer for Wisdom and Virtue

My God, by whose grace I am able to distinguish good from evil, I beseech You: do not permit me to act against your commandments by word, deed, or thought. Especially guard me, Lord, when passions assail me and tempt me against your commandments. Grant me strength against the enemies of my salvation, and protect me that, with my advancing years, I may each day become more wise and virtuous. Grant this through the grace and mercies of your only-begotten Son, with whom You are blessed, together with your all-holy gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Prayer of the Married

O my most good God, I entreat You to listen to my humble prayer: may I always feel that the married state is holy, and that I must keep it holy. Grant me your grace that I may never sin against faithfulness and love in this marriage. Foster in me the spirit of understanding and of peace, so that no strife, quarrel or misunderstanding may arise between us. Grant us our daily bread whereby we may serve You evermore. Amen.

Prayer of Parent for Children

O holy Father, eternal God, from whom all goodness and blessing flow: I humbly pray to You for the children You have graciously given me. You have given them existence, and have renewed them in the waters of rebirth by virtue of which they are able to obey your commandments and attain the kingdom of heaven. Preserve them in your grace to the end of their life, and sanctify them that your Name be hallowed in them. Aid me also by your grace that I may bring them up for the glory of your holy Name and for the benefit of our fellow man. Grant me the necessary means to this end, together with patience and fortitude. O Lord, enlighten them by the light of your wisdom that they may love You with all their heart and soul. Instill in their hearts a fear of evil so that their way may be without sin. Adorn their soul with your virtues that they may prosper in holiness and grow in your favor. And, if at any

time they should sin against You, do not turn away from them but be merciful to them and awaken in them the spirit of contrition. Give them the goodness of the earth and everything necessary for eternal salvation. Protect them from misfortune, anger, privation, and from the snares of the devil all the days of their life. O Lord, grant me joy and happiness in my children. Enable me to appear with them at your awesome judgment, and there, without fear, to say: "Here I am, Lord, with the children You have given me." That, together with them, praising your great goodness and eternal love, I may glorify your most holy Name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Prayer of Child for Parents

O merciful Lord God, You commanded me to honor my father and mother, and gave an example of obedience in your own earthy life. I humbly beseech You to hear my prayer and have mercy on my parents, Protect them from every evil, danger, and sickness. Grant them health, and in your mercy, pour out upon them your bountiful blessings. Bless their efforts and deeds. Have mercy on them according to your great mercy, that they may faithfully serve You, and that, through them, I also may be worthy to praise and serve You. Amen.

Prayer of an Orphan

O most merciful God, You preserve the life of every creature by your gracious providence. You never forsake even the smallest of creatures. I humbly entreat You not to withdraw from me. In your unfathomable decree, my parents have departed this life and I am deprived of their care and protection. O heavenly Father, take me under your care and be my protector. Console my afflicted heart by your care, and strengthen me by patience in my needs. Awaken pity in the hearts of my relatives and friends that they may give a helping hand. Preserve me from affliction, misfortune, harm, and suffering. O God, bless my protectors, instructors, and all my benefactors. Grant my departed parents the remission of their sins and the attainment of your kingdom. For it belongs to You to love

and save us, O Lord, and I glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Prayer for the Sick

O holy Father, Physician of souls and bodies, You sent your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to heal every infirmity and to deliver us from death. Heal your servant *(Name)* of every spiritual and bodily ill which afflicts him *(her)*. Restore him *(her)* by the grace of your Christ through the prayers of our most holy Lady, the Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, and of all your saints. For You, our God, are the Fountain of healing, and we glorify You together with your only-begotten Son, and your consubstantial Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Prayer for a Happy Death

O my Lord and Savior, strengthen me in my last hour by the powerful armor of your Holy Mysteries and the fragrance of your consolation. Let your absolving words be said over me, and let the holy oil anoint and seal me. Give me your Body and Blood to be my food and drink. Let your holy Mother come to me, and my guardian Angel bring me peace. Let your glorious Saints and my own Patron, Saint *(Name)*, look upon me that, in and through them, I may die, as also I desire to live, in your faith and love and united to your Church. Amen.

Prayer for the Departed

O God of spirits and of all flesh, you trampled death and broke the power of the devil and granted life to your world. Now grant rest, O Lord, to the soul[s] of your departed servant[s] *(Name[s])*, in a place of light, joy, and peace where there is no pain, sorrow, nor mourning. As a good and loving God, forgive every sin committed by *(him-her-them)* in word, deed, or thought, since there is no one who lives and does not sin. You alone are without sin; your justice is eternal justice; and your word is truth. For you, O Christ our God, are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of your departed servant[s] *(Name[s])*, and we give glory to you, with your eternal

Father, and your all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Prayer for a Deceased Child

O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, You promised to grant the kingdom of heaven to those born of water and the Spirit, who came to you in innocence for You said: “Let the little children come to Me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” We humbly beseech You to grant to your servant, the innocent child, *(Name)*, who has departed from us, the inheritance of your kingdom according to your truthful promise. Grant that we also live in innocence, and, attaining a Christian end of our lives, may dwell with all the saints in your heavenly court. For You are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of all your servants, and of your departed servant, the child *(Name)*, O Christ our God, and we glorify You, together with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Prayer in Time of Mourning

O Lord, You are the joy and solace of the afflicted and the shield of the faint-hearted. In your compassion, comfort those who are in mourning. Give rest in the bosom of Abraham to your servant[s] *(Name)* who died in the hope of rising to eternal life. For You are a gracious God and You love mankind, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.



Prayer to our Lady of Mariapoch

[This icon of the Mother of God was written by Stefan Papp, the brother of the parish priest of the village of Povch, in the kingdom of Hungary. It shed tears for the first time November 14, 1696, and again December 8 to 19, 1696. The Emperor Leopold had this icon transferred to Saint Stephen Cathedral, Vienna where it remains to this day. A replacement copy was made for the church at the village, now renamed Mariapovch. This copy also shed tears August 1, 2, 3, 1715 and the most recent occasion in December, 1905.]

O most blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of mercy, adorned with miracles, whose icon shed tears at the place of your mercy in Mariapoch: we who honor you humbly beseech your motherly care. Save our country from all its enemies, protect the Church, and join all in one faith that, at last, the words of Christ may be fulfilled: “There shall be one fold and one shepherd.” Do not deny us your intercession, but obtain for us peaceful times, health for our bodies and peace for our souls. Obtain for us the grace that our last hour may find us in the Christian faith and in the state of grace, so that we may gain eternal salvation. Amen.



Prayer to our Mother of Perpetual Help

[In response to the request of Mother Macrina, Pope Pius XI ordered a copy of the Icon of our Lady of Perpetual Help made in 1935 for the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great at Mt. St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA with the instruction to foster devotion to the Mother of God under this title. The icon has formed the focus of the annual Labor Day weekend pilgrimage ever since then.]

○ Mother of Perpetual Help: with the greatest of confidence I approach you to implore your aid. You have seen the wounds of your Son and his blood shed for our salvation. You know how He desires our salvation. Because of this, I kneel before you and beseech you to obtain for me the mercy of which I stand in such great need. O Mary, most amiable among women, obtain the favor I seek from Jesus, the source of all good. O Mother of Perpetual Help, I do not trust in my own merits but in your powerful intercession. I trust in your goodness and in your motherly love. For the love that you have for Jesus, your Son and my Savior; for the love of the souls faithful to you; and for the sake of your love for my soul: obtain for me all the graces and favors I ask of you. Amen.

Prayer to St. Nicholas of Myra

O Saint Nicholas, bountiful father and special patron of our Byzantine Catholic Church: you are a shepherd and teacher to all who invoke your protection, and who, by devout prayer, call upon you for aid. Hasten and save the flock of Christ from ravenous wolves; and by your holy prayers protect all Christians and save them from worldly disturbances, earthquakes, attacks from abroad, from internal strife, from famine, flood, fire, sword, and sudden death. As you had mercy on those three men in prison and saved them from the king's wrath, now also have mercy on me who by word, deed, and thought have sunk into the darkness of sin. Save me from the just anger of God, and from eternal punishment. Through your intercession and aid, as well as through your own mercy and grace, may Christ our God allow me to lead a tranquil and sinless life, and save me from standing at "his left," but deem me worthy to stand at "his right" with all the saints. Amen.

Prayer to Ss. Cyril and Methodius

O holy Apostles to the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius: you led our forefathers, and us with them, from the darkness of pagan error to the light of the True Faith of Christ, and now you rejoice with Christ in heaven. Sincerely, we rejoice in your glory, with which God has rewarded your untiring zeal, and we humbly thank Him for the great gift of Christianity which our heavenly Father has bestowed upon us through your efforts. Intercede with God for us, who are unworthy descendants of Adam, that He may strengthen us in the True Faith, which you preached to our forefathers. Amen.

Prayers in Time of Illness

Almighty Master, Physician of our souls and bodies, who both humble and uplift, who chastise and heal: visit me with your mercy in my time of illness. Stretch forth your arm that is full of health and healing, and heal me, and allow me to leave my sick-bed. Banish my weakness and pains, heal my wounds, quench my fever, and prevent a relapse. If I am guilty of sins or transgressions, loose, remit, and forgive them for the sake of your love toward

mankind. Yes, O Lord, pity me, your creature, through Christ Jesus our Lord with whom You are blessed, and through your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, Holy King: You do not wish our death as a chastisement. You lift up those who have fallen. You raise those who have been cast down, and You ease the physical ills of mankind. I beseech You, my God, have mercy on me, your servant, and heal my soul and body. Cleanse and banish every suffering, disease, illness and weakness of body and soul. Send down, O Lord, your healing power from heaven; strengthen my body, diminish my fever, alleviate my suffering, and banish every hidden ailment. Be a physician to your servant, raise me from my sick-bed and restore my health. Grant that I may always please You by doing your will. For only You can be all-merciful and save us, O God, and to You we glorify, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

O Lord, our God, your word alone healed both chronic disease and passing sickness. You also cured the mother-in-law of Peter of her fever. You chastise with pity, and You heal according to your goodness, and You can banish every illness and weakness. Now, O Lord, also relieve me, your servant; cure me of the sickness which oppresses me; lift me up from my sick-bed and send down your mercy upon me; and grant me health and a complete cure. For You are the Physician of our souls and bodies, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

(In time of fever)

O Lord Jesus Christ, our God, You are a River flowing in a desert, and the Shadow of a great rock in a sun-scorching land. At the prayerful request of your apostle Peter, You dispelled the fever of his mother-in-law. I now beseech You: hear my supplication for the remission of my sins, and in your compassion, ease the pain, subdue the fever of my ailment, and let me find refuge in You. With your omnipotent right hand, quench the fire within me, ease my pain, and in your mercy, raise me from my sick-bed. For You are a merciful God and the Lover of mankind, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Prayer for a Sick Child

O Lord Jesus Christ, who came into this world as an infant, and though truly God, were subject to your earthly parents: grant that your child, *(Name)*, bear cheerfully whatever You are pleased that he *(she)* should bear, and also grant ready obedience to those whom You have set over him *(her)*. Yes, O Lord, Son of God, deign to send your holy Angel from heaven to guard, cherish, protect, visit, and defend this your child *(Name)*, sick in his *(her)* tender years. Stretch forth your holy right hand upon him *(her)* that, restored to vigorous health, he *(she)* may reach the fullness of years and serve You faithfully and gratefully all his *(her)* life and become an heir to your kingdom. For You are the Physician of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Thanksgiving for Recovery

O Lord Jesus Christ, the Life and Strength of all who place their trust in You: your mercies are numberless and the treasury of your goodness is infinite. I thank You for the blessings which You have bestowed upon me, and I humbly beseech You to restore my bodily health, so now endow my soul with all heavenly graces and perseverance in good works. Prepare me by your blessings in this life for the enjoyment of eternal happiness in the life to come. For to You are due all glory, thanksgiving, and adoration, together with your eternal Father and your all-holy, gracious and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Blessing of a House

We fervently implore You, O Almighty God, in behalf of this house, those who dwell in it and all it contains: bless and sanctify it, and cause every kind of goodness to multiply in it. O Lord, grant to your servants an abundance of the dew from heaven and of the bounties of earth, and, through your mercy, bring all their desires to a good conclusion. Deign to bless and sanctify this home by your entrance, as You blessed the home of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Let the angels reflecting your glory dwell also within the

walls of this house, protecting those who live in it. For You are a merciful God who loves mankind, and we glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Prayer before a Journey

○ Lord, our God, Jesus Christ, the true and living Way, who deigned to journey into Egypt with Joseph and Mary, and who accompanied Luke and Cleophas to Emmaus: we humbly pray, O all-holy Master, that You accompany us with your grace on our journey. Send us, as You sent to Tobias, a guardian angel, preserving and delivering us from every evil assault of visible and invisible enemies. Direct us toward the fulfillment of your commandments. Preserve us in peace, happiness, and health. Grant us the fulfillment of our good intentions which are for your glory and in accordance with your good pleasure. Let us return in safety and peace, for to You it belongs to show mercy and to save us all who give glory to You, and to your eternal Father, and to your all-holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever. Amen.