

Praying for the Church Militant The Church on Earth

You can do this prayer as often as you wish.

Step 1. To strengthen your prayer, ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to join you.

Holy Mary, Our Lady of Fatima, with renewed gratitude for your maternal presence, I join my voice to all generations who call you blessed. Hold my life in your arms: Ask the Lord to bless and strengthen my every desire for good; revive and nourish my faith; sustain and enlighten my hope; awaken and animate charity within me; guide me along the path of holiness. Ever-Virgin Mary, bring me under your protection and entrust me to your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Step 2. Prepare your heart for the blessing. Read/pray one (or more) of the following:

A. Hebrews 4:12-13: Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. No creature is concealed from Him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must render an account.

Or

B. Isaiah 55:10-11: Yet just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but shall do what pleases Me, achieving the end for which I sent it.

Or

C. Matthew 7:7-8: “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Step 3. From the depths of your heart, pray this short prayer in italics below and then pray one or both of the psalms that follow it.

O God Almighty, King of the Universe, I love You, praise You, and adore You. I pray Your Word into the Church Militant. For years now, it seems that certain leaders in our Church have been influenced politically and by defective ideologies, and are not safeguarding the deposit of faith. Instead of wasting time complaining and possibly falling into gossip, I choose to pray for the Church on earth right now! I pray for her full restoration and unity in the truth. I lift up this prayer to You through Mary's Immaculate Heart, with St. Michael, St. Joseph, my Guardian Angel, and (name some of your favorite saints).

Psalm 74

- 1 O God, why do You cast us off forever? Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?
- 2 Remember Your congregation, which You acquired long ago, which You redeemed to be the tribe of Your heritage. Remember Mount Zion, where You came to dwell.
- 3 Direct Your steps to the perpetual ruins; the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary.
- 4 Your foes have roared within Your holy place; they set up their emblems there.
- 5 At the upper entrance they hacked the wooden trellis with axes.
- 6 And then, with hatchets and hammers, they smashed all its carved work.
- 7 They set Your sanctuary on fire; they desecrated the dwelling place of Your name, bringing it to the ground.
- 8 They said to themselves, “We will utterly subdue them”; they burned all the meeting places of God in the land.
- 9 We do not see our emblems; there is no longer any prophet, and there is no one among us who knows how long.
- 10 How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile Your name forever?
- 11 Why do You hold back your hand; why do You keep Your hand in Your bosom?
- 12 Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the earth.
- 13 You divided the sea by Your might; You broke the heads of the dragons in the waters.
- 14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan; You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.
- 15 You cut openings for springs and torrents; You dried up ever-flowing streams.

→

- 16** Yours is the day, Yours also the night; You established the luminaries and the sun.
- 17** You have fixed all the bounds of the earth; You made summer and winter.
- 18** Remember this, O Lord, how the enemy scoffs, and an impious people reviles Your name.
- 19** Do not deliver the soul of Your dove to the wild animals; do not forget the life of Your poor forever.
- 20** Have regard for Your covenant, for the dark places of the land are full of the haunts of violence.
- 21** Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame; let the poor and needy praise Your name.
- 22** Rise up, O God, plead Your cause; remember how the impious scoff at You all day long.
- 23** Do not forget the clamor of Your foes, the uproar of Your adversaries that goes up continually.

Psalm 79

- 1** O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance; they have defiled Your holy temple; they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
- 2** They have given the bodies of Your servants to the birds of the air for food, the flesh of Your faithful to the wild animals of the earth.
- 3** They have poured out their blood like water all around Jerusalem, and there was no one to bury them.
- 4** We have become a taunt to our neighbors, mocked and derided by those around us.
- 5** How long, O Lord? Will You be angry forever? Will Your jealous wrath burn like fire?
- 6** Pour out Your anger on the nations that do not know You, and on the kingdoms that do not call on Your name.
- 7** For they have devoured Jacob and laid waste his habitation.
- 8** Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let Your compassion come speedily to meet us, for we are brought very low.
- 9** Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for Your name's sake.
- 10** Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of Your servants be known among the nations before our eyes.
- 11** Let the groans of the prisoners come before You; according to Your great power preserve those doomed to die.
- 12** Return sevenfold into the bosom of our neighbors the taunts with which they taunted You, O Lord!

- 13** Then we Your people, the flock of Your pasture, will give thanks to You forever; from generation to generation we will recount Your praise.

[You can always choose one of your favorite passages from the Bible.]

Notes:

-General comments:

-(1) There are 150 psalms. Some of them contain complaining. They teach us how to complain properly. The people state the problems; then they ask God for help because they hope in Him.

-(2) Most of the psalms were written between 1020 B.C. to 580 B.C., but they still apply today. Notice that Psalms 74 and 79 can be prayed for the Church Militant of today. Wherever you see the words and phrases such as "congregation," "the tribe of Your heritage," "meeting places of God," "sanctuary," "Mount Zion," "Jacob" and "Jerusalem," you can substitute in your mind "Catholic Church."

-(3) Jesus prayed all the psalms. So did the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. We imitate them. This is part of our Sacred Tradition. All bishops, priests, and deacons are required to pray certain psalms daily. The psalms are powerful!

-Ps 74:1. At times it seems that God has abandoned us. We wait for answers as we pray.

-Ps 74:3-4. So many of our Catholic churches are closing and being sold. A certain number of our open churches around the world have irreverent Masses and even secular banners. Some of the preaching is heretical and watered down.

-Ps 74:5-6. Some leaders have eliminated their original sacred elegance of their churches and taken away many beautiful statues.

-Ps 74:12-17. But God has power over all His creation, including the demons (vv. 13-14) who influence people to do foolish things.

-Ps 74:18-23. This is our plea today!

-Ps 79:1-3. Think about all the nations around the world that are attacking the Catholic Church. Think about how many Christians are being martyred each day for their faith and the number of abortions that are being performed.

-Ps 79:4. Our own government is mocking us. Even our so-called Catholic relatives and acquaintances mock us, as we try to be faithful.

-Ps 79:8-13. Again, this is our plea today!