



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
October 19, 2025

Keep at It

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

We ask something of God because we recognize that we are needy and unable to meet the need for which we plead. This itself is a good prayer because it acknowledges our human limitation, an acknowledgment that might be very difficult for us to voice. Such prayer is also an admission of our dependence on God and our trust in God's loving care. A prayer of petition can be profound. However, what are we to do when our request is not realized? Do we ask again? And, if so, how many times? If it is never realized, do we stop asking? This is precisely the issue in today's readings.

Sunday Readings

Exodus 17:8–13

Moses' hands, however, grew tired.... Aaron and Hur supported his hands...so that his hands remained steady until sunset.

2 Timothy 3:14–4:2

Proclaim the word; be persistent.

Luke 18:1–8

[Jesus] told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.

Moses held his hands up in prayer, and he grew tired. His prayer addressed a community need—victory over the Amalekites—and two leaders of the community assisted him so that the plea for help could continue until victory was won.

The gospel passage tells a story about a woman whose need of justice made her bold. As a widow in a patriarchal society, she had no husband to speak on her behalf. She had to plead her own case again and again until a just decision was delivered. The moral of these stories is clear: Keep at it!

What happens when our prayer does not seem to be answered? It is still a good prayer, acknowledging our fundamental need and God's loving care of us. The moral of our story is the same: Trust and keep at it! †



When our prayer does not seem to be answered, it is still a good prayer.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Peace...is the first gift of Christ: "My peace I give to you" (John 14:27). It engages and challenges each of us.... Peace is built in the heart and from the heart, by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words. For words, too, not only weapons, can wound and even kill.

AUDIENCE OF THE HOLY FATHER,
ROME, MAY 16, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION REFLECTION

- Am I as persistent in prayer as I am in pursuing other life goals?
- What would help my prayer life?



A Novena—Don't Break the Streak!

Paige Byrne Shortal

Just before his ascension into heaven, Jesus instructed the apostles to remain in Jerusalem and “wait for ‘the promise of the Father’ about which you have heard me speak” (Acts 1:4). That promise was the Holy Spirit. After Jesus was “lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight” (Acts 1:9), the apostles did as they were instructed and returned to Jerusalem. There, along with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, and about 120 other men and women, they went to an upper room and devoted themselves to prayer, waiting for the promised Spirit. They prayed for nine days; on the tenth day, the feast of Pentecost, the promise of God was fulfilled as the Spirit descended upon them all. This was the first novena.

The word “novena” is from the Latin, meaning “ninefold.” Typically, a novena is prayed for nine consecutive days, but it can also be nine consecutive weeks on the same day of the week. Making a novena helps us persevere in prayer. It’s a kind of holy “streak,” motivating us to keep a promise. “Don’t break the streak” is a familiar refrain to those who are fans of Duolingo or Wordle or those who are trying to form a good habit like regularly exercising or journaling or visiting a loved one once a week.

To pray a novena, it’s best to decide on a particular time of day and, if possible, a particular place to pray where you won’t be interrupted. If you are journaling, keep your notebook or laptop or phone (silenced, please!) nearby. Get quiet. Settle down. Begin with the sign of the cross, a moment of silence, and the opening prayer. Then turn to that day’s meditation. Afterward, give yourself a little time to think about what you have read, then end with an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be. Pray for perseverance and don’t break the streak!

They went to an upper room and devoted themselves to prayer.

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Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “The Power and Benefits of Meditative Prayer” by Gregory P. Knapik, PhD

We are blessed with powerful meditative prayers, the most common and deeply enriching being the rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Others include novenas, litanies, and the tradition of *lectio divina*. Meditative prayer can provide comfort, solace, and sanctuary in our fragmented, too-often hectic and stressed-out lives. It doesn’t require tons of time—it takes minutes, not hours—and everyone can benefit from it. Cradle Catholics may recall being told as a child to say the rosary, and they might have thought, *No way! Fifty Hail Marys, six Our Fathers, the Creed! It’s too long and boring! Isn’t one Hail Mary enough?* After many years on my faith journey, I now realize I was way off the mark. Praying the rosary is no dreary duty; it’s a blessed privilege. Thank you, holy Mary, and my Catholic faith.

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Faithful and ever-present God, forgive us our lack of constancy and inspire us in our prayer that we may know and love you and your people. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 20–25

Monday, Weekday:

Rom 4:20–25 / Lk 12:13–21

Tuesday, Weekday: Rom 5:12, 15b,

17–19, 20b–21 / Lk 12:35–38

Wednesday, Weekday:

Rom 6:12–18 / Lk 12:39–48

Thursday, Weekday:


Rom 6:19–23 / Lk 12:49–53

Friday, Weekday:

Rom 7:18–25a / Lk 12:54–59

Saturday, Weekday:

Rom 8:1–11 / Lk 13:1–9

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