

Dear Padre,

Who wrote the Lord's Prayer? I know the Lord's Prayer comes from Scripture, but who composed it as we say it today?

When the disciples asked the Lord to teach them to pray, he taught them the prayer we know as the Our Father. Two versions of that prayer appear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. The version used in the Church's liturgies is derived from Matthew 6:9-13. In fact, citing St. Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae*, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls the Lord's Prayer the "most perfect of prayers" (2774), teaching us not only what things to pray for in our prayer but also in what order, or priority, we should desire them. It is at the heart of every individual and communal prayer.

We pray the Our Father, bearing in mind and heart the intimate relationship we have with our God as sons and daughters by adoption through our baptism. The specific wording of our prayers is a work in progress. What we think of as the final wording is that which the Church has approved and makes the most sense for prayer as a community. What is most important is that the substance of the prayer reflects the same matter the Lord used in the prayer. ●

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

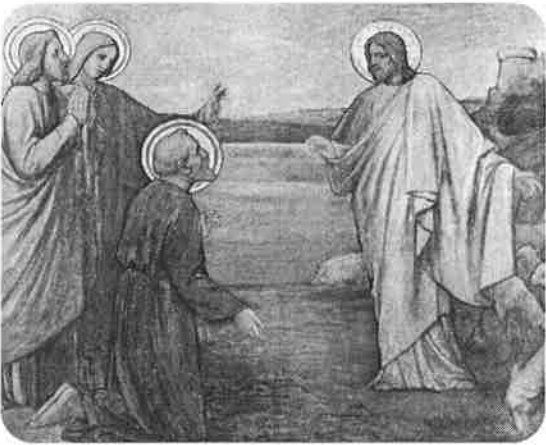
A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Herein lies the novelty of Christian prayer! It is a dialogue between people who love each other, a dialogue based on trust, sustained by listening and open to a commitment to solidarity. It is the dialogue of a Son with his Father, a dialogue between children and their Father. This is Christian prayer.

ANGELUS, ROME,
JULY 28, 2019



PAUL HARING



REMIATA SEDMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 27, 2025

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Genesis 18:20-32 / Colossians 2:12-14 / Luke 11:1-13



The Ways of Praying

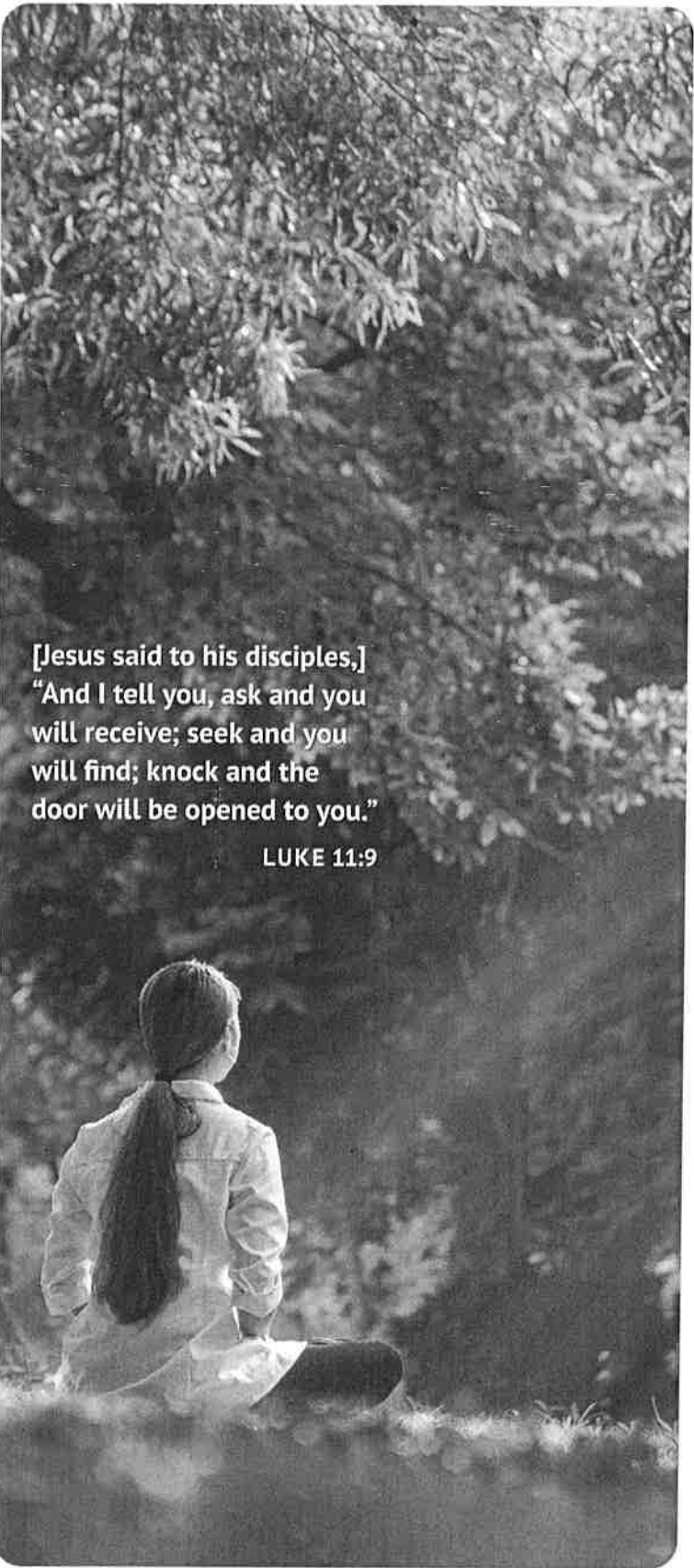
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Consider how there are five levels of communication, each level taking us deeper into a relationship and what it means to be human. *One*, the greetings we offer as we pass: Good morning! How's it going? *Two*, a sharing of activities: what we did, what someone said. *Three*, an expression of ideas, as in what we think about raising children or our political opinions or why we believe there may be conflicts in the world. *Four*, revealing our feelings both positive and negative: feelings of love or gratitude or contentment as well as of being hurt or rejected or disappointed. *Five*, a sense of intense closeness and *being with*, perhaps even without speaking or using any words. Each level, then, takes us deeper into a shared relationship.

Consider, then, how ever-deepening prayer may follow that same pattern. *One*, memorized or rote prayer. *Two*, telling God what is on our mind, even though it is a one-sided conversation. *Three*, commonly called "meditation" but, more simply, thinking about God and life and our faith response, as in the musing that may follow spiritual reading. *Four*, often referred to as "praying our feelings," such as reflecting on our human emotions and what they might say about us, our faith, and how the journey of our faith life is unfolding. *Five*, a sense of simply *being with* God, even without words, and simply resting in that holy presence. Each level of prayer, then, leads us ever more into a shared relationship with our God. ●

Reflect

How do I pray? Should I ask for the grace to grow in my prayer life?



[Jesus said to his disciples,]
"And I tell you, ask and you
will receive; seek and you
will find; knock and the
door will be opened to you."

LUKE 11:9