

# MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

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FROM: YOUCAT

Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church  
Prayer in Christian Life

The Way of Prayer

507. What if you find that prayer does not help?  
**Prayer does not seek superficial success but rather the will of God and intimacy with him. God's apparent silence is itself an invitation to take a step farther - in total devotion, boundless faith, endless expectation. Anyone who prays must allow God the complete freedom to speak whenever he wants, and to give himself however he wants. [2735 - 2737]**

Often we say: I have prayed, but it did not help at all. Maybe we are not praying intensely enough. The saintly Cure of Ars once asked a brother priest who was complaining about his lack of success, "You have prayed, you have sighed ... but have you fasted too? Have you kept vigil?" It could also be that we are asking God the wrong things. St. Teresa of Avila once said, "Do not pray for lighter burdens; pray for a stronger back."  
40, 49

508. What happens if you do not feel anything when you pray or even experience reluctance to pray?  
**Distractions during prayer, the feeling of interior emptiness and dryness, indeed, even an aversion to prayer are experienced by everyone who prays. Then to persevere faithfully is itself already a prayer. [2729 - 2733]**

Even St. Therese of Lisieux for a long time could not sense God's love at all. Shortly before her death she was visited one night by her sister Celine. She noticed that Therese's hands were clasped together. "What are you doing? You should try to sleep", Celine said. "I cannot. I am suffering too much. But I am praying", Therese replied. "And what do you say to Jesus?" "I do not say anything to him. I love him."

**WISHING YOU ALL, THE PARISHIONERS**

**A Happy and Prosperous New Year  
filled with Love and Peace!**

**Fr. Joseph Sultana, Deacon Patrick Chang & Staff**

**Everything is Related,  
and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love of God has for each of His creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth. - Pope Francis-**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday December 31:**  
5:pm Celebrant's Intention

**Sunday January 1:**  
9:00 am Celebrant's Intention  
10:30 am Celebrant's Intention  
12:00 pm Pro - Populo

**Monday January 2:**  
9:00 am +Maggie D'Sylva

**Tuesday January 3:**  
9:00 am +Ignatius Mendes.

**Wednesday January 4:**  
7:30 pm Special Intention of Acheron-Vasquez Family

**Thursday January 5:**  
9:00 am Deceased Members of Ferrao Family

**Friday January 6:**  
9:30 am Celebrant's Intention  
7:30 pm +Glenda Alary-Crocchio

**Saturday January 7:**  
9:00 am Celebrant's Intention

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT  
on Fridays with Mass at 9:30 am and  
concluded with Benediction and Mass at 7:30 pm.**

**'VOCATION SEEDS'**

Mary treasured all that God had done for her, and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister

**contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director  
Archdiocese of Toronto 416 968 0997  
email: [vocation@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocation@archtoronto.org)  
[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)**

**DRIVERS REQUIRED**

Driver/s are required to bring senior parishioners to Church for the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. Please call the office at 416-494-2704 or see Fr. Joseph Sultana.

**January 1, 2017**

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**MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

Isn't it improper to call Mary the "Mother" of God?  
**No. Anyone who calls Mary the Mother of God thereby professes that her Son is God. [495, 509]**

As early Christianity was debating who Jesus was, the title Theotokos ("God-bearer") became the hallmark for the orthodox interpretation of Sacred Scripture: Mary did not give birth merely to a man who then after his birth "became" God; rather, even in her womb her child is the true Son of God. This debate is not about Mary in the first place; rather, it is again the question of whether Jesus is true man and true God at the same time. 117

If anyone does not profess that the Emmanuel is truly God and the Blessed Virgin is therefore the God-bearer ... let him be anathema. (Council of Ephesus, 431)

**FAMILY OF FAITH CAMPAIGN**

**2016 Tax Receipts:**

The Family of Faith campaign will be issuing 2016 tax receipts for Family of Faith donations by the end of February 2017. These receipts are not issued by the parish. Tax receipts will be issued for the value of gift amounts received and postmarked on or before December 31, 2016. If you are one of the many donors who prefer to receive your tax receipt via e-mail, please contact the Donation Processing Centre via [campaign@archtoronto.org](mailto:campaign@archtoronto.org). Please provide your full name, address, and the name of your parish.

**Is your information up-to-date?**

Please help the Family of Faith campaign maintain its records by letting them know of any changes to your information, including your e-mail address. Please contact the Donation Processing Centre at [campaign@archtoronto.org](mailto:campaign@archtoronto.org) or 416.934.3400 x555.

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT THE PAUL**

**Tel: 647 772 1319                      [www.svdtoronto.org](http://www.svdtoronto.org)**

We wish you and your family a Happy New Year filled with love, peace, happiness and prosperity. As we begin the new year, let us implore the intercession of Mary, Mother of God, who gave us Jesus, to be true witnesses of Jesus' message of love, peace and hope. We relay totally on the kind generosity of contributors like YOU to help our neighbour-in-need, meet their basic needs. We also need your support in preparing the Thunder & Lightning casseroles for the Good Shepherd Centre.

**We look forward to your continued support this year too!**

**WORLD DAY OF PEACE**

Prayer of Pope Benedict XVI for the World Day of Peace  
(January 1, 2007)

To the Queen of Peace, the Mother of Jesus Christ "our peace" (Eph 2:14). I entrust my urgent prayer for all humanity at the beginning of the year ... to which we look with hearts full of hope, notwithstanding the dangers and difficulties that surround us. May Mary show us, in her Son, the Way of peace, and enlighten our vision, so that we can recognize Christ's face in the face of every human person, the heart of peace!

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We pray for peace in our world: that all people may live free from violence, in safety and security, and with hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy .....

We pray for all people who are working to build peace in their communities: that they may inspire others by their example and be strengthened to carry on, even in the hardest times. Lord, in your mercy .....

We pray for all people who have been affected by violence as they build their lives: that they may find it in their hearts to move forwards in peace and forgiveness. Lord, in your mercy .....

We pray for our local community: that we may be bearers of peace. Lord, in your mercy ....

**SHARELIFE**

**Becoming the hands of Christ to those in need .....**  
We are called to be the hands of Christ to those in need. For some, this may mean providing a place to stay for supporting an elderly relative, volunteering at a food bank, or supporting a parish Out of the Cold or outreach programs. Many of us lead busy lives, where the time to be actively involved is not available as we would this for it to be. This is ShareLife, our annual archdiocesan appeal, comes in. Through our support, we provide resources to over 40 agencies, informed by Catholic values, offering much needed programs and services to those both here in our communities and around the world. Our agencies provide counseling to families in need, support children and youth, provide love and care for people with special needs, offer assistance to refugee and new immigrant families, and help to spread the Gospel in the greater world.. ShareLife funded agencies also provide for the education of our clergy and hospital chaplaincy programs with the Archdiocese of Toronto. Your support of the ShareLife appeal has touched the lives of thousands of people both here and around the world. We thank our parish communities for all that they do to support the work of ShareLife agencies through the year. Together we are indeed fulfilling the Gospel value to 'love another as I have loved you.'