

Prayer – September 2023

Books recently added to the collection are marked with an asterisk.

In the library section marked “Prayer,” you can find the following books among many others for useful reading.

Allaire, James & Rosemary Broughton – Praying with Dorothy Day

Prayers and reflections based on the life and writings of the most prominent Catholic lay radical of the 20th Century.

Amlaw, Mary – From Praying Never to Praying Always

Amlaw sketches out a path from seldom praying or praying in a self-interested manner to abandonment to God’s will in closer contact with Him in prayer.

Bartkowski, Renee – Prayers for Married Couples

Prayers on various aspects of marriage meant to be prayed by the couple together.

Bergan, Jacqueline & Marie Schwan – Forgiveness: A Guide for Prayer

Freedom: A Guide for Prayer

Love: A Guide for Prayer

Surrender: A Guide for Prayer

These volumes are similarly structured: daily meditations, centered on the theme of the book with a Scripture passage, commentary and suggestions of reflection.

Bloom, Anthony – Beginning to Pray

A modern spiritual classic, this book is written for people who have never prayed before.

Byer, Glenn – Via Lucis: The Way of Light

You are probably familiar with the Way of the Cross, a popular devotion during Lent. This book lays out a similar “way” of 15 stations of Scripture readings, reflection and prayer, but focussed on the events of the Resurrection. So, for example, there are stations focussed on the meeting with Mary Magdalene, the breaking of bread at Emmaus, the Ascension and Pentecost. An excellent read to continue your Lenten growth through the Easter season.

Cameron, Peter – Praying with Saint Paul: Daily Reflections on the Letters of the Apostle Paul

Each day has a short quotation from the writing of Saint Paul, followed by a page-long reflection and short prayer.

Carl, William – The Lord's Prayer for Today

Close reading of each phrase of the Lord's Prayer with questions for reflection.

Catoir, John – Enjoy the Lord: A Guide to Contemplation

A look at prayer as a sure way to joy in closer union with God through contemplation, the next step in prayer.

Chagneau, Francois – Stay with Us: Prayers for Worship and Contemplation

Suggestions of prayer to be used both individually and in community on themes from the psalms, thanksgiving, relationship with God, prayers on the Eucharistic Banquet, and short ejaculatory prayers.

Cleary, Michael – The Jesus Prayer Rosary: Bible Meditations for Praying with Beads

This book brings together two prayer practices – meditative rhythmic prayer with beads and the ancient Jesus prayer. With Bible excerpts, it gives four sets of meditations, based on the infancy narratives, Jesus' ministry, His passion and resurrection, with concluding prayers. A good way to refresh your prayer life in Spring/Lent/Easter.

Collins, Thomas – Pathways to our Hearts: A Simple Approach to Lectio Divina with the Sermon on the Mount

An opportunity to examine closely and prayerfully a number of sayings of Jesus as given in Chapters 5-7 of the Gospel of Matthew.

Craghan, John – The Psalms: Prayers for the Ups, Downs and In-betweens of Life: A Literary-Experiential Approach

Looking at the various sorts of psalms – those of descriptive and declarative praise, psalms of trust, the wisdom psalms, the royal psalms, the psalms of lament – Craghan suggests ways of using them in one's prayer life.

Curley, Marie – Soul of Christ: Meditations on a Timeless Prayer

Suitable for a short self-administered retreat, these are meditations on the rich content of the *Anima Christi* prayer.

De Waal, Esther – The Celtic Way of Prayer: The Recovery of the Religious Imagination

Celtic spirituality with all its rich response to nature combines both the pre-Christian past and the emotional fullness of the Gospel in a total personal response to God and the world around us. De Waal introduces monastic prayer and praise, early Irish litanies, medieval Welsh praise poems, and warm tradition of oral poetic blessings that characterized the Celtic experience.

Desrochers, Gerard – Saint Anne's Prayer Book

A variety of prayers, devotional practices such as a novena to Saint Anne, and associations such as the Archconfraternity of Saint Anne with appropriate prayers, and also prayers and hymns appropriate for a pilgrimage to a site like Saint Anne de Beaupre

Dubay, Thomas – Fire Within: St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and the Gospel – on Prayer

An examination of the universal call to holiness and a deep prayer life that potentially opens contemplation and mystical union to everyone. It is a serious read.

Dubay, Thomas – Prayer Primer: Igniting a Fire Within

Written for beginners in prayer, Dubay looks at getting started in prayer, interpersonal union and intimacy with God, liturgical and family prayer, and problems in prayer.

Durka, Gloria – Praying with Julian of Norwich

Like other volumes in the *Companions for the Journey* series, this book starts with the life of Julian, her visions and their applicability to issues and themes that are common to the human experience. The reflection section offers a rich selection of material for thought, prayer and action on themes central to Julian.

Evely, Louis – Teach Us How to Pray

An exploration of two basic premises – one, that prayer is a determination to let God change us and two, that prayer for others is a resolve to find ways of lifting others' crosses.

Farrell, Edward – The Father is Very Fond of Me: Experiences in the Love of God

Reflections on the nature of prayer summed up in a prayer written by Cardinal Newman and recited daily by Mother Teresa, which prays for love that flows out to make manifest the love of God to the world. Much of the book is concerned with those acts of witness like priestly celibacy and voluntary poverty.

Fitzgerald, William – A Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book

Based on Celtic spirituality, stressing a unity of nature and Christianity, the book offers a daily prayer cycle of three-times-a-day prayer using both mainstream prayers like the “Our Father” and the “Hail Mary” and less well-known prayers from St. Patrick and the Carmina Gadelica. The second part of the book includes Celtic blessings, prayers and rituals, and prayers to various Celtic saints.

Foley, Leonard – Slowing Down the Our Father

An intense look at the “Our Father” prayer, phrase by phrase.

Foster, Richard – Sanctuary of the Soul: Journey into Meditative Prayer

Anchored in his personal experience, Foster explores what it means to experience the voice of God, to develop prayer-filled listening and how to deal with difficulties in praying.

Gabriele, Edward – Prayers for Dawn and Dusk

A regular cycle of short prayer sessions following the liturgical seasons.

Ghezzi, Bert – The Sign of the Cross: Recovering the Power of the Ancient Prayer

An inspiring examination of the Sign of the Cross as a form of prayer and the multiple ways that it strengthens the life of the Spirit in us.

God's Little Devotional Book

One-page stories illustrating some Christian principle, virtue or failure.

The Gold Book of Prayers

The text of various prayers including the scriptural rosary, the rosary of Jesus, the seven sorrows of Mary, and miscellaneous prayers to various saints and for various daily purposes.

Green, Thomas – Darkness in the Marketplace: The Christian at Prayer in the World

Suggestions on dealing with the tension between wanting to pray better and being caught up in busyness. He sees the busyness as providing opportunities for praying with a greater sense of God's love.

Green, Thomas – Prayer and Common Sense

Based on a vision of a spiritual life grounded in an appreciation of God's love for us and a sense of our own limitations, Green sees common sense, becoming a 'wise steward,' as an essential part of becoming holy, utilizing in particular both communal and individual prayer in the sacraments.

Green, Thomas – When the Well Runs Dry: Prayer beyond the Beginnings

Help for praying, moving beyond even meditation and contemplation into a desert of purifying dryness where listening to God is what is needed. He bases much of what he says on the writings of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross.

Guiley, Rosemary – Blessings: Prayers for the Home and Family

A multicultural selection of short prayers for everyday concerns.

Haring, Bernard – Prayer: The Integration of Faith and Life

Working with definitions of prayer as "loving knowledge of God," a "constant longing to know him in order to love him," and "knowing his design for us in order to serve him better," Haring meditates on the name of Jesus which reflects the love of God and builds our unity and solidarity.

Hays, Edward – Prayer Notes to a Friend

Short reflections on how to enhance and renew our daily prayer, giving breath to our soul.

*Hays, Edward – Prayers for the Domestic Church: A Handbook for Worship in the Home

A useful book of prayers and blessings for every possible occasion in a family's life, through which family members can celebrate their relationships in the family and with Christ, growing in their baptismal role as ministers of Jesus' love to the world.

*Hays, Edward – Psalms for Zero Gravity: Prayers for Life's Emigrants

An interesting collection of new psalms (poem/prayers) with accompanying reflections on a variety of topics that cover all facets of our existence. An excellent resource for adding freshness to one's everyday prayers.

Hollings, Michael and Etta Gullick – You Must Be Joking Lord

Conversations with God like you have never probably seen before! Prayers on all kinds of situations that make up our lives, in language reflecting how modern people think and speak. Subjects range from living unhappily with one's in-laws to accidentally killing one's friend in a car crash to whether sex and love are the same thing.

Howard, Katherine – Praying with Benedict

Another in the *Companions for the Journey* series, the book begins with a biography of Benedict and an overview of the themes of his spirituality. Then one is led through readings with accompanying suggestions for guided meditations, prayer journaling, examination of conscience, and action.

Huelsman, Richard – Intimacy with Jesus: An Introduction

Usable either individually or by a group, this book focuses on first steps toward intimacy with Jesus, communicating in prayer, and finally growing in prayer.

Huelsman, Richard – Pray: An Introduction to the Spiritual Life for Busy People

Based on the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius and modern psychology, this is a thirty-week course of ten meditations every two weeks with Scripture suggestions, readings and step-by-step guidelines for prayer.

Hughes, Alfred – Spiritual Masters: Living a Life of Prayer in the Catholic Tradition

Looking at the lives and prayer of a number of spiritual giants/saints, Hughes suggests ways of prayer and relationship with God drawn from these figures but applicable to everyday modern believers.

Keating, Thomas – Intimacy with God

A full detailed exploration of centering prayer which leads to contemplation of God and mystical union with Him.

Keating, Thomas – Invitation to Love: The Way of Christian Contemplation

A road map for what happens on the journey that begins with serious commitment to centering prayer, a journey that initiates a healing process of the psyche. It marries traditional religious expression with modern psychological thought to better work with the unconscious self.

Kelly, Matthew – I Heard God Laugh: A Practical Guide to Life's Essential Daily Habit

Prayer is the anchor that Kelly urges his readers to embrace as the great essential of their daily life, as a remedy for what afflicts many today – irritability, restlessness, exhaustion, anxiety, and so on. He suggests a way to start daily practice for those whose lives are crowded with other matters. Easy reading.

King, Larry with Rabbi Irwin Katsuf – Powerful Prayers: Conversations on Faith, Hope and the Human Spirit with Today's Most Provocative People

The book is what the title says – what the rich and famous have said to Larry King when asked about their faith and prayer life.

Lawler, Magdalen – Intimate Moments: Conversations with Christ in John's Gospel

Using the imaginative technique of Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises, Lawler looks at the stories of Jesus' interactions with various women mentioned in John's Gospel, encouraging the reader to put themselves into the story until they are led to some deeper understanding of what Jesus or God is saying to them.

Liguori, Alphonsus, Saint – Love is Prayer, Prayer is Love

Adapted readings from the writings of St. Alphonsus on the importance of prayer, our relationship with God, and some specific prayers of the saint.

Link, Mark – The Mustard Seed: A Prayer Guide to Mark's Gospel

Readings from Mark with the suggestion of putting oneself into the scene imaginatively in order to see what Jesus does and the significance of the action.

Link, Mark – You: Prayer for Beginners and Those who have Forgotten How

A seven-week guideline for prayerful contemplation and conversation with God. Gives hints on considerations such as time, place posture and mood, different types of prayer journals and spiritual readings.

Loder, Ted – Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers for the Battle

A variety of modern prayers composed for struggle in a world often inimical to Christianity. Included are prayers of Quietness and Listening, Thanks and Praise, Unburdening and Confession, for Comfort and Reassurance, Restoration and Renewal.

Longenecker, Dwight – Praying the Rosary for Inner Healing

Longenecker sees the Christian's calling in life as a fullness of life and holiness. What may impede this in the way of mental, spiritual, or physical ills needs to be brought in prayer to God. He looks at the rosary as the optimal way to do that prayer through Mary.

Lowery, Daniel – Day by Day Through Lent: Reflections, Prayers, Practices

Based on the liturgical Scripture readings from the three cycles of readings, Lowery gives short meditations, a short prayer and some action for the day.

Lukefahr, Oscar – We Pray: Living in God's Presence

A lighthearted book covering personal and liturgical prayer with wide-ranging suggestions, for example, on how God speaks to us, how to listen to God, translating the Bible into our prayer, and types of prayer.

Maalouf, Jean – The Healing Power of Prayer

A small book on the kinds of prayer practices, the need to pray and the results of prayer,

Maalouf, Jean – Praying with Mother Teresa

Another in the series *Companions for the Journey*, Maalouf finds in the life and writings of Mother Teresa and her joyful focus on Jesus a stimulation to prayer and action.

Maloney, George – Prayer of the Heart

A book teaching deep prayer based on the spirituality of Eastern Christianity and, as exemplified by the Desert Fathers, an increasing awareness of the indwelling of the Holy Trinity. It hopes to take the place of a spiritual director for those unable to find one.

Martin, Ralph – Hungry for God: Practical Help in Personal Prayer

An exploration of prayer life based on the Catholic charismatic experience.

Meehan, Bridget – God Delights in You: A Four-Week Prayer Journal for Busy Christians

Four themes are offered: discovering infinite love, encountering boundless mercy, experiencing deep healing, and living our empowerment. These are explored with Scripture passages, with suggestions for meditation, journaling, and activities based on the weekly theme.

Meehan, Bridget – Your Prayerful Journal for Lent

Designed to help the reader experience the power of God's love in the death and resurrection of Jesus, each day offers a Scripture passage with suggestions for meditation, some journaling, and suggestions for action derived from the weekly themes, such as fasting for justice and experiencing freedom in God's love.

Merton, Thomas – A Book of Hours

A selection of Merton's writing organized in complete small celebrations of reflections, with prayers and psalms for dawn, day, dusk, and dark for each day of the week

Mooney, Patrick – Praise to the Lord of the Morning! Three Prayer Experiences

Illustrated copiously with black and white photographs, there are three extended meditations: A Song for God, The Living Bread, and Touch and Heal. They are intended to reawaken an awareness of God throughout creation and so revive our faith.

Newell, Philip – Celtic Prayers from Iona

Developed by the Warden of the lay religious community of Iona Abbey, this is a weekly cycle of morning and evening prayers in the Celtic tradition of St. Columba, with gospel and psalm readings taken from the liturgical year.

Nouwen, Henri – Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons

For close loving scrutiny, Nouwen presents four icons, the icon of the Holy Trinity, that of the Virgin of Vladimir, that of the Savior of Zvenigorod, and that of the Descent of the Holy Spirit. He shares his thoughts growing from concentrated seeing because the icons offer access through the visible to the “mystery of the invisible,” the heart of God.

Nouwen, Henri – A Book of Hours

Short selected readings from the work of Nouwen to be used in a four-week cycle following the daily schedule of vigils, lauds, angelus, none, vespers and compline.

Nouwen, Henri – A Cry for Mercy: Prayers from the Genesee

During a second stay at the Trappist monastery at Genesee, Nouwen wrote a prayer each day, creating prayers which explore our need for a meaningful spirituality, a disciplined interior life and a sense of God’s presence in our lives.

Nouwen, Henri – With Open Hands

A series of short reflections on praying, of moving metaphorically from praying with clenched fists to praying with open hands, thus allowing God to be God for us. The meditations circle around the themes of silence, acceptance, hope, compassion, and prophetic criticism.

Nugent, Madeline – Praying with Anthony of Padua

Reflections and prayer suggestions based on the life and teaching of Anthony of Padua, the patron thought to find lost souls and return them through conversion to God

Oliva, Max – Free to Pray, Free to Love: Growing in Prayer & Compassion

Oliva writes that this book is “about freedom in the spiritual journey, a freedom that is based on the love of God and expresses itself in love for all that God has created.” Believing that God’s love for us sets us free from our personal compulsions to respond to him in wholeness and holiness, the author offers insight into many forms of prayer that can be used on the way to union with God.

O’Malley, William – Connecting with God: Prayers for Those who have yet to find the Words

52 guided prayer experiences to create and increase talking with God, using psalms, readings, small prayers, and hymns.

Oosterhuis, Huub – Your Word is Near: Contemporary Christian Prayers

A book of new prayers arranged by the Christian year, a book to be dipped into rather than read from end to end.

Pable, Martin – Prayer: A Practical Guide

A guide to various kinds of prayer, with examples, questions for reflection or discussion, and a prayer activity based on the exemplar one for the particular prayer form.

Pennington, Basil – A Place Apart: Monastic Prayer and Practise for Everyone

An examination of how monastic spirituality can be applied to lay life to achieve a life of joy, love, and peace. Pennington looks at creating a quiet place within where prayer, self-denial and attention can lead to deeper union with God, all the time supported by the everyday habits of work and community.

*Pirtle, Carolyn – Ten Ways to Pray: A Catholic Guide to Drawing Closer to God

In an easily read, concise presentation, Pirtle examines ten ways of Christian prayer, everything from participation in various liturgical prayers to the use of

devotionals, the role of icons and daily experience, giving a definition of the particular form of prayer, reasons for using that form, when, where and how it can be practised.

Powell, John – He Touched Me: My Pilgrimage of Prayer

A very open account from this popular author of his spiritual life from childhood to his coming to an understanding of prayer as a communication in a relationship of love, a speaking and a listening in truth and in trust. “Don’t lie to God” becomes the only basis for “successful” prayer.

Powers, Isaias – Quiet Places with Jesus: 40 Guided Imagery Meditations for Personal Prayer

The prayer method suggested, using memories and imagination to influence thought patterns, hopes to release the Spirit within us, quietens out minds, turning us to God.

Prayers from the Heart: Simple Conversations with God

A miscellany of Scripture quotations and accompanying prayers.

Quoist, Michel – Prayers

Not a collection of “set” prayers, these are meditations on life, short talks to God, which show how to discover the value of contact with God growing out of daily events of modern life, like seeing holes in a wire fence or bricks in a masonry wall.

Richards, Hubert – Some Catholic Prayers: The Hail Mary, the Rosary, the ‘I Confess’

Illustrated with photographs, this is a phrase-by-phrase explanation of these prayers particularly directed to young people.

Rolheiser, Ronald – Prayer: Our Deepest Longing

In 33 brief reflections, a favorite Canadian writer helps one overcome struggles with prayer, develop a mature prayer habit, and explore new prayer practices. Always down to earth and compassionate, Rolheiser understands where people are at today.

Rosage, David – Discovering Pathways to Prayer

Seeing a resurgence, led by the Holy Spirit, in praying, in talking to and listening to God and moving to action as a result, Rosage offers an overview of why pray and how to.

Rowthorn, Jeffery – The Wideness of God's Mercy: Litanies to Enlarge our Prayer: An Ecumenical Collection

Responding to the renewed recognition of the local congregation's calling to pray for the Church and the world, Rowthorn offers litanies on a wide range of topics and occasions for use either as personal prayer or communal prayer.

Rupp, Joyce – Prayer

Based on what has sustained her in intentional connection with God, Rupp aims to encourage the reader in their relationship with God, helping them to pray in whatever way seems most suitable to them, in order at least in part to become a blessing of compassion in the world.

Scanlan, Michael – Prayers and Blessings for Daily Living with Christ

This is exactly what the title says – prayers, both traditional and modern, for everyday use and for special needs and occasions.

Schmidt, Joseph – Praying Our Experiences

Schmidt defines praying as “offering in honesty and surrender the reality” of oneself and one's life history to God perhaps in an established prayer formula or perhaps in one's own direct speech. Sharing one's experiences means more than reminiscing, but is more a truthful look at one's self.

The Scriptural Rosary: A Guide with a Collection of Biblical Texts and Prayers

This booklet offers a rosary in which the Biblical text of the mystery is interspersed with *Hail Marys* in order to allow the person praying to have a really full experience of the mystery. Besides the traditional Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries are the recently added Luminous Mysteries.

Seve, Andre – Does God Hear Us? Reflections on Christian Prayer Today

The author sees a revival of interest in prayer and describes various types of prayer, looking particularly at Jesus' instructions and practice of prayer, the purpose of prayer, and difficulties people encounter.

Shannon, William – Seeking the Face of God

An easy-to-read exploration of prayer based on the traditional divisions of prayer – reading sacred writings, thinking on the matter read, praying as a result of that thought, moving on to a deeper awareness of God and to action in the world. The last part of the book deals with Gandhi and how his thought and action mirrors what Christ taught and lived.

Shannon, William – Silence on Fire: The Prayer of Awareness

A sequel to Seeking the Face of God, Shannon explores wordless prayer of awareness not at the level of contemplative prayer which is the gift of God rather than a matter of human activity.

Shlemon, Barbara – Healing Prayer

A practical guide to praying for the sick, based on the experience of the author as a nurse.

Simsic, Wayne – Praying with Thomas Merton

Another volume in the *Companions for the Journey* series, following the pattern of some biographical material on the subject, selections from his writings, reflections on them and suggested prayers. In the case of Merton there is a particular emphasis on the contemplative experience of unity with the divine.

Springs of Devotion: Inspiring Writings about the Meaning and Joy of Prayer

Very short selections from a number of sources on the gift of prayer, its practice and a small selection of prayers

Stoutzenberger, Joseph & John Bohrer – Praying with Francis of Assisi

Another volume in the *Companions for the Journey*, it follows the format of consideration of the saint's life and his favourite themes and concerns and builds a reflection upon them and accompanying prayer.

Sullivan, Shirley – A Companion to the Liturgy of the Hours: Morning and Evening Prayer

In the spirit of the Carmelite Elizabeth of the Trinity, this is a collection of discussions on the psalms, canticles and readings from the 4-volume version of the Liturgy of the Hours officially sanctioned for use in Canada.

Swenson, Roger – Prayer and Remembrance

Swenson suggests building prayer through revisiting memories which reveal God's ongoing love for us. He gives stories from his own experience that can elicit those memories and lead to deeper communication with God.

Therese of Lisieux – Prayers & Meditations of Therese of Lisieux

Prayers on various topics such as the Little Way, humility, and embracing suffering, with short commentaries by the editor, Cindy Cavnar.

Tillemans, Rose – I'm Still Dancing: Praying through Good Days and Bad

Prayers of joy and celebration especially for older women sometimes confronted with decaying bodies, depression and isolation, and questions of meaning in their lives.

Tully, Mary Jo – Psalms: Faith Songs for the Faith-filled

Primarily meant for use by a group, this book examines themes from the psalms with illustrative psalms.

Vinje, Patricia – Praying with Catherine of Siena

Another volume in the *Companions for the Journey* series, it offers insight into the life and work of Catherine along with meditations and prayers growing out of the major themes of her prayer.

Weisheit, Eldon – Psalms for Teens

Offers Psalms 1-75 in a redaction that addresses the situations and interests of today's teenagers. These redactions may make it difficult for the reader to recognize the original.

Welborn, Amy – The Words We Pray: Discovering the Richness of Traditional Catholic Prayers

Based on the author's experience of discovering the power of praying the same words that have been prayed by fellow members of the Body of Christ over millennia, this book explores the history, meaning and richness of prayers such as the Sign of the Cross, the Salve Regina, the Anima Christi and the Suscipe.

Williamson, Marianne – Illuminated Prayers

A book of very short prayers - the main attraction of this book are the delightful illustrations.

Wojtyla, Karol – Prayers of John Paul II

Prayers that John Paul gave on various occasions on his travels and on certain feast days, revealing in some cases his own personal spiritual life and thought.