

“Our Father” Prayer & the Seven Petitions

Our Father Prayer (The Lord’s) Prayer	Old Testament (OT) Sources	Notes
Our Father,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ex 3:13: Moses dares ask God’s name • Isa 63:16: “For you are our father” • Jer 3:19, 31:9: “My father” • Tb 13:4: “he is your God, our Father, and God forever and ever” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “we dare to say” = dare to call God “our Father” (see CCC 2777) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as did Jesus who called the Father, “Abba” • the Son brings us to the Father: Jesus reveals the Father to us • when we speak “our Father,” we invoke the New Covenant in Jesus Christ and communion with the Holy Trinity
who art in Heaven,		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heaven = God transcends all creation • recognizes that we have separated ourselves from God through sin
hallowed be Thy name. (petition 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ez 36 22: “for the sake of my holy name” • Lev 22:32: “I may be hallowed” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acknowledgement of God’s all-encompassing holiness • “holy” means “set apart”
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (petitions 2 & 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mi 4:8: “the former dominion shall be restored” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “kingdom come” = ages before, now and to come • recognizes God’s reign over all things and time • prayer that we carry out the Father’s will • and to focus on the Father and not ourselves
Give us this day our daily bread, (petition 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “manna” from Ex 16:14 • Feeding of the 4,000 & the 5,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Greek word used for “bread” implies “super” or “above,” thus “supernatural” bread, as in Manna • the Manna had to be collected each morning, so it was daily • note: the prayer is spoke just before the consecration of the Eucharist, the Body of Christ
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, (petition 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refers to the Jubilee, which forgave debts, esp. seized land • Note: Mt 5:5 “blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land” = relates to having land returned from forgiveness of debts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize our sins & forgive those of others • This is the only part of the prayer Jesus explains (Mt 6:14-15): <i>If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.</i> • Elsewhere, Jesus teaches: <i>“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”</i> (Jn 13:34) <i>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy”</i> (Mt. 5:7) <i>“Be merciful, just as [also] your Father is merciful.”</i> (Lk 6:36)
and lead us not into temptation, (petition 6)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognizes our sinful nature (concupiscence) • prayer to avoid the “occasion of sin”
but deliver us from evil (petition 7)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect us from Satan, the “Evil one” (see John 17:15 (The Prayer of Jesus))