



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

“Prayer of intercession consists in asking on behalf of another. It knows no boundaries and extends to one’s enemies.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2647*

“Intercession is a prayer of petition which leads us to pray as Jesus did. He is the one intercessor with the Father on behalf of all men, especially sinners.¹¹² He is ‘able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.’¹¹³ The Holy Spirit ‘himself intercedes for us . . . and intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.’¹¹⁴

Since Abraham, intercession—asking on behalf of another—has been characteristic of a heart attuned to God’s mercy. In the age of the Church, Christian intercession participates in Christ’s, as an expression of the communion of saints. In intercession, he who prays looks ‘not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others,’ even to the point of praying for those who do him harm.¹¹⁵

The first Christian communities lived this form of fellowship intensely.¹¹⁶ Thus the Apostle Paul gives them a share in his ministry of preaching the Gospel¹¹⁷ but also intercedes for them.¹¹⁸ The intercession of Christians recognizes no boundaries: ‘for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions,’ for persecutors, for the salvation of those who reject the Gospel.¹¹⁹ CCC 2634-2636

112 Cf. *Rom* 8:34; *1 Jn* 2:1; *1 Tim* 2:5-8.

113 *Heb* 7:25.

114 *Rom* 8:26-27.

115 *Phil* 2:4; cf. *Acts* 7:60; *Lk* 23:28, 34.

116 Cf. *Acts* 12:5; 20:36; 21:5; *2 Cor* 9:14.

117 Cf. *Eph* 6:18-20; *Col* 4:3-4; *1 Thess* 5:25.

118 Cf. *2 Thess* 1:11; *Col* 1:3; *Phil* 1:3-4.

119 *1 Tim* 2:1; cf. *Rom* 12:14; 10:1.

What Did You Learn About Intercessory Prayer?

for younger saints

1. We can pray for other people.
true false
2. We can ask other people to pray for us.
true false
3. We must use an official Church prayer each time we pray.
true false
4. We can use our own words to pray.
true false
5. Only our family can pray for us.
true false
6. Kids cannot pray for adults.
true false
7. We should not pray for people who are mean to us.
true false
8. We can ask the saints in heaven to pray for us.
true false
9. Mary, the mother of Jesus, likes to pray for us.
true false
10. We cannot pray for people once they have died.
true false
11. Recite your memory verse.

What Did You Learn About Intercessory Prayer?

for younger saints

Quiz Answers

1. We can pray for other people.

true false

2. We can ask other people to pray for us.

true false

3. We must use an official Church prayer each time we pray.

true false

4. We can use our own words to pray.

true false

5. Only our family can pray for us.

true false

6. Kids cannot pray for adults.

true false

7. We should not pray for people who are mean to us.

true false

8. We can ask the saints in heaven to pray for us.

true false

9. Mary, the mother of Jesus, likes to pray for us.

true false

10. We cannot pray for people once they have died.

true false

11. Recite your memory verse.

"By his stripes we were healed." Isaiah 53:5

What Did You Learn About Intercessory Prayer?

for older saints

1. Give a definition for intercessory prayer.

2. At each Mass, we intercede for
 - a. the Church.
 - b. others at Mass.
 - c. others in the world.

3. Who can you ask to intercede for you? (Write at least six names.)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.

4. We must use an official Church prayer each time we pray.
true false

5. Jesus tells us not to bother praying for people who persecute us.
true false

6. We can ask the saints in heaven to pray for us.
true false

7. We cannot pray for people any more once they have died.
true false

8. Recite the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

What Did You Learn About Intercessory Prayer?

for older saints

Quiz Answers

1. Give a definition for intercessory prayer.

Intercessory prayer is praying for others or asking others to pray for us. Answers should include both of these components.

2. At each Mass, we intercede for

- a. the Church.
- b. others at Mass.
- c. others in the world.

3. Who can you ask to intercede for you? (Write at least six names.)

1.—6. Answers will vary, but could include family members, saints, Mary, etc.

4. We must use an official Church prayer each time we pray.

true false: We can use traditional prayers or make up our own.

5. Jesus tells us not to bother praying for people who persecute us.

true false

6. We can ask the saints in heaven to pray for us.

true false

7. We cannot pray for people any more once they have died.

true false

8. Recite the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

The Agony in the Garden. The Scourging at the Pillar. The Crowning with Thorns. The Carrying of the Cross. The Crucifixion.