



Prayers

Evening Prayer to St. Jude

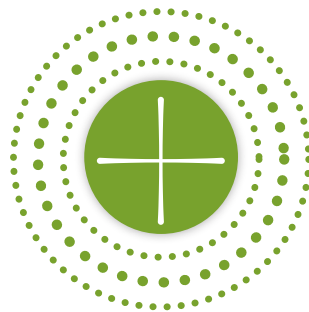
St. Jude, companion in faith, help me to recognize the gifts of this day. Bring my thanks to God for being with me throughout the day. Refresh me with a peaceful sleep. Watch over me and my loved ones, keep us safe and in your care. Guide my mind and my heart in all I do, so I may live to serve Jesus and walk with you in hope. Amen.

St. Jude Prayer for an Open Heart

St. Jude, you and the other Apostles listened for God's guidance as you spread the Gospel message. Give me the grace to keep my heart open to hear God's call. Help me to see and follow the faithful path He lays out for me. St. Jude, walk this path with me, so I may receive your inspiration and hope. Amen.



Any support you can give—whether in prayers for our work, a financial gift, or both—makes a very real difference in the lives of those we serve.



Faith Reflections

Dear Friend of St. Jude,

Our faith can be our greatest source of strength in life. It guides us, nourishes us, and reminds us of the pathways of hope. As you know, living our faith can also be a challenge.

Working to follow Christ's example, we often find that the road we are walking isn't as easy to navigate as we'd like. At these times, prayer and reflection from our devotion to St. Jude and our love and trust in God remind us to be open to the support we need to make decisions that move us forward with God. In this edition of *Faith Reflections*, we take some time to consider two important ways that God and St. Jude assist us on our journey of faith.

As you read these reflections, you may discover some special needs for prayer in your life. I invite you to send these petitions to me using the petition slip and envelope provided. We will deliver them to the altar of St. Jude at the National Shrine, to be remembered in the Masses and prayers of the Claretians.

May God bless you with the strength of faith today and always.

Yours in prayer,

Fr. Mark Brummel, C.M.F.

Fr. Mark Brummel, CMF
Director, St. Jude League



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The National Shrine of St. Jude is located at 3200 E. 91st Street in Chicago.





“I am with you always.”

Sometimes the weight of a particular problem or the persistent tug of an everyday stress can isolate us. Our challenges, large and small, can seem much more difficult when it seems we have to handle them on our own. It takes a special kind of wisdom and courage to recognize when we may need the help of a professional—doctor, counselor, addiction clinic, and so on—when we face certain overwhelming issues in our life and in the lives of those we love. We also often need a strong yet humble perspective to reach out to others.

With our faith, we know that humility in fact reflects an inner strength. And we also know we are never truly alone; God in His many ways is always with us. In Him we find the support, encouragement, and caring love to work with our challenges.

We need God’s strength and grace to follow Christ’s example in a day-to-day world that often seems to be pulling away from Him. The volume and pace of the daily

distractions we encounter can make even simple opportunities to reflect the face of God become lost in the rush of life.

Again, we need to gently remind ourselves we are never out of God’s gaze. And as devotees of St. Jude, we also know that we can turn to him for help at all times. In St. Jude, we find a constant companion for our journey in life, and a ready intercessor to God on our behalf.

Jesus said, “I am with you always.” It can be helpful to have a few special ways of reminding ourselves of this powerful promise around our home. It is also very helpful to make this an intentional addition to our daily prayers—to thank Jesus for always being with us, and to let Him know when we feel we need an extra amount of help.

**Be strong and courageous;
do not be frightened or dismayed,
for the Lord your God
is with you wherever you go.**

~ JOSHUA 1:9

St. Jude Reflection: Listening for God

Every day, God gives us opportunities to connect with Him and fill our lives with His grace. He calls to us, and is always ready to guide us as we work to live our lives as Catholics. Are we as good at listening to God and at looking for our opportunities as we are at asking for His help? Probably not yet. Most of us could benefit from integrating a little from each of the following areas into the richness of our prayer connection with God: inspiration from the Holy Spirit, openness to seeing a faithful path for ourselves from God the Father, and unfailing strength in support of our faith from Jesus.

In his ministry as an Apostle, St. Jude often relied on these gifts to guide him as he spread the Gospel message. Without the support of an established church, he traveled with only his conviction in Christ’s teachings and the power of the Holy Spirit to inspire him. St. Jude created a new path for himself, taking a unique message of hope to people wherever he could reach.

St. Jude lived his life in service to Jesus to unite people’s hearts with God. In every

town he visited, he shared the Word of God, forming connections between God and His people. He taught them to pray for their needs, but he also showed them the importance of listening for God’s gentle guidance. For the people of these new Christian communities where he preached, St. Jude became a source of the inspiration and hope that comes from the Gospel.

Today, St. Jude continues to help us in our relationship with God. By his example, we learn to seek the support and inspiration of the Holy Spirit as we travel on our journeys of faith. And through his intercession, we receive hope for every intention. With St. Jude by our side, we find God’s strength when we need it and learn to look for the opportunities He gives to us.

**Pray that out of his glorious riches
he may strengthen you
with power through his Spirit,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith.**

~ EPHESIANS 3:16-17

