



Are you guilty of spiritual stockpiling? Spiritual stockpiling isn't an endless rotation of rosaries and novenas. It's accumulating emotional "goods" to meet your needs. Perhaps it's a

collection of material objects you treasure. Maybe it's a preoccupation with money. It could also be relationships, making sure there's always enough friends and connections to never really feel alone. It's our tendency to let things add up so that we won't quite need God to fulfill our inner life. Yet in this Sunday's Gospel, we have that inescapable petition from the Our Father. "Give us each day our daily bread."

This life isn't an immediate arrival. And as much as we might try to shore up possessions and pleasures, we know the journey is unpredictable. Give us this day our daily bread implies enough for the next set of steps, but not enough to stockpile. So here's the big question: Do we trust God to give us what we need? After all, "What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish?... how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?" At the Last Supper, Jesus said he would never leave us orphaned. God will not abandon us. And surely He wouldn't ask us to pray for what He does not intend to give.

Of course, sometimes our prayers for daily help can seem to go unanswered. Today's Gospel has advice for that, too. "I tell you... he will give up to him whatever he needs because of his persistence." Our spiritual stockpiling increases our self-reliance and decreases our openness to God's possibilities. Be persistent in your pursuit of God! Trust that He will keep His promises to provide for us, today and always.

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

"The past does not belong to me; the future is not mine; with all my soul I try to make use of the present moment."

- St. Faustina

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We do not need to use a lot of words in order to pray well. Keeping things simple often works best, and it appears to be the form of prayer most preferred by Jesus. The simplicity of the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father, gets quickly to the heart of all of our important relationships in life and sets us straight. Praying simply provides proper focus and helps us develop greater trust in God's providential care. We never know how each day will unfold and cannot control a good measure of what happens to us. What we can control is the disposition we bring to life and how much we trust and hope in God's desire to make all things new and right. Pray simply and listen deeply. Our Father is calling.

KIDS' CORNER

Do you know how to pray? All you need to do is talk to God. He is your loving Father. Tell him how you would like to make him happy. Ask him to give you the things you really need. Ask him to help you forgive other people, just like he forgives you.

Have you prayed in the Adoration Chapel? This is a great way to spend time with God in prayer. God loves you, so talk to him often.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments
After more than two decades in parish ministry, my life changed course when LPi reached out to me with an offer to do something different with my life. I hadn't been looking for a new job, but I had been working for some time to grow a ministry of speaking, writing, and consulting outside of my parish. It occurred to me I just might be throwing away a long career of stability and certainty for a situation that was new and anything but certain. My family was relying on me. I was moving from a comfort zone into a place where I was going to have to trust in God. There was the question on the surface of whether this move would work out in the end. However, the real question was whether I had the ability to put all my trust in God. The fact that you are reading this reflection is a testament that it all worked out for the best. I did place my faith and trust in God, and He came through as always. When I look back over my life and identify those times of greatest struggle, I can honestly say those were times when I trusted more in myself or let fear take over. We all are faced with decisions in life where we are met with uncertainty or fear. Often, our stewardship is limited by our inability to trust fully in God. Our comfort zones really become prisons of fear we never leave. If you find yourself unable to face the future or to make the big decisions in life, where does your trust lie?



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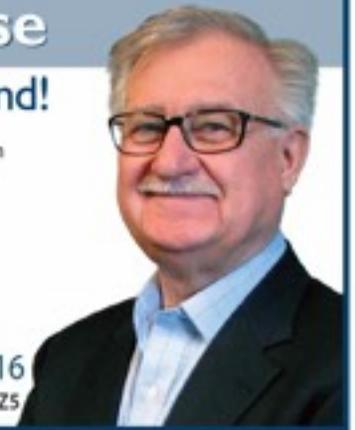
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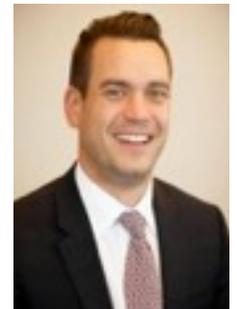
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