

# Holy Hour of Mercy

*“Our witness to respect for life shines most brightly when we demand respect for each and every human life, including the lives of those who fail to show that respect for others. The antidote to violence is love, not more violence.”* –*Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics*

## *St. Michael Prayer:*

**Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle**, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. *Amen.*



## *Reading I: Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

See, I have today set before you life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD, your God, which I am giving you today, loving the LORD, your God, and walking in his ways, and keeping his commandments, statutes and ordinances, you will live and grow numerous, and the LORD, your God, will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

If, however, your heart turns away and you do not obey, but are led astray and bow down to other gods and serve them, , I tell you today that you will certainly perish; you will not have a long life on the land which you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

I call heaven and earth today to witness against you: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live, by loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice, and holding fast to him.

## *Divine Mercy Prayer:*

**You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls**, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelope the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us. **O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus** as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

**Our Father**, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory, Now and forever!

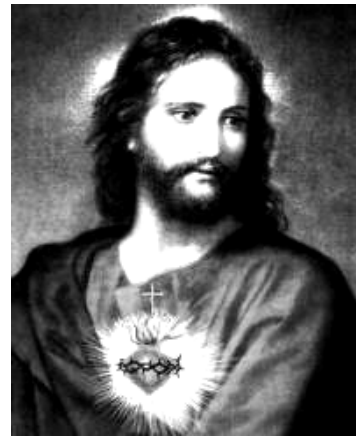
**Hail Mary**, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

**I believe in God**, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified; died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

**On the large bead before each decade (every ten beads):**  
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and  
Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**R:** in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

**On the ten small beads of each decade:**  
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,  
**R:** have mercy on us and on the whole world.

**Concluding Prayers (3x):**  
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One,  
have mercy on us and on the whole world.



**Closing Prayer:** Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

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**Promises to those who say this chaplet:** Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, Jesus will stand between His Father and the dying person, not as the Just Judge but as the Merciful Savior. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from Jesus' infinite mercy. –*St. Faustina*

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### *Psalm 23:1-6*

**Response:** Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

**R. Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

**R. Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the  
house of the LORD  
for years to come.

**R. Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

**R. Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side.**

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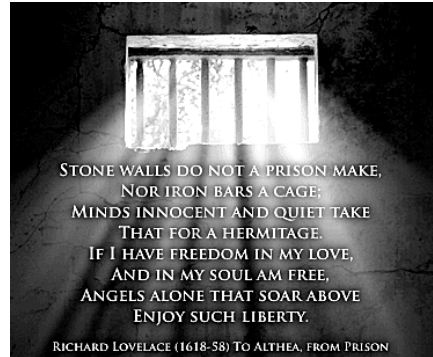
*“A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform...end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary.” – Pope John Paul II, January 27, 1999*

## *Litany for Life*

Lord, have mercy,      **Response:** *Lord, have mercy*  
Christ, have mercy,    **Response:** *Christ, have mercy*  
Lord, have mercy,      **Response:** *Lord, have mercy*

**Response:** *Lord, give us life!*

You breathed life into Adam, *R.*  
You formed Eve from flesh, *R.*  
You heard the cry of innocent blood, *R.*  
You spared the life of Cain, *R.*  
You saved Noah from the flood, *R.*  
You filled Sarah's barren womb, *R.*  
You gave Abraham a son, *R.*  
You preserved the life of Jacob, *R.*  
You punished those who took life, *R.*  
You place before us life and death, *R.*  
You restore lost life, *R.*  
You nourish the aged and weak, *R.*  
You delivered Saul from David, *R.*  
You redeemed the life of David, *R.*  
You gave Solomon length of days, *R.*  
You raised the child by Elijah's cry, *R.*  
You are the Life that is the light of men, *R.*  
You are the bread of Life, *R.*  
You have the words of eternal life, *R.*  
You are the resurrection and the life, *R.*  
You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life, *R.*



**Gn 2:7**  
**Gn 9:5-6**  
**Gn 4:16**  
**Gn 8:16**  
**Gn 21:2**  
**Gn 21:3**  
**Gn 32:31**  
**Nm 35:31**  
**Dt 30:19**  
**Ru 4:14**  
**Ru 4:14**  
**1 Sm 26:22-24**  
**2 Sm 4:9**  
**1 Kgs 3:14**  
**1 Kgs 17: 21-22**  
**Jn 1:14**  
**Jn 6:35**  
**Jn 6:68**  
**Jn 11: 25**  
**Jn 14: 6**

### *Reading II: John 8:3-11*

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, from now on do not sin any more."

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*"In the wake of the bloodiest century in history, the Church invites us to recover our own humanity, choosing God's higher road of restraint and mercy instead of state-sanctioned killing that implicates all of us as citizens."* – Archbishop Charles Chaput, Denver, CO

## *Psalm 51:3-19*

Have mercy on me, God, in your goodness  
in your abundant compassion  
blot out my offense.

Wash away all my guilt;  
from my sin cleanse me.

For I know my offense;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you alone have I sinned;  
I have done such evil in your sight  
That you are just in your sentence,  
blameless when you condemn.

True, I was born guilty,  
a sinner, even as my mother conceived me.  
Still, you insist on sincerity of heart;  
in my inmost being teach me wisdom.

Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure;  
wash me, make me whiter than snow.  
Let me hear sounds of joy and gladness;

let the bones you have crushed rejoice.  
Turn away your face from my sins;  
blot out all my guilt.

A clean heart create for me, God;  
renew in me a steadfast spirit.  
Do not drive me from your presence,  
nor take from me your holy spirit.  
Restore my joy in your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.  
I will teach the wicked your ways,  
that sinners may return to you.  
Rescue me from death, God, my saving God,  
that my tongue may praise your healing power.

Lord, open my lips;  
my mouth will proclaim your praise.  
For you do not desire sacrifice;  
a burnt offering you would not accept.  
My sacrifice, God, is a broken spirit;  
God, do not spurn a broken, humbled heart.

## *Closing Prayer:*

**Merciful Father, we ask your blessing** on all we do to build a culture of life. Hear our prayers.

**We pray for all people, that their lives and dignity** as children of a loving God may be respected and protected in all stages and circumstances.

**We pray for victims of violence** and their families, that they may experience our love and support and find comfort in your compassion and in the promise of eternal life.

**We pray for all on death row,** that their lives may be spared, that the innocent may be freed and that the guilty may come to acknowledge their faults and seek reconciliation with you.

**We pray for the families of those who are facing execution,** that they may be comforted by your love and compassion.

**We pray for civic leaders,** that they may commit themselves to respecting every human life and ending the use of the death penalty in our land.

**Compassionate Father, give us wisdom** and hearts filled with your love. Guide us as we work to end the use of the death penalty and to build a society that truly chooses life in all situations.

**We ask this Father through your Son Jesus Christ** who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

*Amen*