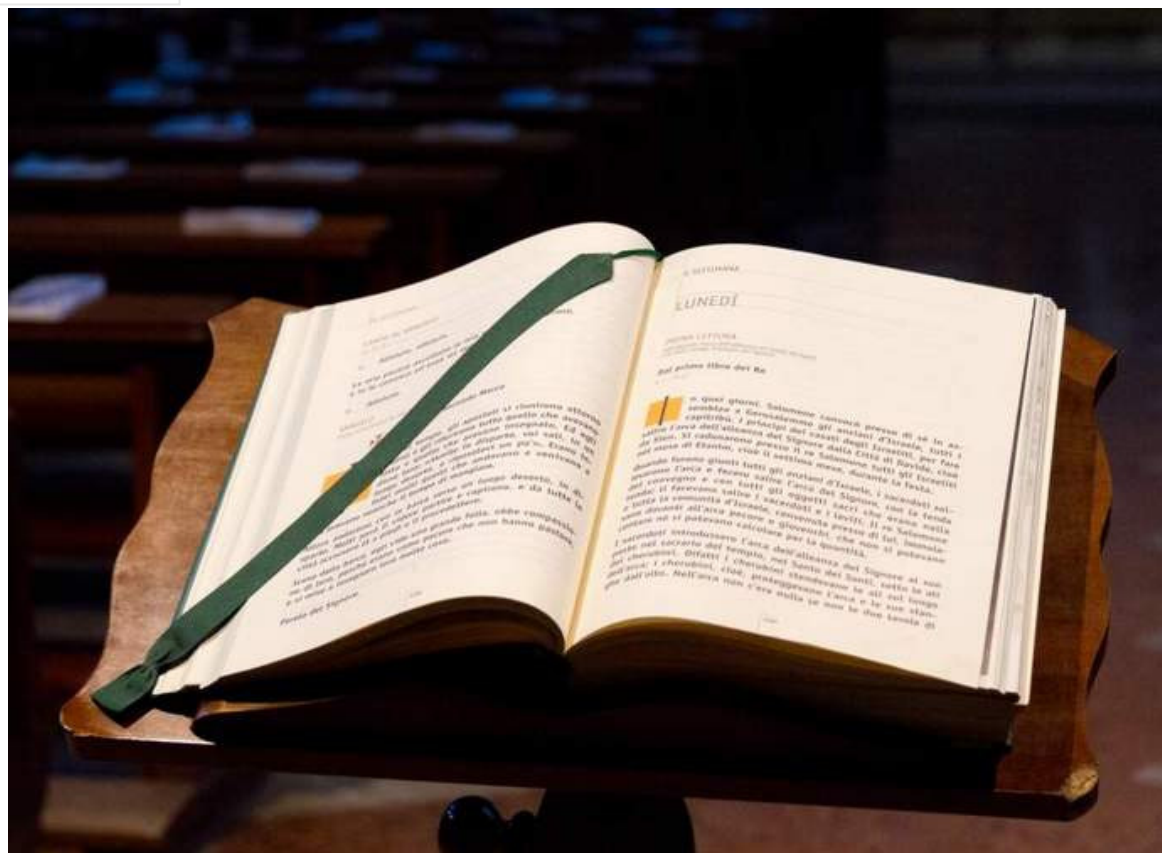


GOSPEL PEARLS

How to pray the Father

GOSPEL PEARLS

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One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation. (Luke 11: 1-4)

The Lord's Prayer, as Jesus taught his disciples, wonderfully sums up all of God's Law. We owe God, in fact, all that is good in us. Righteous gratitude invites us to love those whom God's Providence has placed along our earthy paths, beginning with those who are closest to us in terms of family. We must forgive any sins we have suffered from them, knowing how much God has forgiven us. Only with the help of Divine Grace are we able to love our neighbors even when they are not endearing to us or when God's plans are not clear to us.