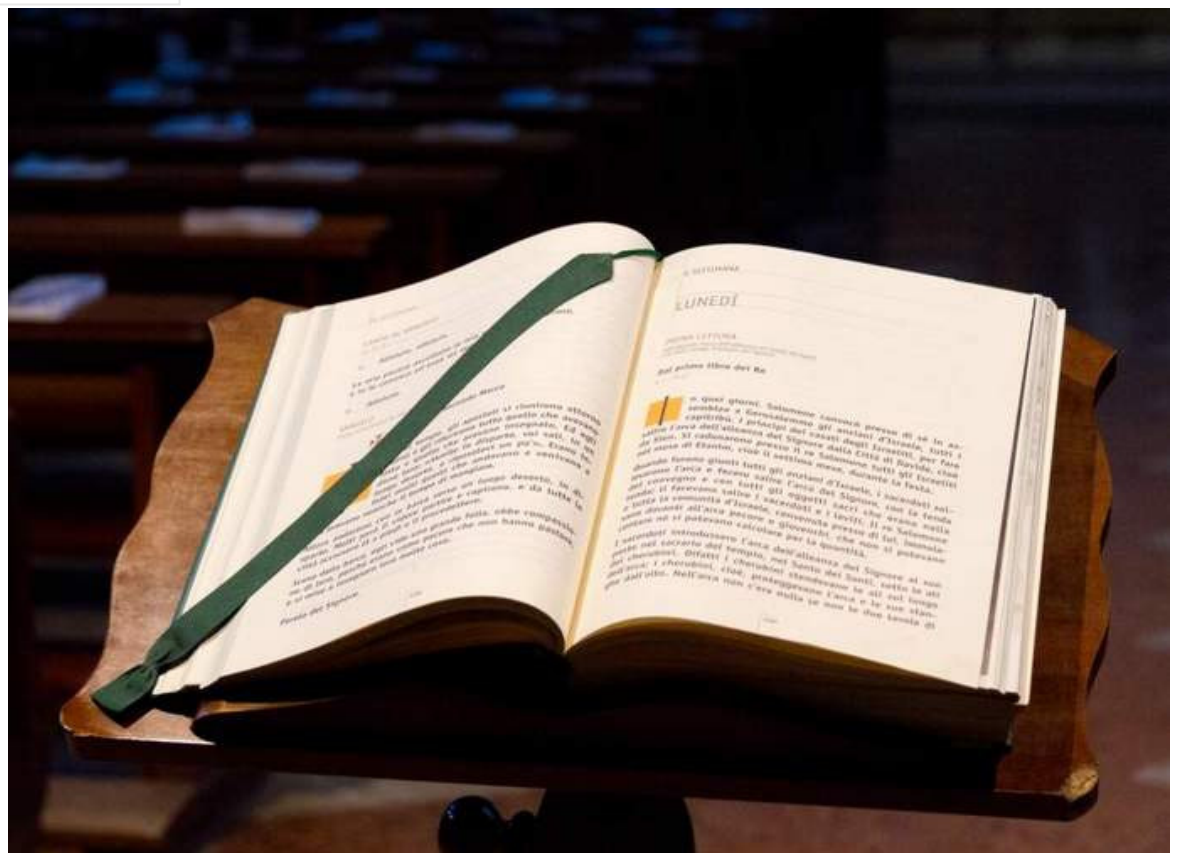


GOSPEL PEARLS

Whoever prays will be saved

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Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.' And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be

opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11: 5-13)

While praying, we recognize God's superiority to us and, thus, we entrust ourselves to Him. Our tendencies to evil or lust cannot be overcome by virtue of our own strength. If, by way of prayer, we allow the Holy Spirit act within us, we will tend to do more and more good (for God) and less and less evil (for Satan). Let us remember well St. Alphonsus Liguori's most famous words: "Whoever prays will be saved. Whoever doesn't pray will not be saved."