



Oblates of St. Benedict

Oblate Program at Belmont Abbey, NC

July, 2015

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION FOR THE DIVINE OFFICE

Oblates are free to use the Office of their choosing to fulfill the obligation for prayer. Each form of the Office has its own set of intercessions. The following set of intercessions are offered to the Oblates as another option. Why another set of intercessions? Several reasons but the most important one is to encourage unity of prayer for the Abbey and the Benedictine community at large. These are not required nor are they considered complete but it is hoped that you will find them useful. From time to time they will be revised as needed.

The intercessions follow a two week cycle and are meant to be used in lieu of the intercessions in the Liturgy of the Hours. Vespers usually ends with: Remember Fr. (Br.) N who passed from this life, . . . The person to be mentioned here is in the newsletter for the month.

Sunday I and III

First Vespers

We pray for:

- the Church throughout the world: that all who call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and in holiness of life; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles;
- those preparing for baptism, that God in his mercy may make them responsive to his love and forgive their sins through the waters of new birth;
- those who are devoted to theological research and teaching, that they may be careful to remain faithful to the Word of God and to his Church,
- the souls in purgatory and among them all especially those souls which have been most devout to your mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary;

(Remember Fr. (Br.) N who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence).

Our Father . . .

Lauds

We pray for:

- N our Pope, N our Bishop and N our Abbot, that our Lord will keep them safe and will graciously answer their prayers; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- the Church throughout the world, that the Holy Spirit may guide it and gather it together;
- all the members of the Benedictine family, that they may share the life of the Church and cooperate fully in all her works and hopes;
- the leaders of nations, that they may be committed to justice for all peoples and be dedicated to building a world at peace;
- ourselves: that we will strive to see Christ in all those we meet.

Our Father . . .

Second Vespers

We pray for:

- our Abbot N and the monastic community at Belmont, that you may respond generously to their petitions and

prayers; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

- an increase in vocations to the monastic life, particularly for the monastic community of Belmont;
- Belmont Abbey College, that it will increase in enrolment and continue to be an institution dedicated to Christian education and formation.
- wisdom for parents and educators, that they may know how to hand on the faith to children;
- those souls who have no one to pray for them, or who, either through negligence or through length of time, are forgotten.

Monday I and III

Lauds

We pray for:

- the Church and those who serve the Church and for all people who preach and practice the Gospel of Christ; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- those who bear the name of Christian, that they may work to be one in Christ and be faithful to the Gospel;
- all the members of the Benedictine family, that they may offer to God with a joyful heart their prayer and work, their joys and sufferings of life;
- the disheartened and the suffering, that the message of the Gospel may be for them a source of life and consolation;
- ourselves and for those who have taught us the Gospel through their example.

Our Father . . .

Vespers

We pray for:

- the Church, that we may be a witness to Christ's love by practicing charity and promoting justice and peace throughout the world; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- all who believe in Christ, that they may listen attentively to the voice of God as He invites all to a life of holiness;
- the leaders of nations, that they may be committed to

justice for all peoples and be dedicated to building a world at peace;

- those who labor tirelessly for the benefit of others, especially those who work in shelters for people who are homeless.
 - the souls in purgatory, and among them all, especially that soul which is nearest to its entrance into Your glory;
- (Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence)

Our Father . . .

Tuesday I and III

Lauds

We pray for:

- the holy Church of God throughout the world, may it be guided and gathered together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit so that we may worship him in peace and tranquility; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- the leaders of nations, that they may be committed to justice for all peoples and be dedicated to building a world at peace;
- all the members of the Benedictine family, that they may share the life of the Church and cooperate fully in all her works and hopes;
- an increase in vocations to the religious life, especially the monastic community of Belmont and to the priesthood of the Diocese of **N**;
- those who are married, may they grow in love, patience and companionship;
- those who are single, may they grow in faithfulness and charity.

Our Father . . .

Vespers

We pray for:

- the needs of the Belmont monastic community and for the intentions of our Abbot; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

— those who work and volunteer at local charities, that God will sustain them in their efforts, and the community will support the good that they do,

— our young people, that they may learn a joyful faith, and find encouragement to live a life of ministry and service,

— that all who suffer the violence of war may be blessed with lasting peace, especially in the Middle East, and for the protection of our Service men and women,

— the souls in purgatory, and among them all, particularly that soul which is in the greatest need of our prayers,

(Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence)

Our Father ...

Wednesday I and III

Lauds

We pray for:

— the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God, that they may continue to grow in the love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

— unborn children, that they will have the opportunity to enjoy the life God has given them,

— those unjustly deprived of liberty

— those who have died in war or suffered violent death;

— ourselves, that by the witness of our lives we may be examples of God's Divine Mercy and love for all.

Our Father ...

Vespers

We pray for:

— **N** our Pope, **N** our Bishop and **N** our Abbot, that our Lord will keep them safe and will graciously answer their prayers; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

— all Christians throughout the world, particularly those suffering persecution for the faith;

— world leaders and members of every nation to work to eliminate hunger in every corner of the globe;

— those who are suffering the loss of a loved one:

— the souls in purgatory and especially that one which is richest in merits in Your sight,

(Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence)

Our Father ...

Thursday I and III

Lauds

We pray for:

— the people of the world to learn to cherish the dignity of each human life; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

— those who do not believe in Christ, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way to salvation.

— all the members of the Benedictine family, that they may offer to God with a joyful heart their prayer and work, their joys and sufferings of life;

— all people, but especially that the young will learn patience and wisdom from their elders and the elders of the community foster the enthusiasm of the young;

— ourselves, that we be given to live a life of sincere devotion in the Rule of St. Benedict;

Our Father ...

Vespers

We pray for:

— those who provide food for the world, that God will protect them in their labors; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

— all who inspire and strengthen us by the witness of their commitment;

— that our daily living may transform our suffering world into a place of love, justice and peace;

— that all who grieve the loss of a loved one may be blessed with healing and acceptance;



— all who are struggling financially, that God will calm their fears and guide them to new opportunities of peace and stability;

— the souls in purgatory, but most of all, those souls most devoted to you in the Blessed Sacrament, this great Mystery of infinite love.

(Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence)

Our Father ...

Friday I and III

Lauds

We pray for:

— the leaders around world, that they might find ways to bring an end to war and violence, and promote peace and development for all nations; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

— the people of this land, and of all nations, that we may be guided in the ways of justice and peace; that we would honor one another and serve the common good;

— the sick and suffering, the homeless, the unemployed, those suffering from addictions, and anyone in any kind of distress;

— for all those in the Benedictine community that suffer from a dryness of the soul or are struggling with their calling;

— those whose lives are closely linked with ours, that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loves us.

Our Father ...

Vespers

We pray for:

— all monks, nuns, oblates and associates, that their way of life may stand out as a clear sign of the Kingdom; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

— those who do not believe in God, that they may find him by sincerely following all that is right.

— the youth, that they will clearly hear and respond to

God’s voice as they discern their future;

— the souls in purgatory, and particularly that soul for whom I am most bound to pray, in order that I may not be the cause which hinders You from admitting it quickly to the possession of Your glory.

— my parents, family, and friends. Bring them into your divine presence so that, one day we may all be united again in the joy of everlasting brightness.

(Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence).

Our Father ...

Lauds: Saturday I and III

Lauds

We pray for:

— the reunion of those who believe in Christ, that the love of the mother of God may help them one day to recover true fraternity; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

— those who are in distress and who labour under heavy burdens, that, by the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, they may find the comfort they need;

— the sick and the abandoned, that they may feel the motherly presence of the Virgin Mary close to them, in the person of those who come to their aid;

— the efforts to preserve the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death;

— ourselves, who joyfully put our trust in the protection of Our Lady, that in our life we may imitate her virtues of trust and simplicity.

Our Father ...



Sunday II and IV

First Vespers

We pray for:

- the Church, that the People of God may live by the grace of salvation which comes to them from Christ; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- the world, that it may find tranquility and peace and may be governed with law and justice;
- the persecuted and oppressed, that they may meet men and women who live by the love of Christ to help and comfort them,
- the souls in purgatory and among them all especially those souls which have been most devout to your mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary;

(Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence).

Our Father ...

Lauds

We pray for:

- the Church, that we may be a witness to Christ's love by practicing charity and promoting justice and peace throughout the world; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- our Holy Father **N**, Bishop **N** and Abbot **N**, that the Holy Spirit, who filled the apostles, may pour out His grace unceasingly upon them and their successors;
- Christians throughout our nation, that the values of our faith may guide us as we find ways to help build a world of greater respect for human life and human dignity;
- workers around the world, especially children who work long hours for little pay, that we might all seek ways to promote fairness, justice, and dignity in their lives.
- ourselves that we may serve Christ in one another this week, and love as he loves us.

Our Father ...

Second Vespers

We pray for:

- our Abbot **N** and the monastic community at Belmont, that you may respond generously to their petitions and prayers; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- an increase in vocations to the monastic life, particularly for the monastic community of Belmont;
- Belmont Abbey College, that it will continue grow and be an institution dedicated to Christian education and formation.
- wisdom for parents and educators, that they may know how to hand on the faith to children;
- those souls who have no one to pray for them, or who, either through negligence or through length of time, are forgotten.

(Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence)

Our Father ...

Monday II and IV

Lauds

We pray for:

- the holy Church of God: that adorned by the virtues of her children, she may shine ever more brightly in Christ, her Bridegroom; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- the people of the United States, that we may be united in building a society in which everyone can have the opportunity to live with dignity and hope;
- those who are persecuted for their beliefs that they may be blessed with freedom to worship;
- those in special need: that God the almighty Father may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers
- ourselves, that may we be granted the grace to live a life of sincere devotion in the Rule of St. Benedict;

Our Father ...



Vespers

We pray for:

- those who share our faith in Jesus Christ, that God may gather and keep together in one church all those who seek the truth with sincerity; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- all government officials and employees, that they may wisely use their offices to promote justice and well being for all people;
- all the families of those martyred for the faith, give to them comfort in their sorrow and peace of heart;
- all our brother and sister Oblates throughout the Congregation;
- the souls in purgatory, and among them all, especially that soul which is nearest to its entrance into Your glory; (Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence)

Our Father ...

Tuesday II and IV

Lauds

We pray for:

- the Church, may it be a sign of salvation for all mankind; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- the Pope, bishops, and all pastors of the Church, that they may receive the help they need in carrying out their charge,
- all those who "are like sheep without a shepherd", that, led by the Spirit, they may find the guidance they need,
- those who live and die without hope, that they may find comfort and peace,
- our parents, our families and our friends, and for our benefactors who reflect your kindness to us.

Our Father ...

Vespers

We pray for:

- the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the strength they will give to all your people as they work and witness in your world; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- all people, for places where there is war or famine. May the leaders of the world be given the grace of wisdom as they seek to find solutions.
- our community and for all who live and work in this area.
- those in need, especially the sick, depressed and those who despair of God's help and mercy;
- the souls in purgatory, and among them all, particularly that soul which is in the greatest need of our prayers, (Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence)

Our Father ...

Wednesday II and IV

Lauds

We pray for:

- all Christian people, that the holiness of God may be reflected by them in the world; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- all the nations of the earth, that peace and harmony may be established among them;
- the sick, for all those who suffer oppression, that they may find the consolation they need;
- the poor, the excluded, the marginalized: may they find the presence of Christ in the very midst of their sufferings;

Our Father ...

Vespers

We pray for:

- the strangers in our midst, that we Christians will welcome them as we would Jesus; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*

- those in prison, may they experience God’s mercy through his grace and our actions;
 - those who have fallen away from their faith;
 - that Christians may remember the need for prayer as they fulfil their duties in life;
 - the souls in purgatory and especially that one which is richest in merits in Your sight;
- (Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence)

Our Father ...

Thursday II and IV

Lauds

We pray for:

- world leaders and members of every nation to work to eliminate hunger in every corner of the globe; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- all parents, that they be given the strength, courage, wisdom and endurance to carry on in times of difficulty, knowing that you are always with them.;
- for single parents and those who are separated or divorced; may your love for them be demonstrated through our actions and understanding;
- single men and women: that God may lead them to study, reflect on, and accept His plan for their life, living chastely, loving God with undivided hearts;
- ourselves that we will experience a true conversion of our hearts and minds, imitating our Lord in accord with the Rule of St. Benedict.

Our Father ...

Vespers

We pray for:

- all the peoples of the world, that they may hear the Word of God and respond to the Gospel; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- all those who suffer because of famine, floods, and natural disaster.

- all who serve our nation and our local communities, that God will keep them from harm and guide them in protecting others.
 - persons in our community suffering from the various forms of addiction;
 - the souls in purgatory, but most of all, those souls most devoted to you in the Blessed Sacrament, this great Mystery of infinite love.
- (Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence)

Our Father ...

Friday II and IV

Lauds

We pray for:

- our Holy Father **N**, Bishop **N** and Abbot **N**, that all people may experience in their leadership and pastoral care the gentle fatherhood and charity of God; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- Belmont Abbey: that the law of love for one another may shine in it, and that, like the first disciples, they may be one in heart and mind;
- all the members of the Benedictine family, that each one, according to the call of God, may increase the holiness of the Church and work to spread God's kingdom;
- Persons with a mental illness and their families;
- Those persons that are separated from us because of distance or illness.

Our Father ...

Vespers

We pray for:

- those preparing for baptism, that they will respond to God’s promptings through the Holy Spirit; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- all who suffer the violence of war that they may be blessed with lasting peace, especially in the Middle East
- for the protection of our Service men and women;

— the grace to be mindful of our need for repentance where we have failed and seek renewal and conversion;

— the souls in purgatory, and particularly that soul for whom I am most bound to pray, in order that I may not be the cause which hinders You from admitting it quickly to the possession of Your glory;

my parents, family, and friends. Bring them into your divine presence so that, one day we may all be united again in the joy of everlasting brightness.

(Remember Fr. (Br.) **N** who passed from this life, bring him into the light of your presence).

Our Father ...

Lauds: Saturday II and IV

Intercessions

We pray for:

- a greater devotion to our Blessed Mother; *Lord have mercy (Kyrie eleison)*
- the various ecumenical dialogues between our church and other denominations, that they bear witness to the quest for Christian unity;
- the Benedictine family. May they be messengers and servants of the peace of Christ;
- the efforts to preserve the dignity of all human life, from conception to natural death.
- ourselves that we may always strive to do God's will and to appreciate His grace in all that we have and all that we are.



Our Father ...

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

LORD, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. Look with favor on the monastic family of Belmont Abbey. Uniting our prayer with theirs, we ask you to increase their numbers. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments and by their example.

We ask also that if someone from my own family is called to serve you in this way, that they will hear and generously respond to your call.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. BENEDICT

Glorious Saint Benedict, sublime model of virtue, pure vessel of God's grace! Behold me humbly kneeling at your feet. I implore you in your loving kindness to pray for me before the throne of God. To you I have recourse in the dangers that daily surround me. Shield me against my selfishness and my indifference to God and to my neighbor. Inspire me to imitate you in all things. May your blessing be with me always, so that I may see and serve Christ in others and work for His kingdom.

Graciously obtain for me from God those favors and graces which I need so much in the trials, miseries and afflictions of life. Your heart was always full of love, compassion and mercy toward those who were afflicted or troubled in any way. You never dismissed without consolation and assistance anyone who had recourse to you. I therefore invoke your powerful intercession, confident in the hope that you will hear my prayers and obtain for me the special grace and favor I earnestly implore.

(mention your petition)

Help me, great Saint Benedict, to live and die as a faithful child of God, to run in the sweetness of His loving will, and to attain the eternal happiness of heaven.

Amen

INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR 2015

January

Universal: That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.

Evangelization: That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

February

Universal: That prisoners, especially the young, may be able to rebuild lives of dignity.

Evangelization: That married people who are separated may find welcome and support in the Christian community.

March

Universal: That those involved in scientific research may serve the well-being of the whole human person.

Evangelization: That the unique contribution of women to the life of the Church may be recognized always.

April

Universal: That people may learn to respect creation and care for it as a gift of God.

Evangelization: That persecuted Christians may feel the consoling presence of the Risen Lord and the solidarity of all the Church.

May

Universal: That, rejecting the culture of indifference, we may care for our neighbours who suffer, especially the sick and the poor.

Evangelization: That Mary's intercession may help Christians in secularized cultures be ready to proclaim Jesus.

June

Universal: That immigrants and refugees may find welcome and respect in the countries to which they come.

Evangelization: That the personal encounter with Jesus may arouse in many young people the desire to offer

their own lives in priesthood or consecrated life.

July

Universal: That political responsibility may be lived at all levels as a high form of charity.

Evangelization: That, amid social inequalities, Latin American Christians may bear witness to love for the poor and contribute to a more fraternal society.

August

Universal: That volunteers may give themselves generously to the service of the needy.

Evangelization: That setting aside our very selves we may learn to be neighbours to those who find themselves on the margins of human life and society.

September

Universal: That opportunities for education and employment may increase for all young people.

Evangelization: That catechists may give witness by living in a way consistent with the faith they proclaim.

October

Universal: That human trafficking, the modern form of slavery, may be eradicated.

Evangelization: That with a missionary spirit the Christian communities of Asia may announce the Gospel to those who are still awaiting it.

November

Universal: That we may be open to personal encounter and dialogue with all, even those whose convictions differ from our own.

Evangelization: That pastors of the Church, with profound love for their flocks, may accompany them and enliven their hope.

December

Universal: That all may experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving.

Evangelization: That families, especially those who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.