



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

My faith and spiritual journey has very deep roots. My mom and dad, each in their own way, impacted and influenced me as a child, boy, a young adult, and a priest. If it were not for the power of prayer, there would have been challenges, crosses, and difficulties in my life and in my family's life that we would have struggled through. Knowing the importance of prayer, trusting in God and surrendering to God throughout each day, sometimes multiple times a day, peace and hope have been blessings of our lives lived in faith, remaining ever close to God.

Earlier this month my Mom suffered from a series of TIA's or strokes. Her condition warranted an ambulance trip to the hospital in Waukegan where she stayed for a week. After a few days in the hospital she entered into the hospice care program. As I write this article on Tuesday afternoon, my Mom, a woman of prayer and deep trust is being transported to a hospice facility in Glenview that many of our families have used for their loved ones. It is my hope and my prayer that she will breathe her last breath in peace, supported by the love of her family and ministered to with care and compassion by those who staff the hospice center. My family has been told that her death is imminent. God is in charge and we pray the days of my mom's suffering are over, and soon she will be welcomed by Jesus, Mary, and all the saints, as well as all of the departed family members who have preceded her in death to her eternal reward.



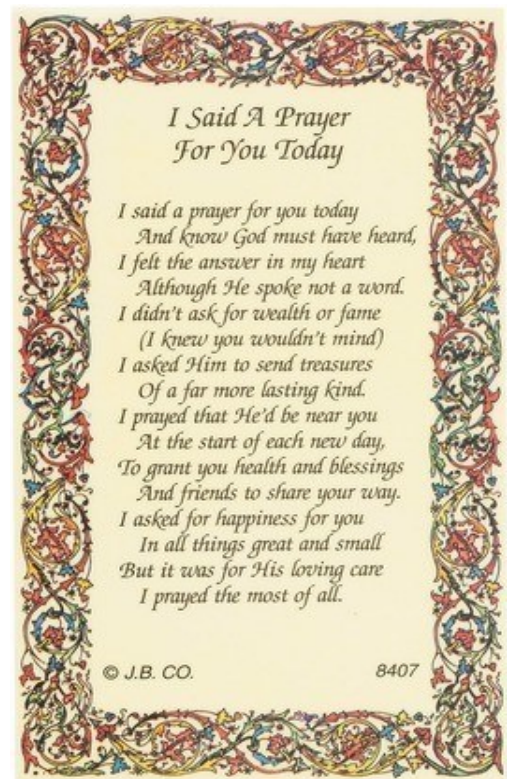
My Mom has a well worn prayer book that she would devotedly recite in her life of faith. The book started small and grew in size as she added "new" favorite prayers, as well as many memorial cards she received from supporting family and friends at wakes of loved ones. I hope and pray this photograph of her prayer book is able to capture the beauty, the depth, and the years of usage as she flipped from page to page, name of loved one to the name of another loved one, from prayer to prayer she recited with care, love, and trust in God's mercies.

Frequently Mom would ask me to print out the following prayer, make copies of it for her, so she could include it in a note to people she was praying for. The US Postal Service was very helpful in assisting my Mom in extending her prayers to the hearts and homes of family, friends, parishioners, and loved ones.

Please join me offering this prayer for my loving, caring, and beautiful mother as she journeys from "death to new life."

We begin our Lenten journey in prayer, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Please review the bulletin or parish website for information about Mass times and prayer services offered at St. Mary's in Lent 2022.

Fr. Mike Nacini



I Said A Prayer For You Today

*I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have heard,
I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke not a word.
I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind)
I asked Him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind.
I prayed that He'd be near you
At the start of each new day,
To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share your way.
I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small
But it was for His loving care
I prayed the most of all.*

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