**Prayer - Funnies**

**The child prays and finally ends her prayer with the statement: “. . .  And if you find a purple balloon up there, it’s mine.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**As the child kneels by his bed he closes his eyes and says to God: “Help me to take the blame even though it’s always that Rick Kirkman’s fault.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**The little boy kneeling next to his bed looks up to God and says: “Now don’t blow your top. I got mistakes to report.” *(The Clergy Journal cartoon)***

**As Billy kneels on his bed he says to God: “Daddy says you’ve been ‘stremely busy since September 11th, but . . .” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dad overhears Dennis praying: “And please teach my Dad how to keep a campfire going." *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis The Menace comic strip)***

**Visiting St. Patrick’s Cathedral on a tour of New York City, my daughter and her children were awed by the sight. The kids were especially curious about the votive candles, so my daughter asked if they’d each like to light one. She explained that it is customary to say a prayer of petition or thanks, and she was careful to tell them that these are not like birthday candles. “Do you have any questions?” she asked. “No,” said the five-year-old, “But if there’s a pony on the steps outside, it’s mine.” *(Ann Hasby, in Reader’s Digest)***

**In our parish Joseph came to school with his head in a cast. He was very self-conscious about it, and when it was his turn to lead the prayers, he always said, “Let us pray that God will hurry up and get this thing off, we pray to the Lord.” Finally, he came to school without the cast. This time his prayer was, “Gee, God, I’m sure glad that thing is off. Everyone tells me I’m beautiful now. Thanks a lot, we pray to the Lord.” *(Sister Mary Ora, in Catholic Digest)***

**A little boy said: “Grandma take me to the circus.” Said she: “I can’t, I’ve got to go to Prayer Meeting.” Said he: “Grandma, if you’d go to the circus just once, you’d never want to go to prayer meeting again.” *(Rev. Leon Hill, in O’ for the Life of a Preacher)***

**While our friends from India traveled around California on business, they left their 11-year-old daughter with us. Curious about my going to church one Sunday morning, she decided to come along. When we returned home, my husband asked her what she thought of the service. “I don’t understand why the West Coast isn’t included, too,” she replied. When we inquired what she meant, she added, “You know, in the name of the Father, the Son and the whole East Coast.” *(Ann Spivack, in Reader’s Digest)***

 **As Dolly and Jeffy kneel on the bed saying their prayers before they go to sleep, Dolly says to God: “Scratch what Jeffy just said about the missing cookies. Here’s the REAL story . . .” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

 **After reading the bulletin that says: “Bingo tonight after prayers,” the superior says to the Brother, “Brother, were you using the office copier for your personal use?” *(Mike Peters, in Mother Goose & Grimm comic strip)***

 **Daughter: “What’s that you’re doing, Mom?” Mom: “Cross-stitching a prayer. It’s going to say ‘God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do like, and the eyesight to tell the difference.’” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**A boy was praying as loud as he could for a Christmas present.  His sister said  -- “You don’t have to pray so loud, God isn’t deaf.”  Said he -- “I know God isn’t deaf, but Grandma is.” *(Rev. Leon Hill, in O for the Life of a Preacher, p. 25)***

**From silly devotions and from sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us. *(St. Teresa of Avila)***

**The child kneels on her bed and prays: “Can we ‘God bless’ dogs, too, or just people?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**When I took my daughter Jennifer to get her driver’s license, she was noticeably tense. I was afraid that her frazzled nerves were going to cause her to make mistakes on her road test, so I said a little prayer. Soon Jennifer returned with a big smile and a passing grade. Afterward I asked her if my prayer had done the trick. “I’m sure that it helped,” Jennifer replied. “Also, the examiner asked me if I was nervous. When I said, ‘Yes,’ he wanted to know if there was anything he could do. I suggested I’d be just fine if he’d scream every few minutes, so I could pretend he was my mother.” *(Pamela A. King, in Reader’s Digest)***

**While attending Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., I realized I had lost one of my favorite earrings. Distraught, I told our housemother, an elderly Italian woman who advised me to pray to St. Anthony, patron saint of lost items. “But I’m Jewish,” I explained. “I can’t pray to St. Anthony.” She looked at me and thought hard for a few moments. Leaning toward me, she whispered, “Don’t tell him.” *(Beth Begany)***

**The little girl kneels next to her bed and looks up to God and says: “I think you know my father -- he works for you -- he’s a minister.” *(The Clergy Journal cartoon)***

 **David was in first grade and didn't want his mother to walk him to school. So Mom asked a neighbor, Mrs. Goodnest, if she would follow him to school the first morning. Mrs. Goodnest agreed. She took her little daughter, Marcy. They followed David as he walked to school with a friend. After a bit, the friend said, “There's a lady following us. Do you know her?" David replied, “Yeah, that's Shirley Goodnest and her daughter Marcy. I better get used to it. Every night when Mom and I say prayers, she tells me that Shirley Goodnest and Marcy will follow me all the days of my life.” *(Larry Dittmer, in The Lutheran Witness)*

They say over in France the wine region is going through an incredible heat wave, destroying all the crops. The crops are ruined and this has devastated the French economy. Proving once again: Prayer works. *(Jay Leno)***

**On a road trip through a desolate region of New Mexico, my cousin and I found ourselves 60 miles from town with a nearly empty gas tank. Praying and hoping, we drove on until we reached a small farmhouse standing alone in a vast field. The farmer filled our tank and reluctantly accepted the $20 we offered. Grateful, I said, “Without your help, two young women might have been stranded tonight. God put you in this spot for a reason.” “Well,” replied the farmer, shaking his head and rubbing his neck, “it mighta been a-purpose, but he was mad at me when he done it!” *(Robin L. Wheeler, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Grandma: “I can’t believe it! I’m actually riding a mule to the bottom of the Grand Canyon! It’s a good thing these animals are so sure-footed. It’s a long way down there.” Nelson: “Grampa, how come your mule walks so close to the edge?” Grandna: “Don’t bother Grampa, Nelson. He’s saying his prayers.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Our 12-year-old daughter, Gayle, was teaching her younger sister, Mary, the Hail Mary. Gayle began and asked Mary to repeat after her, “Hail Mary,” Gayle said. Mary looked up at Gayle. “Hail, Gayle,” she obediently intoned. *(Clara E. Exner, in Catholic Digest)***

**Dolly: “Jeffy’s only kneeling on one knee again and saying half the Hail Mary.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**As the little boy and the dog, Marmaduke, are kneeling and praying beside the bed, the little boy says to Marmaduke: “Let me do it. I know how hard it is for you to be good.” *(Brad Anderson, in Marmaduke comic strip)***

**Grandma: “Nelson! What are you doing? Look! You're getting marking pen on the carpet! You'd better pray that I can get that ink out!” Grandpa then says to grandson: “I'd do what she says, son. Your Gramma takes her religion seriously!” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**I thought my four-year-old grandson showed amazing insight when his evening prayer recently was: “How do you do it, God? How do you do it?” *(David W. Eggebrecht, in The Lutheran Witness)***

**After our son began working as an insurance-company representative, he explained to his little girl what he’d be doing in his new job. Soon thereafter, on an overnight visit with us, she was saying her bedtime prayers and asking God to watch over the people who had been hit by Hurricane Hugo. Then she added, “. . . and please let them have paid their insurance.” *(Dee Lidvall, in Reader’s Digest)***

**During a Sunday service, the pastor asked the congregation for their intentions. We heard the usual requests to pray for sick people and the acknowledgements for those who helped when a parishioner died. The somber mood was broken when the last intention was heard. A woman stood up and said, “My granddaughter turned 16 this week and received her driver’s license. Let us pray for us all.” *(Ken Mallory, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Dean: “Hey, Heart.” Heart: “Quiet, Doofus! My Mom’s on a job interview and I’m praying that she gets it.” Dean: “Oh, well, isn’t it nice having her around again?” Heart: “To tell the truth, it would be nice having money again. I’m Jonesin’ for a new bathing suit.” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart Of The City comic strip)***

**Out on the road recently, I noticed in the next lane a tentatively driven car from a driving school. The license plate read PRAY4US. *(Richard Wayman, in Reader's Digest)***

**Lord give me the strength to change the things I can, the grace to accept the things I can't, and a free lifetime supply of ding dongs. *(Rick Stromowski, in Soup to Nutz comic strip)***

**Confiding in a co-worker, I told her about a problem in our office and my fear that I would lose my job. She was concerned and said she would pray for me. I know she keeps a list of the ten people she believes need her prayers the most, so I asked if she had room for me on her list. “Oh, yes,” she replied. “Three of the people have died.” *(Kaye Gordon, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Heart: “Mrs. Angelini, should I pray to God to help Dean find his lost kitten Spock?” Mrs. Angelini: “Why don’t you pray to St. Anthony. That’s who I pray to when I lose something.” Heart: “And who do I pray to to get Mom to let me get a tattoo?” Mrs. Angelini: “A patron saint of body art? I’d have to look it up.” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart of the City comic strip))***

 **Child: “Grandma, I can’t find Annie, my favorite doll! I’ve looked everywhere!” Grandma: “To find lost things I always pray to St. Anthony. He might find your lost doll for you.” Child: “Grandma! Look!” Grandma: “Did you thank St. Anthony for finding your doll?” Child: “No, he didn’t find her. I did.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

 **Little Benjamin sat down at the desk to write a letter to God asking for a little baby sister. He started the letter like this: “Dear God, I’ve been a very good boy.” He stopped, thinking, No, God won’t believe that. He wadded up the piece of paper, threw it away, and started again: “Dear God, most of the time I’ve been a good boy.” He stopped in the middle of the line, again thinking, God won’t be moved by this. So he wadded up the letter and into the trash can it went. Benjamin then went into the bathroom and grabbed a big terry cloth towel off the towel rack. He carried it into the living room and carefully laid it out on the couch. He smoothed out all the wrinkles. Then he went over to the fireplace mantle, reached up, and very carefully lifted down a statue of the Madonna. He had often seen his mother carefully dust the statue, and he had eyed it many times. On several occasions, his parents had told him that he could look but was not to touch the statue. Now, with all the care he could muster, he had it in his possession. Benjamin gently placed the statue in the middle of the towel, carefully folding over the edges. He then placed a rubber band around the whole thing. He brought it to the desk, took out another piece of paper, and began to write his third letter to God.  It went like this: “Dear God, if you ever want to see your mother again . . .” *(Moments for Mothers)***

 **A boss who has the reputation of being a real slave driver became ill and had to stay home from the office. His wife called his secretary to give her the news. “He won’t be in today,” the wife said. “He’s sick. And you know what kind of mood he’s in.” “Oh my, yes,” said the secretary. “God help those germs.” *(James Dent, in Charleston, WV, Gazette)*
Motto seen on the sweat shirt of a young woman exiting the physical-sciences building at California State University, Los Angeles: “St. Andreas, Protect Us From Our Faults.” *(Dick Straw, in Reader’s Digest)***

 **“Do you say your prayers every night, Trudy?” asked the minister. “Oh, no; Mummy says them for me,” answered Trudy. “Indeed, and what does she say?” he queried. “Thank God you’re in bed!” was the prompt reply. *(Elberton Star)***

**Husband says to wife: “I’m gonna say my prayers. D’you need anything?” *(Jim Unger, in Classic Herman comic strip)***

**Grandma says to the children: “When I'm put on hold I use the time to say a little prayer. But it's usually hard to pray in time with the music.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**The orthopedist, examining my painful knee, asked when I felt most uncomfortable. I told him it was worst as I kneel to pray -- as Episcopalians do -- during church on Sunday. After his technician took X rays, the doctor came back with them in hand and, shaking his head, said, “You may have to become a Baptist.” *(Jane Perry Shoemaker, in Reader’s Digest)***

 **A man who recently bought a female parakeet with a salty vocabulary got a call from his minister telling him that he was planning to stop by the following week. Worried about the bird’s language, he called a friend who had two well-behaved male birds. One recited the Lord’s Prayer, while the other held a rosary in its claws and repeated Hail Marys. “Would it be okay if I brought my bird over for a few days?” the man asked his buddy. “Maybe my parrot will pick up some good habits from yours.” The friend agreed, so the man took his female parakeet over and put her in the cage next to that of the two devout males. Suddenly, the first male parakeet stopped praying and turned to the other. “You can knock it off now,” he said. “We got what we were praying for.?” *(Orvil T. Unger, in Quote magazine)***

**Dear God, I pray for patience and I want it right now! *(Oren Arnold)***

**Members of Atlanta Christian College's choir tour, we travel around the country by bus, singing at churches. One day we stopped at a restaurant whose specialty is pecan waffles. When our steaming waffles were served, we all bowed our heads to give thanks. As we prayed, the waitress whispered in my ear, “If you’re lookin’ for the pecans, they’re on the bottom.” *(Nina Argo, in Reader’s Digest)***

 **A woman proudly hung on her mantelpiece a needlework plaque that said “Prayer Changes Things.” A few days later, the plaque was missing from its place. The woman asked her husband if he had seen it. “I took it down, I didn’t like it,” her husband replied. “But why?” the woman asked. “Don’t you believe that prayer changes things?” “Yes, I honestly do,” her husband answered. “But it just so happens that I don’t like change, so I threw it away.” *(King Duncan & Angela Akers, in Amusing Grace, p. 451)***

**Three preachers sat discussing the best positions for prayer while a telephone repairman worked nearby. “Kneeling is definitely best,” claimed one. “No,” another contended. “I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven.” “You’re both wrong,” the third insisted.  “The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor.” The repairman could contain himself no longer. “Hey, fellas,” he interrupted, “the best prayin’ I ever did was hangin’ upside down from a telephone pole.” *(Mae Hoover, in Reader’s Digest)***

**In certain trying circumstances, urgent circumstances, desperate circumstances, profanity furnishes a relief denied even to prayer. *(Mark Twain)***

 **Pig: “Have any of your fellow zebras ever tried praying to ask for protection from the lions?” Zebra: “Yeah, but they were all killed.” Pig: “Why is that?” Zebra: “Kneeling with your eyes closed is not conducive to survival.” *(Stephan Pastis, in Pearls before Swine comic strip)***

**Jay’s Sunday school class met in the church after Mass. When he found a quarter under a pew, Jay’s teacher suggested he light a candle and say a prayer for his sick friend. He did so and laid his coin on the tray as he had seen others do. A few minutes later the teacher noticed Jay taking the quarter from the tray and putting it into his pocket. When she asked him why he had taken his donation back, he replied, “Oh, it’s OK, Mrs. Smith. I blew the candle out!” *(Cynthia A. Baker, in Catholic Digest)***

**Once upon a time there was a family of wayward church members who had once been active, but had lost all interest and had fallen away. There were the father and three sons, Jim, John, Sam. The elders had talked to them about their lost condition, the preacher had visited them, and many of the brethren had tried to get them to come back to church -- but all this did not seem to do the least bit of good. One day when the boys were out in the pasture, a large rattlesnake bit John and he became very ill. The physician was called and, after an examination, he pronounced John to be in a very critical condition. Said he, “About all you can do now is pray.” The father called the preacher and told him of John’s condition. He asked the preacher to pray for John’s recovery and this was his prayer: “O wise and righteous Father, we thank Thee, for Thou hast in Thy wisdom sent the rattlesnake to bite John, in order to bring him to his senses. He has not been inside the church house for years and it is doubtful that he has in all that time felt the need for prayer. Now, we trust that this will prove a valuable lesson to him, and that it will lead to genuine repentance. And now, O Father, will Thou send another snake to bite Sam, and another to bite Jim, and another BIG ONE to bite the old man. We have all been doing everything we know for years to restore them, but to no avail. It seems, therefore, that all our combined efforts could not do what this snake has done. We thus conclude that the only thing left that will do this family any good is rattlesnakes; so Lord, send us bigger and better rattlesnakes. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.” *(John R. Rice Scrapbook)***

**During birth-preparation class we were learning relaxation techniques, and the instructor asked us to come up with ideas to lower stress levels. Silence pervaded the room, but one dad, a slight fellow with round glasses and a religious T-shirt, finally offered: “Prayer?” “Good," the instructor replied. “Anything else?” “How about sex?” suggested another father-to-be. Once again, silence followed. Then the devout dad-to-be muttered under his breath, “What do you think I've been praying for?” *(Tracy & Scott Yancey, in Reader's Digest)***

**In our prayer group, each member writes her prayer requests on index cards. One day when I was to read the requests, I forgot my glasses. Reading the first card, “Lord, please bring my lover back into the right position.” Amid the puzzled looks, the pastor’s wife snatched the card from me and read, “Lord, please bring my lower back into the right position!” *(Mary L. Donahue, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Heart: “What are you doing, Mrs. Angelini?” Mrs. Angelini: “Oh, just praying a few decades of my rosary. What about you?” Heart: “I’m studying for a stupid math test I have to take tomorrow. So you might want to toss in a few Hail Marys for me.” Mrs. Angelini: “I’ll even spot ya’ an extra ‘Hail! Holy Queen.’” *(Mark Tatulli, in Heart of the City comic strip)***

**Two shipwrecked sailors were adrift on a raft for days. In desperation, one knelt down and began to pray. “Oh, Lord, I haven’t lived a good life. I’ve drunk too much. I’ve lied. I’ve cheated. I’ve gambled. I’ve done many bad things, but Lord, if you’ll save me, I promise . . .” “Don’t say another word!” shouted his shipmate. “I think I just spotted land.” *(Modern Maturity)***

 **As the storm raged, the captain realized his ship was sinking fast. He called out, “Anyone here know how to pray?” One man stepped forward. “Aye, Captain, I know how to pray.” “Good,” said the captain, “you pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets -- we’re one short.” *(Dale Radke)***

 **As the child kneels next to his bed in prayer, he says to God: “I think you better sit down.” *(Reamer Keller cartoon)***

 **In our parish my three-year-old son had a hard time sitting still during Mass one Sunday. Wiggling would not have been so bad, but after he pinched his brother, dumped the contents of my purse on the floor, and squirted milk from his brother’s bottle down the neck of the woman sitting in front of us, I had had enough.  So I scooped him up and headed down the aisle toward the vestibule for the promised “talk.” Quickly realizing he was in big trouble, he solicited help from a higher power. Stretching out his little arms to the other worshipers as we walked, he called out, “Pray for me! Pray for me!” *(Sally Dillon, in Catholic Digest)***

 **First pig: “Who are all you people?” Other pigs: “The diminutive soothsayers. We're short little guys who pray fervently for the end of this world.” First pig: “Why do you do that?” Other pigs: “We can't get dates.” *(Stephan Pastis, in Pearls before Swine comic strip)***

**As Dennis kneels next to his bed in prayer, he says to God: “I'll talk to you tomorrow night, same time, same place. Amen.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**Dolly, while kneeling on her bed, says to God at the end of her prayer time: “Thanks for listening, and stay tuned for Jeffy comin’ up next.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**As Dennis the Menace kneels beside his bed he says to God: “You know who stepped in the wet cement, and I know, but do we hafta talk about it?” *(Hank Ketcham, in Dennis the Menace comic strip)***

**I wrote down a prayer. Does God have a fax machine? *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***