

# AN EXORCISM PRAYER

## WARNING: TO BE SAID BY A PRIEST ONLY

This is a prayer against Satan and his rebellious angels. It was published by the Order of His Holiness Pope Leo XIII.

This simple prayer must be said by a priest only.

The term "exorcism" does NOT always denote a solemn exorcism involving a person possessed by the devil. In general, the term denotes prayers to "curb the power of the devil and prevent him from doing harm." As St. Peter had written in Holy Scripture, "your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, goes about seeking whom he may devour." [1 St.Pet. 5:8]

The Holy Father exhorts priests to say this prayer as often as possible, as a simple exorcism to curb the power of the devil and prevent him from doing harm. The faithful also may say it in their own name, for the same purpose, as any approved prayer. Its use is recommended whenever action of the devil is suspected, causing malice in men, violent temptations and even storms and various calamities. It could be used as a solemn exorcism (an official and public ceremony, in Latin), to expel the devil. It would then be said by a priest, in the name of the Church and only with a Bishop's permission.

### Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

In the Name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

Most glorious Prince of the Heavenly Armies,  
Saint Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in "our battle against principalities and powers,  
against the rulers of this world of darkness,  
against the spirits of wickedness in the high places" [Eph., 6:12].

Come to the assistance of men whom God has created to His likeness  
and whom He has redeemed at a great price from the tyranny of the devil.

The Holy Church venerates you as her guardian and protector;  
to you, the Lord has entrusted the souls of the redeemed to be led into  
heaven.  
Pray therefore the God of Peace to crush Satan beneath our feet,  
that he may no longer retain men captive and do injury to the Church.  
Offer our prayers to the Most High,  
that without delay they may draw His mercy down upon us;  
take hold of "the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan,"  
bind him and cast him into the bottomless pit  
"that he may no longer seduce the nations." [Rev. 20:2-3]

Exorcism

In the Name of Jesus Christ,  
our God and Lord,  
strengthened by the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin Mary,  
Mother of God,  
of Blessed Michael the Archangel,  
of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul and all the Saints.  
and powerful in the holy authority of our ministry,  
we confidently undertake to repulse the attacks and deceits of the devil.

God arises;  
His enemies are scattered  
and those who hate Him flee before Him.  
As smoke is driven away,  
so are they driven;  
as wax melts before the fire,  
so the wicked perish at the presence of God.

V. Behold the Cross of the Lord, flee bands of enemies.  
R. The Lion of the tribe of Juda, the offspring of David, hath conquered.

V. May Thy mercy, Lord, descend upon us.  
R. As great as our hope in Thee.  
We drive you from us,  
whoever you may be,  
unclean spirits,  
all satanic powers,  
all infernal invaders,  
all wicked legions,  
assemblies and sects.

In the Name and by the power of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
+ may you be snatched away and driven from the Church of God  
and from the souls made to the image and likeness of God  
and redeemed by the Precious Blood of the Divine Lamb.

+ Most cunning serpent,  
you shall no more dare to deceive the human race,  
persecute the Church,  
torment God's elect and sift them as wheat.

+ The Most High God commands you,  
+ He with whom,  
in your great insolence,  
you still claim to be equal.

"God who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." [1 Tim. 2:4)

God the Father commands you.  
+ God the Son commands you.  
+ God the Holy Ghost commands you.

+ Christ, God's Word made flesh, commands you;  
+ He who to save our race outdone through your envy,  
"humbled Himself,  
becoming obedient even unto death" [Phil. 2:8);  
He who has built His Church on the firm rock  
and declared that the gates of hell shall not prevail against Her,  
because He will dwell with Her "all days even to the end of the world."  
[Mt. 28:20]

The sacred Sign of the Cross commands you,  
+ as does also the power of the mysteries of the Christian Faith.

+ The glorious Mother of God, the Virgin Mary, commands you;  
+ she who by her humility  
and from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception crushed your proud  
head.

The faith of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul,  
and of the other Apostles commands you.

+ The blood of the Martyrs  
and the pious intercession of all the Saints command you. +

Thus, cursed dragon, and you, diabolical legions,  
we adjure you by the living God,  
+ by the true God,  
+ by the holy God,  
+ by the God  
"who so loved the world that He gave up His only Son,  
that every soul believing in Him  
might not perish but have life everlasting;" [St.Jn. 3:16]  
stop deceiving human creatures  
and pouring out to them the poison of eternal damnation;  
stop harming the Church and hindering her liberty.

Begone, Satan, inventor and master of all deceit,  
enemy of man's salvation.

Give place to Christ in Whom you have found none of your works;  
give place to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church  
acquired by Christ at the price of His Blood.

Stoop beneath the all-powerful Hand of God;  
tremble and flee when we invoke the Holy and terrible Name of Jesus,  
this Name which causes hell to tremble,  
this Name to which the Virtues,  
Powers and Dominations of heaven are humbly submissive,  
this Name which the Cherubim and Seraphim praise unceasingly repeating:  
Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord, the God of Hosts.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.  
R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

V. May the Lord be with thee.  
R. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

God of heaven,  
God of earth,  
God of Angels,  
God of Archangels,  
God of Patriarchs,  
God of Prophets,  
God of Apostles,  
God of Martyrs,  
God of Confessors,  
God of Virgins,  
God who has power to give life after death and rest after work:  
because there is no other God than Thee and there can be no other,

for Thou art the Creator of all things,  
visible and invisible,  
of Whose reign there shall be no end,  
we humbly prostrate ourselves before Thy glorious Majesty  
and we beseech Thee to deliver us by Thy power  
from all the tyranny of the infernal spirits,  
from their snares,  
their lies and their furious wickedness.

Deign, O Lord,  
to grant us Thy powerful protection  
and to keep us safe and sound.

We beseech Thee through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

V. From the snares of the devil,  
R. Deliver us, O Lord.

V. That Thy Church may serve Thee in peace and liberty:  
R. We beseech Thee to hear us.

V. That Thou may crush down all enemies of Thy Church:  
R. We beseech Thee to hear us.

(Holy water is sprinkled in the place where we may be.)