

## Pray at Certain Times of the Day

We would all do well to be more aware of meeting deadlines in our lives. Deadlines is newspaper jargon. Newspaper people never lose sight of deadlines. Their jobs depend on their ability to produce a certain product on a timely basis.

What we must produce for a good spiritual life has to be done on an even stricter timetable, with more unchangeable deadlines, than newspapers.

Consider the great deadline which a wise person is ready to meet at any and all moments -- his or her death. When that moment comes, to meet our most important deadline, will we be prepared? Are we prepared now, or are we even thinking about it? If not, we had better wake up, and go to work before it is too late. Death will come to us like a thief in the night, and we won't know the day or the hour. Read Matthew 24:36-44.

If we want to be truly successful in life, we must follow a strict timetable. Pray at certain times every day morning, evening, before and after all meals. In addition, have set times for structured prayer every day: rosary, liturgy of the hours. Never miss a Sunday Mass or Holy Day Mass. Know the success and blessings that come to the singlehearted. Read Matthew 5:8. Don't be distracted by anything; and be ready, and well prepared to meet every deadline for prayer in life. Only then will you be capable of powerful, spontaneous prayer.

We can't be successful in any study program, athletic program, work program, business or social venture unless we are prepared to meet the deadlines for exams, games, sales, parties, etc. Our spiritual life is the only hope we have to meet our most important deadline which is death, with confidence, happiness and peace.

To meet the important deadlines for prayer in our lives which is like meeting God at death, we must work before the deadline arrives. For prayer and for death, this work must be done daily, even scheduled acts of self-denial expressed in abstinence and fasting from food, drink, and sex; corporal and spiritual acts of mercy; selfless giving of material wealth to the Church and the needy; never ending study, and defense of the faith; scripture and other spiritual reading.

**We may be considered wise** only at that time, when we are more ready to meet the great deadline of death, than we are for any exam, game, business deal, social affair, or any other event, we consider important in this life.

