



# *Academy of Our Lady of Grace*

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September 17, 2017

Dear Parents,

With the grace of this Eucharistic liturgy, we ask the Holy Spirit for the courage to seek forgiveness and the strength to accept it.

Hatreds and grudges are easy to hold on to. They are difficult to let go of, especially long festering ones. It often seems impossible to be rid of these "hateful things." And they slowly eat away at us.

We are called every week in our liturgies to "live in the light." Hateful things keep us in perpetual darkness.

The words we pray at Mass are familiar. They roll off our tongues easily. Are these beautiful prayers forgotten when we exit the doors of the church? So often the most familiar, precious things become mundane and are easily forgotten. The transforming power of Eucharist can free us of burdensome feelings, if we allow that to happen.

The Our Father is a simple prayer. We recite it at every Mass we attend. At the same time, it is incredibly complex.

Prayed slowly, it reveals itself; it calls us to live in the light. Its commands are straightforward but very challenging. Trying to live out day by day is a true Gospel challenge.

The good news today is: although we may have trouble with mercy and forgiveness, God never does. Jesus is always with us, always with you, waiting with open arms to welcome you back into the state of grace, and back into the light.

Have mercy on yourself and others. The Holy Spirit will give you the strength and courage you need.

Fr. Peter