

Daily Devotion For February 22, 2022

<sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done **in secret**, will reward you." Matthew 6:6

Yesterday was Presidents Day. But Presidents Day is not about sales or staying home from school or work, it is about remembering the honorable men who turned their ideals into our reality. Part of our education was in reading and learning about our founding fathers, and it was 290 years ago today, February 22, 1732, that George Washington was born on a modest plantation in Virginia. The son of Augustine and Mary Washington, he was baptized into the Episcopal Church.

Tragically, George Washington lost his father when he was only 11, and his mother worked hard to raise him as a committed Christian. She admonished him before he left home as a young soldier: "Remember that God is our only sure trust. To Him I commend you." She added: "**My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer.**"

Washington followed the counsel of his mother. The proof is in a well-worn 24-page journal filled with prayers copied in his own hand-writing that he titled: "Daily Sacrifice." The very first entry, called "Sunday Morning," reads as follows:

"Almighty God, and most merciful Father, who didst command the children of Israel to offer a daily sacrifice to Thee, that thereby they might glorify and praise Thee for Thy protection both night and day ... I beseech Thee, my sins, remove them from Thy presence, as far as the east is from the west, and accept of me for the merits of Thy Son Jesus Christ...." "Let me live according to those holy rules which Thou hast this day prescribed in Thy holy word ... Direct me to the true object, Jesus Christ the way, the truth and the life. Bless, O Lord, all the people of this land."

**Thought For Today and Today's Prayer Focus:** Reflect on Mary Washington's advice to her son George. "Remember that God is our only sure trust. To Him I commend you." She added: "**My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer.**" Can you personalize George Washington's secret prayer in your own words today? Deo Volente.