

JULY 24, 2022
**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
 IN ORDINARY TIME**

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

Through baptism we can confidently approach the living God in prayer.

In our first reading, we hear Abraham boldly attempting to convince God to change his mind. It demonstrates that Abraham was confident in his relationship with his God. Even though he speaks very humbly and meekly, he has the audacity to believe he can negotiate with the Lord. He not only has faith in the power and justice of God, but he also has strong faith that his relationship with God is stable and friendly.

In our second reading, Saint Paul reminds us that we also have a stable and friendly relationship with the Lord. Our relationship with God is grounded in our baptism. We, like Abraham, can have confidence in our relationship with God, especially as we follow Jesus as his disciples.

As Jesus' disciples, we are taught to pray the Lord's Prayer and to be persistent in our prayers. United to Christ in baptism, we must seek and persevere in seeking. We must knock and keep knocking until the door is opened to us. We should ask our heavenly Father for what we need, and do so consistently. In the Gospel today, Jesus is teaching us to be people of faithful prayer.

Our Gospel today does not teach us that we will always receive what we want. Sometimes we ask selfishly for comforts, or we are unable to see the Lord's plan in our lives that may require some suffering or lack. We are called to seek God first in our lives. If he is the goal of our seeking, then we will certainly receive what we seek. If we seek only fame or fortune, the Lord will need to convert us more deeply so that our asking, seeking, and knocking is according to his will. In baptism, we surrender our lives to the Lord. If we belong to Jesus, then we will seek and ask for the things that matter.

Jesus expects his people to pray. He teaches us how to pray and calls us to be constant in our prayers. As children of God through baptism, we can be confident that our prayers are heard and answered by a God who is merciful and truly wants what is best for us.



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OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)	
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)	
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM	
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
HOLY DAY MASSES	9:00 AM	7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS	4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT	

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	July 23
9:30—11 AM	Food Closet Open
5:00 PM	Mass: Fr. Wilfred Gregoire & Fr. Alfred Lonardo (RIP)
Sunday	July 24
8:00 AM	Mass: Living and Deceased Parishioners
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: William Gilmore (RIP)
Monday	July 25
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: For the Intentions of Donald Knox, Jr. on the Occasion of his 50th Birthday
Wednesday	July 27
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Mary Lou Guthrie (RIP)
Friday	July 29
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Open for your Intentions
8:00 AM	Open for your Intentions
10:00 AM	Open for your Intentions

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
 A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

SAVE THE DATE:

St. Paul's 50th Anniversary

Sunday, October 2nd, will be the celebration of The Holy Mass at 10AM with Bishop Tobin presiding over the Eucharist for us! Luncheon will follow at Foster Country Club.

Tickets will be available soon. There will be a limited amount of tickets so be sure to get yours early.

Wedding Anniversary Celebration

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we will be honoring all couples of the parish who are celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. Please let the office know if you are observing your 10th, 20th, 25th, 40th, 50th and Over 50 years wedding anniversary in 2022!

2022 Christmas Bazaar

Thank you to those parishioners who have donated our 3 remaining Main Raffle prizes. Your generosity is our blessing!

Thank you to the parishioners who have already donated \$25. **There are only 2 envelopes left.** If you are able to donate please take one of the envelopes in the entrance of the church and return your \$25 cash or check made out to St. Paul's either to the office or in collection basket.

Knights of Columbus Booth FOHD

St. Paul's Knights of Columbus Council 95 will once again have a booth at Foster Old Home Days the last weekend of July. Be sure to stop by and say hello and enjoy some of their delicious cooking. Old Home Day Schedules are available in the entrance of the church.

2022 Catholic Charity Appeal

Thank you to all who donated to this year's Catholic Charity Appeal. We were so close to reaching our goal of \$15,813, we only missed it by \$76.

Food Closet Ministry

This month we are in need of **Cookies, Crackers and Snacks.**

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – July 9/10
\$2,970.00

Thank you for your support!



Gospel of Luke 11: 1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: *Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.*"

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence." And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened..."

Questions of the Week

Step One: Listen to the Word
As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What lingers in your memory?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Prayer is talking with God and listening to God in our hearts. Where do you talk to God and how do you listen to what God says to you?

Question for Youth: Jesus teaches us how important it is to pray. How do you ask God for what you need? How do you listen for his response?

Question for Adults: Jesus teaches us how to pray. When this past week did you take the time to pray, to talk to and listen to God?



THE EUCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE

From earliest times the Church has venerated the Eucharistic "bread" and "wine" as the actual Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, since this was the teaching of Christ Himself. Our Lord knew the depth of faith which would be required for acceptance of this doctrine, so He first prepared His followers by the miraculous multiplication of loaves and fishes. (Matt. 14:15-21). Then He foretold that He would give His very flesh and blood "as food and drink." This was the turning point for many of His followers: "Many of his disciples, hearing it, said: This saying is hard, and who can hear it? ... After this many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with Him." (John 6:61,67). These had not misunderstood Him; they simply would not accept what He was saying. But Our Lord did not offer an explanation to soften His words or to give them a symbolic meaning. Rather, "Then Jesus said to the twelve: "Will you also go away?" (John 6:68). The actual institution of the Holy Eucharist came at the Last Supper. It is described thus by St. Matthew: "And whilst they were at supper, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke: and gave to his disciples, and said: Take ye, and eat. This is my body. And taking the chalice, He gave thanks, and gave to them, saying: Drink ye all of this. For this is my blood of the new testament, which shall be shed for many unto remission of sins." (Matt. 26:26-28). This momentous event is also recounted by St. Mark (Mk. 14:22-24), St. Luke (Lk. 22:17-20), and St. Paul (1 Cor. 11:23-26). These words of Our Lord have always been, and are now, accepted in their true and literal sense by the whole of Catholic Christendom.

~Committee on Doctrine of USCCB