



**SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS**



"AND I TELL YOU,  
ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE;  
SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND;  
KNOCK AND THE DOOR  
WILL BE OPENED TO YOU."

LUKE 11:9

**Seventeenth  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

JULY

**24**

2022



## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Father.’” Lk. 11:1b-2a

Being members of a Carmelite parish, today’s Gospel should especially resonate with us. Not only is it about prayer, so dear to the Carmelite family, but Holy Mother St. Teresa of Avila writes extensively on the Our Father in her *Way of Perfection* (Chs. 27-42). As Jesus goes on to speak about other aspects of prayer in our Gospel, it is highly important where he begins. He begins with one word: Father. In doing this, Jesus is telling us that prayer is fundamentally about relationship. This is highlighted by St. Teresa herself in her classic definition of prayer in *The Book of Her Life*. She says: “Prayer, in my view, is nothing but friendly conversation with Him who we know loves us.” So prayer begins with knowing we are LOVED! How beautiful! How our world so filled with evil, hatred and division would be completely transformed if all of us truly believed that we are loved! And we are loved specifically as beloved sons and daughters of the greatest Father in the universe! St. Teresa goes on to say in the *Way of Perfection*: “Because He is Our Father, he must bear with us, despite the gravity of our offenses. He must pardon us when, like the prodigal son, we return to him. He must console us in our trials. He must care for us in a manner becoming a divine father. Since he possesses all perfections, He will of necessity be a better father than all earthly fathers. And in addition to all this, He must make us partakers of his riches and coheirs with thee.” What a Father we have indeed! And Jesus is the one who desires our relationship with him.

This awareness should change everything in our lives! It should change how we see God, how we approach him, how we pray and live our lives. Now when we pray, we’re not just casting petitions to some far-away and impersonal God but conversing on intimate terms with our Father who loves us more than anyone else ever will. But, as Jesus enjoins us in our Gospel today, we must seek him. And we need not seek him in some far off galaxy but within us. St. Teresa testifies to this: “All the harm comes from not truly understanding that he is near, but in imagining him as far away” (*WP*). So we must go deeper into the “Interior Castle” of our souls where God abides. He desires this! Jesus clearly affirms that God desires a relationship with us by beginning his discourse on prayer with the word, Father. How profound! As St. Teresa says: “What a marvelous thing, that he who would fill a thousand worlds and many more with his grandeur would enclose himself in something so small!... and since he loves us he adapts himself to our size” (*WP*). And if God lowers himself to our level, so must we lower ourselves in our own eyes and the eyes of others. Here we see the necessity of humility for growing in our prayer life. St. Teresa herself enjoined humility, detachment and fraternal charity for growth in prayer. These three clear away all the ego, false gods and selfishness that prevent us from being in union with our loving God. This is the final end of our relationship with God – union with him. And let’s not forget, we’re called to a relationship and union with each of the three divine persons of the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As our Gospel goes on, Jesus teaches us something else about prayer. He tells a story about a man seeking bread from a friend. But the friend is unwilling to get out of bed to help this man. Our Lord highlights, though, that he will give him the bread if the man is persistent. The obvious corollary to prayer is that we must be persevering and never give up in prayer. Asking, seeking and knocking in prayer persistently opens the door to God’s heart. At times, God may SEEM to be not answering our prayers or even hearing them, but if we truly believe in and trust our loving Father whom we petition, then we will never be forsaken. Here’s where the relationship piece of prayer becomes so important. So let us go forward in our life of prayer, going deeper into our souls where the God who loves us awaits us. And let us trust that he will answer all our prayers as only a loving Father could do!

*This reflection was written by Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio, O.C.D. who helped in the parish this week while Fr. Stephen was away. Fr. Peter is the Rector and Student Master of the St. Elijah House of Studies in Mount Angel, OR.*



AT THE CAPILLA de GUADALUPE  
You are invited to the Blessing, Rosary  
and unveiling of the new stain glass, at  
the Capilla of Guadalupe on Tuesday,  
July 26th at 6:30 pm. Join us in  
giving thanks to God.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

*Group support for those who are dealing  
with the painful loss of a loved one. Group  
meets this Thursday, July 28th at 6:30 pm.  
Come to find comfort and support from  
others who share the same experience.*

### Arizona Rosary Celebration St. Augustine Cathedral

October 15, 2022, 10:00 am – 12:15 pm

#### Our Lady Help of Persecuted Christians,

Registration is now available on the website [azrosary.net](http://azrosary.net)  
or email your registration to [1945dwc@gmail.com](mailto:1945dwc@gmail.com)

Early registration will ensure a better position in the  
Blessing Procession and a pew closer to the front of  
the Cathedral. For more information please contact  
Sister Lois Paha at the Diocese phone 520-838-2542.

Charismatic Mass. Offer joyous praise and worship to  
our Lord as we celebrate Mass in honor of His  
Mother's glorious Assumption. Come to our Alive in  
Christ Charismatic Mass at 6:30 pm, Thursday, August  
11, at St Frances Cabrini, 3201 E. Presidio Rd., Tucson.  
If you cannot attend in person, join on Zoom, meeting  
ID: 814 4930 0841 Pass code: 352734 (For help, text  
520-981-8800). Send prayer requests, or see Zoom  
instructions at <https://TucsonCCR.org>. Hosted by the  
Diocese of Tucson Renewal Committee.

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger  
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish  
1220 South Sixth Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website [santacruzchurchtucson.com](http://santacruzchurchtucson.com) ~

~ Email [santacruzparish@hotmail.com](mailto:santacruzparish@hotmail.com) ~

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Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Closed for lunch 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.  
In Residence: Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

### Saturday, July 23rd

8:00am Special Int./Toni Diaz

5:30pm In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus/  
Int. Nieves Ortiz & Family

### Sunday, July 24th

6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners

8:00am Special Int./Toni Diaz

10:00am Mary Ann Barrios Armbruster/R.I.P.

12:00pm Johnny Lopez/R.I.P.

6:00pm Frankie Javier Valenzuela/Happy Birthday

### Monday, July 25th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am Special Int./Denise Martinez & Family

### Tuesday, July 26th

Marietta Okamoto/R.I.P.

8:00am Patricia Armenta/R.I.P.

### Wednesday, July 27th

In Thanksgiving to Saint Joseph

8:00am Special Int./The Aytona Family

### Thursday, July 28th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00am Albert Frias/R.I.P.

### Friday, July 29th

Grace Nuno/R.I.P.

8:00am J.C. Andersen/R.I.P.

### Parish Collection July 17th, 2022

Collection: \$ 5,014.68

Because of illness, I have not been in the Religious  
Education Office for two weeks and I apologize for  
not being there to answer questions for our upcoming  
catechism classes. I hope to be back in the office by  
Tuesday the 26th of July. ~ *Martin Doe*



#### New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

\*Please note that the 12 noon Mass is following full COVID protocols:  
social distancing, masks required and distancing in pews

**Masses: Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, \*12 noon & 6 pm**

**8 am Spanish at Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street)**

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

**Confessions: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Baptisms:** Call the parish office for more information / Llame a la oficina parroquial

**Matrimony:** Please call at least six months in advance.

*Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.*

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687


Santa Cruz Catholic School: (520) 624-2093





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