

JULY 24, 2016

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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to the world.



“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.” - Lk 11:9

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EUCCHARIST:

SAT 5:00 PM

SUN 8:00 AM/10:30 AM/6:00 PM

MON 8:00 AM

WED 9:30 AM

THU 8:00 AM

PRIEST

FR. BILL BURKERT

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JOHN MONDAY

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Parish Support - July 4-10, 2016

Stewardship Offering (Envelopes/Electronic)	\$11,042.25
Offertory	\$997.49

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017

Contributions Received.....	\$24,979.06
Contribution Budget.....	\$22,000.00
Difference as of 7/10/16	\$2,979.06

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

Operating Income	\$944,218.16
Operating Expenses.....	\$961,305.68
Balance as of 6/30/16 (Tentative)	(\$17,087.52)
<i>Budgeted Balance as of 6/30/16.....</i>	<i>(\$18,850.00)</i>

Improvement Fund Updates

Beginning Balance 7/1/16.....	\$103,671.52
Donations	\$2,037.00
Expenses.....	\$0.00
Balance as of 7/10/16	\$105,708.52

Keep Our Vision Growing Campaign Capital Appeal

KOVG Cash Balance as of 7/10/16.....	\$169,006.90
<i>Music Ministry Platform Renovation (Spring 2016).....</i>	<i>\$190,267.00</i>
<i>Expenses already paid</i>	<i>(\$23,613.25)</i>
Remaining Project Expenses	\$166,653.75

COMMUNITY LIFE

Welcome to Our New Parishioners

June 2016

Randall Rzad
Stephan Zielinski

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Sandra Jean Poznanski
From
James Poznanski

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair 2016 Planning meeting

July 27, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, Room 7
Help plan a party! It's fun!
Topic: Financial Team.

Oktoberfest Artisan Fair 2016 October 14 - 16

Every year, we look forward to bringing interesting, hand-crafted art to Oktoberfest Artisan Fair. We want beauty and quality at a reasonable price. No crafts or desserts, please. We have filled all the jewelry slots. Consider fiber art, photography, sculpture, glass, leather, painting, clothing, toys, and utilitarian art.

So art lovers, when you are strolling through the summer art fairs, keep an eye open for an artist you would like to see at our event. Grab a card, put it in an envelope labeled with Oktoberfest, and drop it off at the Parish Office. You may also contact Tanya Gross at (414) 546-6225 or email at tanyamg69@hotmail.com.

CALENDAR RAFFLE 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Ticket</u>	<u>Winner</u>
7/10.....	\$50.00	1215	Ann LeBaron
7/11.....	\$20.00	1005	Deanna Brackett
7/12.....	\$20.00	1183	Brian Neal
7/13.....	\$20.00	0857	Erika Kinder
7/14.....	\$20.00	1209	Jeanette Wolf
7/15.....	\$20.00	0244	Laura Olewinski
7/16.....	\$20.00	0361	Ken & Kerry Harris

SUN 24

Blood Drive Sign-up
Festival Sign-up
8:00 am Liturgy Church
10:30 am Liturgy Church
6:00 pm Liturgy Church

MON 25

8:00 am Liturgy Rm 9
6:00 pm Digital
Communications Mtg. Rm 6
6:30 pm Centering Prayer Rm 9

TUE 26

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9
3:00 pm Food Pantry Rm 7
6:00 pm Finance Council Mtg. Rm 9
6:45 pm Boy Scouts - Tr. 612 Hall AB

Mercy Moment

"Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? ...The LORD replied, "If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

[Gn 18:24, 26]

FORMATION

GIFT and Joy!

It's never too early to register for GIFT: Generations in Faith Together, our primary formation opportunity! This coming year, we will explore many aspects of the joy of the Gospel. Learn more about the topics and register by visiting our webpage: <http://www.ololmke.org/gift/>. New to OLOL? Information about GIFT and how it works as well as sacrament preparation can be found at this same site, or contact Steve Szymanski, Mary Osep, or Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316.

The Cate-what?

In the RCIA process—the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults—the time following the Inquiry period is known as the Catechumenate. This period of time is marked by a ritual welcoming into the faith community during the Sunday liturgy. Those in the Catechumenate are people who have determined that they want more — more guidance, more opportunities to question and discover what is driving their hearts and faith journey. In this portion of the RCIA process, the catechumenate gathers for a half hour prior to the 10:30 am Mass to meet the team and check-in on the past week. We attend the first portion of the liturgy and are dismissed after the homily with the assurance of the community's prayers. We meet another hour and break open the Word. This pattern of meeting and sharing goes on until the start of Lent. Do you know someone who is searching for more? Perhaps you were baptized in another faith tradition or never completed your sacramental journey? Contact Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316x13 or at chmielewskin@ololmke.org to learn more.

Theology on Tap 2016

Grab a beer. Meet your neighbor. Hear a message.

Young adults (20s + 30s) of any faith (and no faith) are invited to a pub in your neighborhood for community and conversation. Free—this round is on us! Join us at Natty Oaks Pub, in West Allis, at 7:00 pm and bring a friend!

Week 3 (July 25) Topic: Love the Stranger: Protect the Dignity of Immigrants

Families divided. Migrant workers exploited and abused. Human beings dying unnecessarily in American deserts. A representative from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Office of the Dignity of the Human Person explains the human consequences of a broken immigration system and how you can advocate for actual solutions.

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

ZEAL

Zeal is a passion for a purpose we deeply value. We follow a vision of what is possible with enthusiasm and ardor. When we are zealous, we give our all.

Zeal can be fueled by our belief and faith. We need tolerance when others' beliefs differ from our own.

Zeal is the fire in our belly. It illuminates even the smallest task with joy.

What do you do that gives you a deep sense of purpose? How does it create joy in your life and of others?

WED 27

9:30 am Liturgy Church
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C
6:30 pm Oktoberfest Planning Mtg. Rm 7

THU 28

8:00 am Liturgy Rm 9
1:00 pm Cancer Support Grp. Rm 9

FRI 29

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9

WORSHIP

The Mass: Part 5 – The Liturgy of the Word: Part I

“What did we just do? We said, ‘Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ,’ (or sang an Alleluia) and sat down. Why were we standing? Why sitting down afterwards?...We talked earlier about how we come into this room, how the Church gathers in its house. We talked about how the song and the Sign of the Cross and the prayer are ways of putting on the baptismal garment, being a congregation, an assembly, that is here to do its liturgy.

“So we come to the moment when the assembly sits and the lector stands. Wherever we come from beforehand, whatever troubles, aches, delights, preoccupations, somehow they all get caught up into the troubles, aches, delights, and preoccupations of those sitting beside and around each one of us. This is a church filled with these things, and a church about to listen to its ‘Book.’ The truth is, we come here as hungry individuals, needy people, and when we are all together, we are a hungry church.

“The words of this ‘Book’ are our food and our drink. In the past, we were asked to ‘fast’ before Mass...as a symbolic gesture of our hunger. Yet even though we no longer fast, we still come together because we each have a hunger that is more than something physical—we let our bodies and spirits and minds be hungry for God’s word, hungry to praise and to give thanks and break bread together.

“On most weekends, we read three scriptures from our ‘Book.’ The first is usually from the oldest books of the Bible, the Hebrew scriptures. The second is always from the letters of the New Testament. The third is from the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We believe that our ‘Book’ and these scriptures are the foundation of our life together as a people. In each generation it is read again and again in all the different places and times where we Catholics find ourselves. We see that we are not the only people with such a ‘Book.’ Other Christian churches journey with much the same book; Jews carry a book that contains most of these same contents—and they have carried it far longer. Most of our Christian book is, in fact, a Jewish book, and this is worth remembering.

“These readings are not simply for our information. Nor are they just some formality. The readings are what gives this church its nourishment, even its identity, its life. And that is the hard part. We are used to going it alone; even with the Bible itself, we often try to think out what it means to me.

“But here the Word is for the Church. We listen because we are part of the Church. We listen because if we don’t, the Church is that much less.”

(Gabe Huck, *Celebrations*, June 2016)

OUTREACH

Blood Drive

The next St. Vincent de Paul sponsored blood drive is August 8, from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

You can schedule your donation after any Mass or through the Blood Center of Wisconsin’s website: www.bcw.edu/OLOL0808

Walk-ups are always welcome. Refreshments are provided.

Children’s Sock & Underwear

Human Concerns Committee is sponsoring its 4th annual Children’s Sock & Underwear drive to benefit the less fortunate children of the greater Milwaukee area. Packages of socks and underwear sizes 4 – 18 (new only, please) can be dropped off in the classroom hallway collection box from July 30 through August 7. All donations will be delivered to the Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul for distribution to families for the new school year.

Social Justice Action

In light of the increased gun violence in our country, the Social Justice committee has sent letters to all Wisconsin U.S. senators and representatives demanding that they enact measures to stop this tragedy.

Social Justice: An Invitation

The Social Justice Committee seeks to educate and awaken people to the issues of justice that confront society today. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in Room 4 . Join us for the next meeting to learn more about our mission and activities.

SAT 30

SUN 31

Blood Drive Sign-up
 Festival Sign-up
 Children’s Sock and Underwear Collection
 11:00 am Richard Arias
 Funeral Church
 5:00 pm Liturgy Church

Blood Drive Sign-up
 Festival Sign-up
 Children’s Sock and Underwear Collection
 8:00 am Liturgy Church
 10:30 am Liturgy Church
 6:00 pm Liturgy Church

COMMUNICATIONS

SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer Opportunity

The A/V Ministry is currently looking for new volunteers, especially for the 8:00 am Mass. The only technological experience you need is the ability to turn a computer and a TV on. Training and shadowing is provided until you feel comfortable running things on your own. You can even sit with your family as there is now seating available next to the A/V desk.

Anyone in high school or older is encouraged to prayerfully consider joining this ministry. No long term commitment is required. Schedules are distributed every four months. If you are interested in joining this ministry or just finding out more information, please contact Marc Puechner at puechnerm@ololmke.org or (414) 545-4316.

This year's OLOL festival is August 19, 20 and 21.

Preparing the grounds for our annual festival is no small task. It takes at least a dozen or more able bodied individuals to handle the many heavy items moved about the grounds and set up.

Oftentimes, we are graced with the presence of numerous retirees with generous hearts who can handle many tasks, but for whom the heavy lifting has become a challenge. We could use some youthful persons to assist with this work.

Even more grueling than set-up for the festival is the tear-down. What we put in place over three days is disassembled and packed away in just one day. The Monday following the festival is when we can use even more help. The work is fast-paced and tiring, but the extra help is greatly appreciated by all those present.

Lunch is served each day, and beverages are provided to keep you cooled and hydrated.

Please review your calendar and see if you can stop by to help for a few hours or more. If you have a generous vacation package with your employer, perhaps you could take a day to help. Many of our coordinators have done so for years. What a generous way to share the gifts given to you.

Sign-up sheets are available for all days in the south hallway. Please stop by and sign up to help!



CONNECT! WITH THE WORD

MESSAGE FOR THE WEEK - LUKE 11:1-13

“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” This is a promise that anyone would love to hear. With these words Jesus comforts and reassures us. His message in today’s Gospel assures us that our heavenly Father loves us even more than earthly parents love their children. But God’s care may not always look exactly the way we expect it to. His care for us is based on knowing what is best for us and what will make us flourish. And, sometimes, what we think we need isn’t really best. As the end of the passage makes clear, this asking and seeking that Jesus refers to is ultimately fulfilled in the gift of the Holy Spirit. For most of us, we actually received this gift at our baptism. But have we taken full advantage of this? God knows that all of these gifts and fruits make us very well equipped for life on Earth, and for eternal life in heaven! What more do we really need to ask for?

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SUNDAY READINGS

Genesis 18:20-32:

How do you think God is portrayed in Abraham’s prayer of petition?

Colossians 2:12-14:

What connection does Paul see between baptism and the cross?

Luke 11:1-13:

Would you describe yourself as being bold in your prayer life? Why or why not?

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Children's Sock & Underwear Drive

July 31 - August 7

The Human Concerns Committee is collecting packages of children's socks and underwear for the Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Milwaukee area Ladies of Charity was established in the late 1950s. Volunteers stock and staff the **Children's Clothing Center** on 4th and Brown, on the campus of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

All school age children of each family coming to the center, having a voucher and current ID are issued:

- 1 winter coat
- 1 scarf
- 1 cap
- 2 pairs mittens/gloves
- 1 light weight jacket or hoodie
- 3 pairs of jeans/pants
- 4 - 5 tops
- 1 pair of pajamas
- 5 pairs of new socks
- 5 pair of new underwear

Next to rent, the Ladies' **biggest expense** related to carrying out their mission is the purchase of socks and underwear.

Please place socks and underwear donations,
sizes 4 - 18 (new items only please)
in the collection box in the meeting rooms hallway.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

Questions? Contact Eileen Dunning at edunning@sbcglobal.net



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Calling All Young Adults to Community and Mission!



Archbishop
Jerome E. ListECKI

Remember the moment when you first knew in the depths of your heart that God loved you? Remember your joy, peace, and desire for others you cared about to experience

it, too? I'm encouraged by stories of many young adults who've had such experiences through Brew City Catholic: our archdiocese's initiative to reach young adults, invite them to encounter Jesus, help them grow as disciples in his Church, and send them to reach others.

Jesus was often found among fishermen and tax collectors in the places they commonly frequented. Brew City Catholic partners with our parishes' Catholic young adult groups to offer Theology on Tap — an opportunity for young adults who might not be comfortable coming to church to gather in pubs, get to know their local Catholic young adult community, and hear Jesus' message of mercy. Young adults drawn to the beauty of Lake Michigan for the Brew City Catholic Cruise are met by Catholic young adult groups from around the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Large crowds gathered to listen to Jesus. Brew City Catholic co-sponsors Encounter MKE, the largest of only four Steubenville Young Adult Conferences nationwide, at which 700+ young adults encounter Jesus through engaging



speakers, prayer with music, Eucharistic adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Jesus invited those who became his disciples to follow him. In addition to the many formation and service opportunities offered through our CYA groups, Brew City Catholic sponsors Pilgrimages of Mercy. This summer, pilgrims travel to our sister parish in the Dominican Republic, to Pope Francis' World Youth Day in Poland, and walk from St. Francis de Sales Seminary to Holy Hill. Young men discerning

diocesan priesthood live in community at the St. John Paul II House of Discernment at St. Robert Parish, Shorewood where

150+ young adults also gather every Wednesday to grow as disciples through prayer and community at Cor Jesu.

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, he commissioned the disciples to go and make disciples.

Brew City Catholic trains young adult leaders to accompany individuals on their journeys of discipleship and facilitate intentional discipleship small groups.

Theology on Tap July 11 - Aug. 4
Brew City Catholic Cruise Aug. 11
Encounter MKE Nov. 12

For more info on archdiocesan young adult events and groups, or to receive email updates, visit www.brewcitycatholic.com

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Reaching Out, One Gathering at a Time

There is no doubt that young adults play a huge role in the liveliness of the Catholic Church. At the 2013 World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Pope Francis' message to the three million pilgrims gathered was "Go, do not be afraid, and serve." In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, many young adults in Church ministry are taking that message to heart.

Emily Burds is Director of Evangelization for her home parish, the Basilica of St. Josaphat, Milwaukee. A Marquette University graduate with a degree in theology, Emily has the responsibility to provide fun, faith-filled opportunities for the young adult community.

Building connections, sharing faith opportunities

"Millennials crave purpose and a sense of belonging in a culture that so often offers shallow meaning and false connections," she explained. "We have found the best approach to reach young adults has been to provide opportunities for authentic community. We host a monthly gathering at a local bar where a team of young adults welcome participants, offer them a free drink, and facilitate connections to other young adults and to the larger Catholic community."

During those nights, the team offers a brief, relevant, "seeker-friendly" message followed by informal discussion time, according to Emily.

"Our team intentionally reaches out to all who come, whether that be through a smile, a handshake, or setting up a future coffee date to share about the faith. These experiences become bridges to real friendships, parish participation, and genuine conversion of heart," she added.

"We're all here for one purpose"

Anthony Mensah just finished his first year at the American University in Washington, D.C. and feels a calling to help others experience service outside of their community. After attending a mission trip to La Sagrada Familia, the archdiocesan sister parish in the Dominican Republic, he knew that he had to try to get others involved.

"After my exposure to Parroquia La Sagrada Familia, I wanted to provide an opportunity for more young people to go to the Dominican Republic and experience some of the things I had experienced," he said. With help from key leaders

See GATHERING,
page 3

◀ Anthony Mensah



▲ Emily Burds

◀ Carrie Schanen



GATHERING, from page 2

in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Anthony helped organize the overseas young adult mission trip, “Global Mission Encounter,” which took place June 25 – July 1, 2016.

“My idea had expanded into a full fledged, city-wide young adult mission trip, which also serves as a revival of the youth mission trips that used to happen yearly. I think it is all very incredible,” he continued. “What strikes me the most is just the wide range of young people who are coming together to travel, experience and serve.

“Although we all come from different and diverse backgrounds, we’re all here for one purpose,” he added.

Carrie Schanen echoes Anthony’s thoughts. Carrie graduated from Lakeland College, Sheboygan with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, and today works at Best Version Media as the Market Development Director. Carrie, her husband Dominic, and their five children belong to St. Joseph Parish, Big Bend, where she volunteers by training future leaders for their Catholic ID small groups. In addition, she also serves as a liaison for the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council.

Although busy juggling both career and family, Carrie finds it equally important to spend time serving proclaiming the Gospel and forming disciples any way possible.

“I feel that the way we live and do our best to just be good people can be such a simple testament to living a life with Christ,” she reflected. “My goal in life is to live in such a way that others look and say, ‘I don’t know what that is, or what’s going on, but whatever she’s got, I want it.’”

“I remember a while back someone told me, ‘There are many seasons in your life and some things you are only meant to do for a season before needing to move on or being called out. Service to the Lord, however, is the only thing you never get to retire from,’” Carrie added.

Prayer for the Mission of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee

(Adapted for Younger People)

O Powerful God,

We praise you and thank you for you are good.
We pray that the Holy Spirit may fill our hearts with love, and teach us to be more like you.

Help us to teach others about your Son, Jesus, and especially about his death and resurrection.

Help us follow you wherever we may go.

Give us the courage to help build your home in the world now, as we prepare to live in your Kingdom forever.

In this Archdiocese of Milwaukee, we ask you for strength to follow you and to teach more people about you.

As we continue on our Catholic journey, guide us to increase our faith in you, and give us the courage to ask for your forgiveness when we have sinned against you.

We ask all this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Adapted by Cade, Cassie, Ezra, Isaac – 8th graders at Shepherd of the Hills Catholic School 2015

COMMUNITY, from page 1

The Brew City Catholic College Missionary Project forms and sends recent college graduates to make disciples on local college campuses. Fifty-five young adults completed our Climb Young Adult Catholic Leaders Retreat and 75+ participated in our Theology on Tap Core Team Training.

Through Brew City Catholic, young adults have embraced our archdiocese’s three priorities: Living their Catholic Identity

in community, doing the work of Evangelization by inviting others to encounter Christ, and making it happen through faithful Stewardship of their gifts.

By the way, if you’re not sure you’ve had that moment of knowing that God loves you, or if you know a young adult who needs one, know that Brew City Catholic is here to help you connect with the Catholic young adult community and events near you.

¡Llamando a todos los adultos jóvenes a conectarse con la comunidad y la misión!



Arzobispo
Jerome E. ListECKI

¿Recuerdan el momento cuando ustedes por primera vez reconocieron en la profundidad de sus corazones que Dios les amaba? ¿Recuerdan cómo ustedes deseaban que los demás

también pudieran experimentar esa alegría, paz y deseo? Me entusiasma escuchar las historias de muchos adultos jóvenes quienes han vivido ese tipo de experiencias a través de Brew City Catholic, nuestra iniciativa arquidiocesana para llegar a los adultos jóvenes, invitándoles a que tengan un encuentro con Jesús, ayudándoles a crecer como discípulos en su Iglesia y enviándoles ir a otros. ¡Si ustedes tienen entre 18-39 años o conocen a alguien que tenga esta edad, Brew City Catholic es para ustedes!

Jesús a menudo se encontraba entre pescadores y publicanos en los lugares donde ellos frecuentaban. Brew City Catholic colabora con grupos parroquiales de adultos jóvenes para ofrecer Theology on Tap – una oportunidad para aquellos adultos jóvenes que tal vez no se sientan cómodos asistiendo a la Iglesia, quienes se reúnen en tabernas para conocer su comunidad local de adultos jóvenes católicos, y escuchar el mensaje misericordioso de Jesús. Muchos adultos jóvenes, atraídos por la belleza del Lago Michigan, participan en el Crucero de Brew City en el cual conocen a otros grupos de adultos jóvenes de toda la Arquidiócesis de Milwaukee.

Grandes multitudes se reunían a



escuchar a Jesús. Brew City Catholic copatrocinna Encounter MKE, la más grande de las cuatro conferencias ofrecidas por Steubenville Young Adult a nivel nacional, en la cual más de 700 adultos jóvenes encuentran a Jesús a través de expositores dinámicos, alabanzas, adoración Eucarística y el sacramento de la reconciliación.

Jesús invitaba a sus discípulos a que lo siguieran. A demás de las muchas oportunidades de formación y servicio ofrecidos a través de nuestros grupos de adultos jóvenes católicos, Brew City Catholic auspicia las Peregrinaciones de Misericordia. Este verano, una variedad de peregrinos viajarán a nuestra parroquia hermana en la República Dominicana, así como la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud en Polonia del Papa Francisco, y una caminata del Seminario St. Francis de Sales a Holy Hill. Un grupo de hombres jóvenes que se encuentran discerniendo el sacerdocio diocesano viven en comunidad en St. John Paul II House of Discernment en la Parroquia de St. Robert en Shorewood, en la cual también se reúnen más de 150 adultos jóvenes todos los miércoles para crecer como discípulos a través de la oración y compartiendo en comunidad en Cor Jesu.

Antes de ascender al cielo Jesús,

comisionó a los discípulos para ir y hacer discípulos. Brew City Catholic entrena a adultos jóvenes líderes para acompañar a personas en su camino de discipulado y facilitar grupos pequeños de discipulado intencional. El proyecto conocido como Brew City Catholic College Missionary Project forma y envía egresados de la universidad para formar discípulos en las universidades dentro de la arquidiócesis. Cincuenta y cinco adultos jóvenes terminaron nuestro retiro Climb Young Adults Catholic Leaders y más de 75 participaron en nuestro entrenamiento Theology on Tap Core Team Training.

A través de Brew City Catholic, los adultos jóvenes han adoptado nuestras tres prioridades arquidiocesanas: viviendo su identidad católica en comunidad, haciendo el trabajo de evangelización al invitar a otros a encontrar a Cristo, y tomando acción al compartir fielmente sus dones.

Por cierto, si no estás seguro de haber vivido aún ese momento en el que reconoces que Dios te ama, o si conoces a un adulto joven que necesita experimentarlo, sepan que Brew City Catholic está aquí para ayudarles a conectarse con la comunidad de adultos jóvenes católicos y los eventos que se ofrecen.

Connect!

Uniting Word & World



Studying God's Word

- Genesis 18:20-32
- Colossians 2:12-14
- Luke 11:1-13 [111C]

The readings for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time take up the topic of prayer. Whether it is Abraham's prayer of petition or Jesus' prayer taught to the disciples, our faith tradition teaches us to be bold in our prayers with God.

The first reading from the Book of Genesis is a continuation from last Sunday where Abraham initially encounters three visitors. Abraham honors the visitors with his hospitality and the visitors, in turn, announce the unexpected good news of the birth of a son for Abraham and Sarah. In today's reading, Abraham also discovers that the visitors have come to investigate the report of the "sin so grave" occurring in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. As the visitors begin their journey toward these cities, it is reported that "the LORD remained standing before Abraham." So Abraham decides to pose a question to God: "Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty?" Abraham's question to God stems from his concern for his nephew Lot; Lot and his family, who did not participate in the grave sin of Sodom, were living in the city of Sodom (see Gn 14:11-12). Abraham then asks a series of questions that really addresses the question of divine retribution: How does God judge and discipline us? Are innocent people sometimes punished for the sins of the guilty people? The question about divine retribution is both an ancient and a modern one. Abraham teaches us to have faith in God who

invites us to be in dialogue with him, even on the tough questions like divine retribution. This first reading teaches us to ask these questions in prayer, to be bold in our dialogue with God.

In the Gospel reading for today, we hear Jesus teach a very similar lesson on prayer to his disciples. Still on his journey to Jerusalem with the crowds, opponents, and disciples following him, Luke reports (once again) that Jesus went off to a deserted place to pray by himself. When Jesus finished praying, one of his disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." Jesus takes the opportunity to teach his disciples what we call today the "Our Father" prayer. (Compare this shorter version in Lk 11:2-4 with the more familiar version of Mt 6:9-13). Like Abraham's prayer to God, this prayer is bold. It acknowledges our total dependency on God, challenges us to forgive others, and speaks of "the final test." Jesus then goes on to elaborate what he means with this simple prayer. Be persistent in your prayers to God; God will listen. Do not be afraid to ask, seek, and knock on the door; God will respond with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus teaches us to have a persistent faith that constantly seeks God as the source of addressing our wants and needs.

In the second reading from his Letter to the Colossians, Paul speaks about the cross of Christ removing the obstacles (the legal claims of the Mosaic law) that separated Jews from Gentiles. Most scholars argue Paul is writing primarily to a Gentile Christian audience because of the language he uses in describing the recipients of this letter: "you were dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh." For Paul,

through our common faith in the crucified and resurrected Christ, all believers (whether Jew or Gentile) experience the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus through the sacred ritual of baptism.

Dr. Daniel J. Scholz

Inspiring Your Homily

If you have watched the television show *The Big Bang Theory* you are familiar with the quirkiness of Dr. Sheldon Cooper. Now an adult, he was a child prodigy in physics and is now a university professor. One of his habits is to knock three times on the door of his neighbor, Penny and say her name each time that he knocks. It was annoying at first, but has become part of their greeting routine.

In our reading from Genesis Abraham knocks on God's door, so to speak, more than three times. Each time he asks for more from God: "Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it?" Then, if I find forty-five, forty, thirty, twenty, and finally ten, will you spare the whole city for their sake? Each time he knows that he is being persistent and could be thought presumptuous or even annoying to God. But that does not stop him. Each time God responds: "I will not destroy it, if I find ... there." God is consistent, even persistent, in the mercy that God promises.

On first hearing, it can seem that Abraham is changing the mind of God. However, many psalms proclaim the magnitude of God's kindness and mercy, including verse 8 of today's Psalm 138: "Your kindness, O Lord, endures forever." Abraham's prayer opens him to see how merciful God really is and calls on God to be faithful to that mercy. There is a quote attributed to soon-to-be-canonized Blessed Teresa of Calcutta: "I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I believe that prayer changes us and we change things."

The disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray. In response we hear Luke's version of what we call

"the Lord's Prayer." Jesus tells a story comparing prayer to the experience of a persistent friend. The friend arrives at night and persists in asking for bread. As the story goes, the person from whom the friend seeks food will give it to the friend because of the friend's persistence, even when not moved by friendship. We are to persist in knocking on God's door. Ask. Seek. Knock. You will receive, find, and the door will be opened.

For what are we to ask, seek, and knock? The prayer Jesus teaches the disciples is our guide. Call God "Father." Seek to praise or hallow God's name. Ask for God's kingdom to come and for daily nourishment. Open the door of your heart to forgiveness by forgiving anyone in debt to you. Seek freedom from the final test of faith. In other words seek God. Ask to live God's will. Do unto others as God does to you, that is, forgive. As our second reading proclaims, God has forgiven our transgressions even when we were dead because of sin. This is another example of the magnitude of God's mercy.

Notice that Jesus does not promise we will receive what we ask or find what we seek or have the door opened to anything other than learning and living God's will. God will "give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" (Lk 11:13). As a spiritual director often reminded me, God always answers our prayers. Sometimes the answer is no. Other times the answer comes packaged differently than we expect.

A child asked Pope Francis whether or not God hears us. He answered: "When we pray, we don't have to say many things; we don't have to have long discussions with God. They aren't needed. What we need to do, however, is to really open our hearts to him" (*Dear Pope Francis*. Chicago: Loyola Press, 2016, p. 31). Opening our hearts to God and learning to breathe as one with God is what St. Francis de Sales says about prayer. When we are one with God, no matter what we ask for in prayer or seek to find or whichever door we want opened, we can find God whatever life brings. We are one with God and God is one with us.



I know that we often pray as if we can change God's mind. Honesty about what we want opens us to find God's answer, no matter how it comes. When we do not make what we seek known out loud, we are so focused on what we're trying to control that we miss an answer right before our eyes or within our hearts. So, be persistent like Abraham. Knock on God's door, like the friend in Jesus' example. Praise God, praying to breathe as one with God through the Holy Spirit. Then knock often on God's door. Call God by name each time, whether it takes three knocks like Sheldon or six like Abraham.

Rev. Paul H. Colloton, OSFS



Quoting from Tradition

For who could by force of imagination, and not by faith, follow the Lord Jesus, now descending from the highest heaven to the shades below, now rising again from Hades to the heavenly places; in a moment self-emptied, that He might dwell amongst us, and yet never made less than He was, the Son being ever in the Father and the Father in the Son? Even Christ's forerunner, though only in so far as representing the synagogue, doubted concerning Him, even he who was appointed to go before the face of the Lord, and at last sending messengers, enquired: "Art Thou He that should come, or do we look for another?" Angels, too, stood spellbound in wonder at the heavenly mystery. And so, when the Lord rose again, and the heights of heaven could not bear the glory of His rising from the dead, Who of late, so far as regarded His flesh, had been confined in the narrow bounds of a sepulcher, even the heavenly hosts doubted and were amazed. For a Conqueror came, adorned with wondrous spoils, the Lord was in His holy Temple, before Him went angels and archangels, marveling at the prey wrested from death, and though they knew that nothing can be added to God from the flesh, because all things are lower than God, nevertheless, beholding the trophy of the Cross ... they, as if the gates could not afford passage for Him Who had gone forth from them, though indeed they can never o'erspan His greatness—they sought some broader and more lofty passage for Him on His return—so entirely had He remained undiminished by His self-emptying... Forasmuch as the Gates of Righteousness, which are the Gates of the Old and the New Testament, wherewith heaven is opened, are eternal, they are not indeed changed, but raised, for it was not merely one man but the whole world that entered, in the person of the All-Redeemer.

*Ambrose, On Belief in the Resurrection, Book IV.
Translation from A Select Library of the Nicene
and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church.
Series II. Volume 10. Edited by P. Schaff et al.
Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, reprint 1978–1983.
Research by Jay Martin*

Building Your Liturgy

July 24, 2016

Our Collect today begins, “O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.”

What a bold and powerful prayer that again speaks of a relationship of trust and dialogue with the Lord.

We see this witnessed in our first reading as Abraham barter with God on behalf of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, and wears down God’s anger until his mercy comes forth. What trust and courage it took to question the Lord, not once but several times. Similarly in the Gospel, Jesus teaches the people how to pray, how to speak with God.

There are many types of prayers. Some are liturgical, belonging to the people of God as found in the Liturgy of the Word and Eucharist in the Mass, and the Liturgy of the Hours with the recitation of the Divine Office.

Other prayers are more devotional in nature, such as the rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and novenas. They may be prayed by several at once but are devotional in nature.

Still other prayers are prayed totally by individuals, and may include *lectio divina*, journaling, contemplative prayer, etc. There are many times people don’t understand that prayer doesn’t just happen that hour in church on Sunday but should be with us as we make the daily commute, do the laundry, pray before meal, and so on.

However, no matter how fine the personal prayer is, it does not make up for our need to be involved in liturgical prayer. For there we take delight in the Word of God and share in the sacred meal at his table, the altar. We must fill ourselves on these.

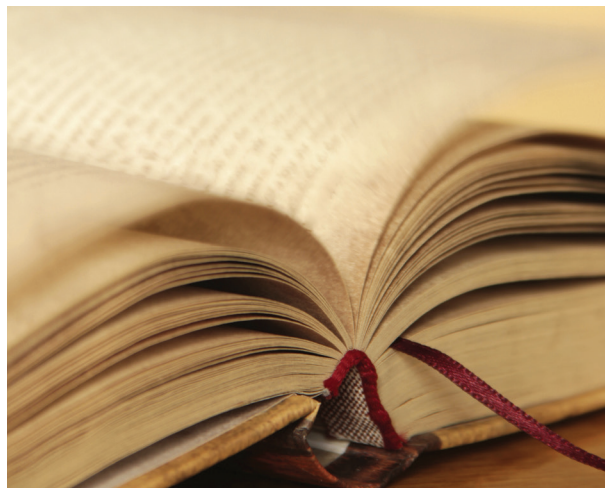
If possible it would be nice to sing the Lord’s Prayer today; either the chant version or Steve Warner’s setting is familiar to many congregations. “Healer of Our Every Ill” and “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” might be nice selections for today. Taizé’s “O Lord Hear My Prayer” is fitting. Consider using Michael Hay’s “Trilingual Intercessions” as we call upon the name of God this day.

Planning Your Week

Monday is the feast of St. James Apostle. The color is red, and we use the Preface of the Apostles. There is a Gloria, and you can also use the apostle’s form of the solemn blessing. James was the brother of John and one of the Sons of Thunder.

Tuesday is the memorial of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They have their own Collect but it uses Preface 1 or 2 of the Saints. There is no mention of them in our sacred Scriptures, but they are referenced in the apocryphal books. Friday is the memorial of St. Martha. It is white. Both the Collect and prayer over the offerings speak of pleasing the Lord. Is this something we try to do in our actions and prayers? As the Collect says: “Grant, we pray, that through her intercession, serving Christ faithfully in our brothers and sisters, we may merit to be received by you in the halls of heaven.”

Jill Maria Murdy



Raising Your Prayers

Introductions

For the Mass of the Day (to use after the Greeting).
The disciples ask Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." What follows in Jesus' response is the very familiar Lord's Prayer. It reminds us that God desires private time with us, alone, in our rooms and approaching him with an honesty that is found only in the most intimate of friends.

Penitential Act

God always shows mercy.
Mercy is God's name!
Relying on God's desire to love and redeem us,
we now offer God our sins.
(Pause for silent reflection.)

Lord,
on the day I called for help you answered me.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord,
you built up strength within me.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord,
your kindness endures forever.
Lord, have mercy.



Prayer of the Faithful

God asks us to be persistent in our prayer. Even though God knows what we desire, honestly communicating with him deepens our love and trust. Relying on our friendship with God, we give voice to our needs and the world's.

For all leaders and ministers in the church, that they will encourage all people to find God in prayer and to establish with him the intimate relationship he so desires.

We pray to the Lord.

For our parish community, that, called to pray in union with each other, our worship together may be enriched by our personal relationships with God.

We pray to the Lord.

For all people in our world who find it difficult to pray, that they will see in people of faith the sincerity and trust that leads them to ask for wisdom and guidance.

We pray to the Lord.

For those who have died; may they now see God face-to-face and sing God's praise in the presence of all of the angels and saints.

We pray to the Lord.

Loving God,
you desire a unique and personal relationship with each of your children, a relationship that can only be discovered in quiet moments spent alone with you. May we listen attentively to what your Son tells us about prayer and use the simple words he left us as the way we find ourselves to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Rev. Mark Suslenko



Engaging Your Parishioners

Reflections to use for your bulletins, website, social media, and more.

Message of the Week

Luke 11:1-13

“Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” This is a promise that anyone would love to hear. With these words Jesus comforts and reassures us. His message in today’s Gospel assures us that our heavenly Father loves us even more than earthly parents love their children. But God’s care may not always look exactly the way we expect it to. His care for us is based on knowing what is best for us and what will make us flourish. And, sometimes, what we think we need isn’t really best. As the end of the passage makes clear, this asking and seeking that Jesus refers to is ultimately fulfilled in the gift of the Holy Spirit. For most of us, we actually received this gift at our baptism. But have we taken full advantage of this? God knows that all of these gifts and fruits make us very well equipped for life on earth, and for eternal life in heaven! What more do we really need to ask for?

Questions of the Week

Luke 11:1-13:

Would you describe yourself as being bold in your prayer life? Why or why not?

Genesis 18:20-32:

How do you think God is portrayed in Abraham’s prayer of petition?

Colossians 2:12-14:

What connection does Paul see between baptism and the cross?



Everyday Stewardship

My father would always say to me when I was growing up, “Whatever is mine is yours.” He was always very generous toward me and, if I am being truthful, probably spoiled me. We were not a rich family by any measure, but I never really wanted for anything. If I asked, I would receive.

In Luke 11, Jesus tells us our heavenly Father is similar to my father, but God is profoundly more generous. However, I am not sure many of us really believe that. When growing up we ask our earthly parents for all sorts of things, some requests being large but many being small. I know my own three children might ask me for anything at anytime. If God is more generous with me than I am with my own three children, how come I find myself mostly asking God for things when all my other options have run out or my back is against the wall? We make deals with God in our moment of despair or fear, but when things were great we asked for little or sometimes nothing at all.

We need God and his generosity 365 days a year. Better than that, God wants us to ask for things and learn to rely on him. There is no strength in walking in this world alone. God wants to be the source of all our strength. That is one reason why at every hour of the day, somewhere in the world, Mass is being celebrated and his children are receiving him in the holy Eucharist. If God can become man, die, and rise again, and then humble himself in the elements of bread and wine to be close to you, do you not think he will respond to your everyday simple requests? May God’s generosity flow to you in great abundance for his love knows no limits.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS