

August 2, 2009: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time



So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."
Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." — Jn 6:34-35
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, August 2 (Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family
10:30 am- August & Emilia Linhart

Monday, August 3 (Nm 11:4b-15/Mt 14:13-21)

7:00 am- Helen Schulte
10:00 am- Mass of Thanksgiving (Hallettsville Rehab)

Tuesday, August 4, St. John Vianney (Nm 12:1-13/Mt 15:1-2, 10-14)

7:00 am- Alfonse & Helen Steffek

Wednesday, August 5, Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome (Nm 13:1-2, 25; 14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/Mt 15:21-28)

7:00 am- Tom & Annie Kanak; Oscar & Ella Schulte
8:05 am- Living & deceased members of Louis & Frances Sobotik Family

Thursday, August 6, Transfiguration of the Lord (Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10)

7:00 am- Jerome Haas
10:00 am- Elrose Haas (Stevens)

Friday, August 7, Pope Sixtus II & Companions, St. Cajetan (Dt 4:32-40/Mt 16:24-28)

7:00 am- William & Ann Butschek
8:05 am- Joe & Lydia Kostelnik; & Patsy Steffek

Saturday, August 8, St. Dominic (Dt 6:4-13/Mt 17:14-20)

5:30 pm- Living & deceased members of Roman F. Rainosek Family

Sunday, August 9 (1 Kgs 19:4-8/Eph 4:30---5:2/Jn 6:41-51)

8:00 am- Mass of Thanksgiving – Lawrence & Dolores Grahmann's 40th Anniversary
10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Bulletin Sponsor: Bob & Lou Kubena in memory of August & Emilia Linhart.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Matthew, Martha & John Bludau.

Vigil Light Sponsor: In memory of Hilda Elstner.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Edell Mascheck Adams*, mother of Gayle Henke. *May she rest in the peace of Christ.*

Anniversaries:

Daniel & Glenda Trlicek	40 years	August 2
Frank & Charlene Fishar	40 years	August 2
James & Joyce Bucek	57 years	August 3
Richard & Rita Wachel	55 years	August 7

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$5,887.50; Manna-\$746; Loose-\$1,654; Children's-\$32.

Sacramentary purchased in memory of John Pustka by Virginia Pustka.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

- Baptism Preparation Class, 9:00 a.m., Rectory. Please call the Rectory in advance to register for the class.
- St. Joseph Parish Picnic, Yoakum Community Center. Stew & Sausage Dinner 10:30 am. Auction & booths.
- Sts Peter & Paul Church Picnic, Frelsburg. Fried Fish Meal 11 am. Auction, booths, dance by Red Ravens.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

- Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.
- Christian Mothers Swim Social, 6:00 pm, Lavaca Swimming Pool.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

- Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
- Women's ACTS Meeting, 7 pm, Moulton Parish Hall.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

- Spiritual Book Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.
- Divine Mercy Prayers, 7:30 p.m., Church Cry Room.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in church. The intention this month is for **RAIN**.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

- First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

- Firefall at 6:00 p.m. in church. Parishioners are invited to join the youth in Eucharistic adoration.
- St. Michael Picnic, Veteran's Park, Weimar. Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner 11 am. Auction, bingo, & more. Music: Shiner Hobo Band, Red Ravens & Czechaholics.

AMONG OUR SICK: Hubert Grahmann, Mary Laas, Jacque Holchak, Alvin Rosenauer, Macey Moeller, Margaret Flores, Mary Ann Gaitan, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Debbie Fishbeck, Josie Ohnheiser, Clint Brewer, Mason Leibham, Josie Muniz, David Tomek, Riley Mika, Louise Tesch, Mary Bonorden, Marie Grafe, Loraine Butschek, Jesse Cavazos, Bernice Woytek, Evelyn Henke, Annette Krupala, Anthony Corte, Thelma Mikulenska, Bill Chapline, Maggie Volcik, Matthew Walker, Amanda Conniff, Margaret Timm, Sylvester Garza, Harry Jackson, Helen M. Appelt, Luke Bludau, Mary Kaiser, Michael Kutac, Rosalie Simpson, Hedwig Greer, Ed Aulick, Paige Haas, Milada Netardus, Anita Kallus, Hubert Etzler, Jeff Zavesky, Renae Ross, Alma Jurena, Kate Kopecky, Michael L. Drozd, Bill Biehunko, Lindal Finley, Frank Fishar, Pam Dornak, Clayton Patek, Leonard Kubena, Doyleen Drozd, George Bujnoch, Suzanne Romano, Charles W. Patek, Mary Agnes Grahmann, Susan Jakubek, Tina Stepanek, Raymond Dornak, Marge Rehm, Bill Bludau, Alice Kocian, Anita Bohuslav, Theresa Steffek, Betty Toman, MacKenzie Fogle, nursing home residents & the homebound.

Promise of Marriage: Kristy Jurena & Dustin Turner on August 15th.

Christian Mothers Swim Social, August 3, 6:00-8:00 pm, Lavaca Swimming Pool. Members are to bring a side dish.

From the Desk of Father John

(Continued from last bulletin: Ten reasons to go to Mass)

6.) People need our prayers. We can pray for other people anytime, but when we pray for others during Mass, we pray in a special way. It doesn't matter if the other people are separated from us by distance or by death. The Mass brings us together in the Body of Christ, and we become the communion of saints. It is part of the cosmic dimension of the Mass that unites heaven and earth by reaching across time and space.

7.) We need to stand up for what we believe. Being a follower of Jesus is counter-cultural. At every Mass, we have the opportunity to stand up and proclaim what we believe publicly. We admit that we believe in God, in Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, in the Catholic Church, in the communion of saints, in the forgiveness of sins, and in life after death. It is a powerful statement of allegiance and an opportunity to recommit ourselves.

8.) We need to acknowledge that we make mistakes. At every Mass, we have the opportunity to review the past week. We admit that we have sinned in thought, in word, in deed, in what we have done and what we have failed to do. We seek forgiveness, and we are assured that God still loves us. Before we receive Communion, we admit that we are not worthy and ask God to heal us. Going to Mass helps us to strengthen our commitment to live moral lives.

9.) We need ritual in our lives. Mass is a ritual, which means that through the repetition of prayers, movements, and the changing of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, we are formed, disciplined, and consoled. The "sameness" of the Mass carries us along the spiritual journey – even when we don't "feel" like praying. The "sameness" of the ritual allows us to be transformed on a soul level, even if we are unaware of what is happening.

10.) We need to experience something bigger than ourselves. When we go to Mass, we share in the death and resurrection of Jesus. When we offer our ordinary lives to God through Jesus, we enter into God's great plan for the world. We are strengthened by the Eucharist and sent out into the world to bring the gospel message to all people. The Mass gives meaning and purpose to our lives. It gives us a sense of destiny and offers the kind of peace that the world cannot give. It helps us develop a sense of wonder and awe. It helps us to see that there is something bigger than ourselves.

(To be continued in the next bulletin.....)



The Youth ConneXion



August 9: Youth meet in church at 5:00 p.m. Firefall at 6:00 p.m. Youth gathering to follow at the Youth House.

Notice: Firefall will be held on the second Sunday of each month from now on.

Music Practice: Mondays, 5:00–6:30 pm, Youth House.

Religious Education (CCD) Janice Busselman ~ 798-3124

Several catechists, aides & other volunteers are needed for our Religious Education Program, which will begin in September. Please consider answering God's call by volunteering some of your time to work with the children of our parish. It will be a truly rewarding experience. If you are interested, please call Janice at 798-9164 or speak to Fr. John or Fr. Michael.

Sacred Heart Parish Fall Picnic – September 6th

The Fall Picnic is just around the corner! If you have any cattle, antiques or other interesting items you would like to donate to the Auction, please call the rectory as soon as possible so that we may begin advertising the items. Cash donations are also being accepted at this time.

Auction: Terry Bludau- '84 Olympic caps.

Cash Donations: Charles & Kathy Haas-\$100; Kenneth & Dolores Renger-\$100; Leona Labay-\$100.

Baptisms in July: Abigail Marie, daughter of Charles & Daphne Koerth; Cassie Michelle, daughter of Casey & Yvette Means; Easton Kyle, son of Stephen & Glenna Brown.

Welcome to the Parish: Ryan & Belinda McElroy; Jerry & Monica Griffin, children Emilie & Joshua; Louise Waligura; Kevin & Sally Zappe; Elaine Dunn, daughter Grace; Don & Candace Flournoy; and, Travis & Heather Bludau.

Diocese of Victoria "Pastoral Institute Classes" offered this summer. *Echoes of Faith Plus* booklets (\$4) will be needed & can be purchased at the Chancery or at the course site. For info. or to register, call 573-0828, ext. 24.

Class open to all parishioners. Catechists & Catholic school religion teachers are expected to take this class:

Sacraments: Aug. 11 & 12, 6:30-9:30 pm, St. Agnes, Edna & Holy Cross, East Bernard. This is a 6 hr. class.

Catechists & Catholic school religion teachers are expected to take these classes:

Getting Started: Aug. 4, 6:30-9:30 pm, Lourdes, Victoria
Roles of the Catechist: Aug. 5, 6:30-9:30 pm, Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria. This is a 3 hr. course.

The Learner: Aug. 4 & 6, 6:30–9:30 pm, St. Philip, El Campo; Aug. 5 & 6, 6–9 pm, Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner. This is a 6 hr. course.

The Pastoral Institute is continuing the three-year Extended Program with the six-week Scripture course *The Gospel of John & The Book of Revelation*, which will be taught by Sr. Digna Vela at the Chancery in Victoria & via long distance learning to Hostyn on Tuesdays at 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. & at 7:00 – 9:15 p.m., Aug. 25 – Oct. 6. For information or to register, please call Barbara Parkan at (361) 573-0828 or email bparkan@victoriadiocese.org.

Final Registration: August 5, 9 am–2 pm & 5–6 pm in the Cafeteria. All high school students must come to finalize their schedules.

Faculty In-service: August 11 – 14.

Freshmen Orientation: August 11, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria.

Pre-K Open House: August 13, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

5th Grade Orientation: August 13, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria.

First Day of School: Monday, August 17.

Retrouvaille, a program for troubled marriages, will be held the weekend of Sept. 18 – 20. For information or to register, email lbonner@sbcglogal.net, call (979) 543-3493 or visit the website at www.retrouvaille.org.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Twenty years ago, Marianne Wilson saw a need; thousands of people with critical illnesses were going hungry in her area of Southern California, and she just wasn't going to stand for it. She began cooking healthy meals and delivering them to men, women and children dying from HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other diseases at no cost to the recipients. Today, the organization is known as Project Angel Food, and every year produces over 400,000 meals and delivers them to more than 1,600 people. On its Web site, it says, "We act out of a sense of urgency because hunger and illness do not wait."

It had been barely twenty-four hours since the miracle of the loaves and fishes; thousands had found nourishment. Jesus and His disciples had crossed the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum, and still many in the crowd from the day before found Him, wanting another miracle. But Jesus offered them and us a greater miracle; if we are only to believe in the Son of God, we will never hunger again. Our faith is our work; this work will be generously rewarded.

In the Lord's Prayer we pray "Give us this day our daily bread." Fully understanding today's Gospel reading from John enables us to comprehend the dual meaning of this petition: our bodies will hunger, please provide nourishment, and our souls hunger, please provide through our faith the bread of life that is faith in Jesus Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that "the drama of hunger in the world calls Christians who pray sincerely to exercise responsibility toward their brethren, both in their personal behavior and in their solidarity with the human family" (CCC 2831).

◆2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of John Pustka:

Edna Bludau	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Grahmann	10.00
Elroy & Barbara Holik	15.00
Henry & Lillie Kalich	15.00
Frankie & Lucille Klekar	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Kusak & family	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Muenster	15.00
Wendy Schoonover	25.00

Prayer for Rain: Almighty God, we are in need of rain. We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. We place our trust in You. Look on our dry hills & fields, dear God, & bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, & the rivers will sing Your praises, & the hearts of men will be made glad. Amen.

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of John Pustka:

Frank & Rita Zaruba	20.00
Cecilia Maresh	10.00
Tracey & Frances Koch	50.00
Peoples State Bank	10.00

In honor of Bill & Sweet Hrnrcir's 60th Anniversary:

Anna & Charles Neumeyer	25.00
-------------------------	-------

In memory of Marvin Schlauch:

City of Hallettsville	25.00
-----------------------	-------

In memory of Lucille Etzler:

Charles & Charlene Christ	15.00
Lester & Leona Ziegler	10.00
Don & Barbara Rainosek	10.00
Rosie Bludau	10.00
Herbert & Georgie Etzler	20.00

SACRED HEART CHURCH MUSIC FUND

In memory of John Pustka:

Kubena Funeral Home	20.00
Bob & Lou Kubena	20.00

In memory of Lucille Etzler:

John & Evelyn Pavliska	10.00
------------------------	-------

SACRED HEART CHURCH QUILTING CIRCLE

In memory of Lucille Etzler:

Benedict & Nancy Dworsky	100.00
Ella Mae Bludau	10.00
Allan & Juliet Monk Family	10.00
Carol McCracken	25.00
Hubbard & Bea Wyatt	10.00
Sarah Jansky	10.00
Margaret Novak	10.00
Vic & Katherine Kahanek	20.00
Edna Bludau	10.00
Anthony & Joyce Harper Family	10.00
Gail & David Zamble Family	20.00
Clarence & Diana Wenske & family	20.00
Richard & Jeanne Sommerlatte	20.00
Emily & Bill Stiles	25.00
Robert & Barbara Grahmann	10.00
Urban & Theresa Hemmi	5.00
A.J. & Ethelyn Jo Kutac	25.00
Millie Kutac	10.00
Paul & Theresa Voelkel	5.00
Daniel & Dorothy Rother	10.00
Gilbert & Bea Butschek	20.00
Robert & Roberta Jurena	10.00
Leroy & Anita Etzler	20.00
August & Josephine Janak	5.00
Elroy & Barbara Holik	20.00
Kubena Funeral Home	20.00
Adela Patlovany	10.00
Leon & Nancy Etzler & family	20.00
Eddie & Barbara Warmuth	20.00
Ronnie & Mary Jane Rehm	15.00
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Grubert, Jr.	10.00

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUNDIn memory of John Pustka:

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Faldyn	10.00
Leona Labay & family	50.00
Mark Netardus	20.00
Robert & Louise Pesek	20.00
Larry & Rose Urban	20.00
Allan & Charlene Janak	20.00

In memory of Edward Belcik:

Alton J. Grahmann	100.00
Roger & Beverly Janak	10.00
Allan & Charlene Janak	20.00

In memory of Marvin Schlauch:

Bob & Lou Kubena	20.00
------------------	-------

In memory of Claude Jalufka:

Allan & Charlene Janak	20.00
------------------------	-------

In memory of Lucille Etzler:

Sidney & Barbara Jasek	15.00
John & Marilyn Kovalcik	10.00
Wink & Ida Bludau	25.00
Roger & Beverly Janak	10.00
Bea Dittrich	10.00
Clyde & Edna Wehman	10.00

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ALUMNI FUNDIn memory of John Pustka:

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Janak	10.00
-------------------------	-------

In memory of Edward Belcik:

Mary Ann Pavliska	15.00
-------------------	-------

In memory of Louis Rother:

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Grubert, Jr.	10.00
----------------------------------	-------

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUNDIn memory of John Pustka:

Ronnie & Agnes Huser	10.00
Eleanor Huser	10.00
Stephen & Ashley Grahmann	10.00
John & Beverly Haas	10.00
Paul & Annette Henke	10.00
Gene & Trudy Janak	20.00
Leroy & Alice Janak	10.00
Glenn & Donna Leopold	10.00
Helen Mitchon	20.00
Bobby Pavliska	20.00
Grace Rother	10.00
Dennis & Darlene Shimek	10.00
Martha Sitka	10.00
Arthur Spies	20.00
Clyde & Edna Wehman	10.00
Robert & Leona Steffek	10.00
Anthony & Joan Corte	10.00
Gene & Maureen Schott	10.00
Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler	10.00
Steven & Jennifer Steffek & family	15.00

In memory of Bessie Kouba:

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Grubert, Jr.	10.00
----------------------------------	-------

In memory of Edward Belcik:

Dennis & Gerardette Haas	20.00
Robert & Barbara Grahmann	10.00
Sherry Hale	10.00
David & Wilma Wagner	10.00
Francis & Charlene Klekar & family	10.00
Gladys Hermes	10.00
Henry A. Wick	10.00
Frank Hermes	5.00

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUNDIn memory of Edward Belcik:

John & Susan Spicer	20.00
Debra Smirak Family	10.00
Cleo Muras	10.00
Johnny & Marilyn Svetlik & sons	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Schindler	20.00
Loretta Raska	25.00
Leo & Evelyn Hoffer	20.00
Mitchell, Irene & Mitch Harbus	20.00
Irene Barton Family	10.00
Roger & Leslie Huehlefeld	40.00
Charles & Geralyn Klmitchek	20.00
Dorothy & Annie Svetlik	15.00

In memory of Lucille Etzler:

Trey & Jennifer Kraatz & family	10.00
Leroy & Alice Janak	20.00
Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler	10.00
Raymond Henke	15.00
Henry & Ann Kostelnik	10.00
Dennis & Gerardette Haas	20.00
Gene & Maureen Schott	10.00
Rosemary Hermes	10.00
Glenn & Donna Leopold & family	10.00
Donna Wagner	20.00
Daniel & Vickie Wagner	20.00
Clarence & Carol Hartensteiner	10.00
Angela Hermes	10.00
Frank & Elrose Migl	20.00
Alfred Christ	10.00
Frank & JoNell Janecek	20.00

SACRED HEART SCHOOL VOCATIONAL SHOP FUNDIn memory of Alphonse Steffek:

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Grubert, Jr.	10.00
----------------------------------	-------

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ATHLETICS FUNDIn memory of Louis Rother: 10.00In memory of Edward Belcik: 10.00In memory of Lucille Etzler: 10.00In memory of Tyler Bludau: 10.00

Bobby Pavliska

CAROLYN DWORSKY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDIn memory of John Pustka:

Dennis & Lisa Dworsky & family	10.00
--------------------------------	-------

In memory of Edward Belcik:

Victor & Barbara Schindler	10.00
----------------------------	-------

DOROTHY HENNEKE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDIn memory of John Pustka:

Tommy & Elsie Grahmann	10.00
------------------------	-------

Roy & Loretta Hardcastle	10.00
--------------------------	-------

Paul & Annette Henke	10.00
----------------------	-------

Richard Grahmann	5.00
------------------	------

In memory of Edward Belcik:

Richard Grahmann	5.00
------------------	------

DWAYNE JANAK SCHOLARSHIP FUNDIn memory of Emma Donnelly: 10.00In memory of Phillip Janak: 10.00

Guntram & Elaine Janak & family

SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD & DAYCAREIn memory of John Pustka:

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Macik	10.00
------------------------	-------

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Orsak	25.00
-------------------------	-------

In memory of Edward Belcik:

Robert & Florence Sciba	5.00
-------------------------	------

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

August 2009

One Minute Meditations

U.S. Catholics grow

The number of Catholics in the U.S. increased by 1 million last year, according to the 2009 Official Catholic Directory, to 68.1 million Catholics. Approximately one in four Americans is Catholic. That makes the Catholic Church the largest denomination in the country – and it continues to grow.

Be a star

With all the bad business news in the media, now is the time to become an all-star player at work. In addition to contributing to the organization, hard work and extra effort have rewards all their own.

It all starts with love

"Charity is at the heart of the Church's social doctrine. Every responsibility and every commitment spelt out by that doctrine is derived from charity which, according to the teaching of Jesus, is the synthesis of the entire Law. It gives real substance to the personal relationship with God and with neighbor ..."

(Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas In Veritate).



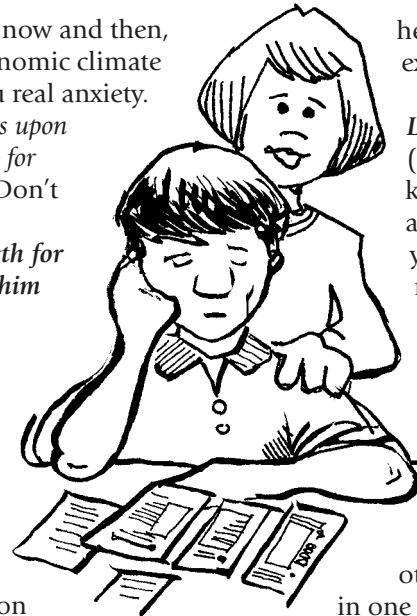
"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life ..."

Everyone worries now and then, but the current economic climate may be causing you real anxiety.

"Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:1). Don't lose faith or heart.

"I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me" (Philippians 4:13). Your troubles may seem overwhelming but God won't leave you to deal with them alone. Take prayerful action to resolve your situation and God will supply what you need to succeed.

"More precious than gold is health and well-being" (Sirach 30:15). Worry can erode your health so it is important that you take care of yourself. Eat



healthfully. Make time for exercise. Pray often. Rest.

"Give thanks to the Lord, who is good ..." (Psalms 106:1). Worry can keep you from appreciating the good in your life. Reserve ten minutes each day to give thanks to God for all you have.

"Give and gifts will be given to you" (Luke 6:38). One way to escape worry – even for a short time – is to help others. You may need help

in one area of your life, but have the ability to give help in another. Caring for others helps to take your mind off yourself and your troubles. Plus, Jesus promised, *"For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."*

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are bishops, priests, and deacons. However, the bishop can appoint others to help as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for an occasion or a period of time.

A pastor recommends parishioners to the

Why do people other than priests distribute Communion?



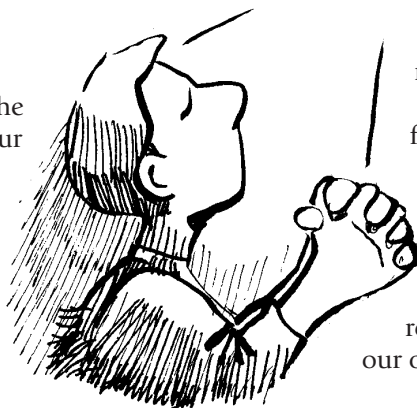
bishop to serve in his parish as Extraordinary Ministers when the congregation is so large that distributing Holy Communion during Mass would take too long or when there are too many sick and homebound for the Ordinary Ministers to visit without help.

Pray the all-purpose prayer

Like us, the disciples needed Jesus' help to grow in holiness. When they asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he gave them (and us) the perfect formula for prayer. In fact, in the "Our Father," he gave us four prayers in one.

First, it is a prayer of praise and gives God the glory that he is due. Recognizing God's greatness is the right place to start.

Second, it is a prayer of petition in which we ask God to provide what we need. He knows better than we do what



we need, but giving it voice helps us to recognize the answer when it comes.

Third, the "Our Father" asks for forgiveness. Plus, we ask for strength to be as generous in forgiving as we would like God to be toward us.

And last, it is a prayer of acknowledgement. It forces us to admit that God knows what is best for us and reminds us to submit to his will rather than our own. That's what makes it an essential prayer.

from Scripture

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 Clean hearts vs. clean hands

The religious leaders sent investigators to check up on Jesus and didn't like what they saw. Not only were Jesus and his followers ignoring some traditional rituals, Jesus scolded the leaders for being hypocrites when they did observe them. They were outwardly obedient so they could look holy instead of taking steps to actually be holy.

For example, devout Jews performed a cleansing ritual before each meal. The Pharisees liked to believe this ceremony kept them from being considered unclean. They were critical because Jesus'



followers didn't perform this ceremony. Jesus told them that they were wrong to think being clean on the outside made them acceptable to God. God cares more about the state of our hearts than our hands.

Hypocrisy is when we pretend to be something we aren't and have no intention of becoming. Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites because they went through the motions of worshiping God so they could appear holy in the eyes of the Jews. We become hypocrites when we follow religious practices carefully but allow our hearts to remain distant from God.

Q & A Why hasn't God answered my prayer?

God is always listening and he always answers prayer. He loves you more than you can imagine and only wants the best for you. He doesn't want you to be



unhappy, sick, or worried. In fact, he knows what you need better than you do.

If it feels like he isn't listening or hasn't answered you, don't lose hope. God's answers usually

fall into one of three responses: 1) Yes, 2) Not right now, and 3) I have a better idea. The best approach is to make your request, trust him to do the right thing, and then look for the answer.

Maybe he wants you to wait a while before he grants your request to increase your appreciation or because he doesn't think you are ready yet. Perhaps he has something better in mind. Whatever the answer – and there is always an answer – remember that it comes from his love.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord. Tradition says that Mt. Tabor was the site of the Transfiguration during which Christ showed his disciples the splendor of his beauty. The Lord appeared radiant in the company of Moses and Elijah, and a voice was heard to say, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

August 15 – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Declared a dogma of our faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates

Mary's taking up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life.

August 27 – St. Monica (387). A Christian in North Africa, Monica was given in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, whose bad temper made life difficult for her. Monica's patience, piety, and prayers won over her husband who was baptized before he died. Monica is also credited for influencing the conversion of her son, Augustine, who became one of the great saints of the Church.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)