

St. Mary's Catholic Church

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 20, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

One of the most adaptable words in the English language is the virtuous word **persistence**. When flies, bees, or ants are **persistent** at our summer picnic they are annoying. When children and teenagers are **persistent** in wanting something, we call them bold or troublesome. When politicians are **persistent** in acquiring our vote we consider them to be astute or clever. When business persons are **persistent** in following up on sales prospects we admire their tenacity and spunk. When some people are **persistent** in trying to do something spectacular (but seem to have little chance in succeeding) we wonder why they even bother trying to do so. In such case **persistence** is regarded not as a virtue but rather as a vice: "He's got a lot of nerve asking again when he has been refused time and time again" or "Why should she follow her dream; she always has been and will continue to be a real failure and loser." However, those people refuse to take no for an answer and hope that their **persistence** will pay off in the long run. And sometimes it does, as dreams do come true!

An important truth for all of us to remember is that **faith** and **prayer** go hand in hand. In order to have a strong **faith-life** we need a strong **prayer-life**. We need the grace of **perseverance** in our **prayer-life** and we need to be **persistent** in our **prayer-life**. Our Scripture readings for today suggest three obstacles that may weigh heavily upon us in **persevering** and maintaining a strong, **persistent prayer-life**.

First, sometimes we become tired and weary in our **prayer-life** just like Moses did in today's reading from Exodus. Moses, with staff in hand, climbed up a hill to pray for the Israelites while they battled the Amalekites. Eventually he became weary, tired, and fatigued as he held his arms up in prayer so his companions, Aaron and Hur, supported him. Like Moses, we at times get wearied and fatigued in praying as we experience "spiritual burnout." Do we ever think about seeking the support of others to help us in our **prayer-life**?

Second, sometimes our **prayer-life** itself seems to be in a rut and we need a spiritual jump-start. If we experience this then it is time for us to turn to Sacred Scripture to give us that jump-start. As St. Paul writes to Timothy in today's second reading: "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching and training." God's word can and will enliven and invigorate our **prayer-life** as it will give us directions in opening up new avenues to our Lord. Prayer is our word to God and Scripture is God's word to us. The Holy Spirit gives us God's word not just to quote but to penetrate our lives and shape our spiritual life.

Finally, sometimes we simply get frustrated with our **prayer-life**. We pray but it seems like our prayers are not being answered or things are not happening as quickly as we want them to happen. In today's Gospel parable Jesus draws a sharp contrast between a corrupt judge and a **persistent** widow who comes to him for justice. The judge will not give in; she will not give up. The **persistence** of the widow becomes the model that Jesus uses to describe the resoluteness required of all of us. Like the woman, we do not know when and how God will respond to our pleas or our **prayers** but we do know that God will answer us in His time and give to us what is best for us. *(continued on next page...)*

Weekend Masses

Sat Oct 19	4:00 p.m.	In Thanksgiving
Sun Oct 20	10:00 a.m.	Nick Stechschulte Will Schulte Connie Warniment
Sat Oct 26	4:00 p.m.	Cassie and Gregory Kiene
Sun Oct 27	10:00 a.m.	Fr. Gary Ferguson

Communion Service

Fri Oct 25 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,810.00	Loose \$502.45
Children	\$6.00	Total \$3,318.45

71 envelopes returned = 35%



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for October 26 & 27, 2019

Money Counters: Deb Goldenetz and Barb Galvan

4:00 p.m.

Greeters: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: John Parinello and Chuck Niese

Lector: Jenny Roby

E.M.: Bob Minto, Edna Conkling, Amanda Woolley

Servers: Jacob Granger and Addison Businger

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: Deb Buck and Rachel Welch

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri

Lectors: Lisa Welch and Shannon Wannamacher

E.M.: Michelle Risner, Betty Gerten, John Schulte, Linda Kinn, Jenna Kimmel

Servers: Kendal Giesege, Makayla Schweingruber, Jordan Schweingruber

Readings for October 20, 2019 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Exodus 17:8 - 13

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2

Gospel Reading: Luke 18:1 - 8

