

St. Mary's Catholic Church

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 27, 2019

Dear Parishioners,

Two brothers went to visit their beloved grandmother and stay at her home for a couple of days. On the first night of their visit they knelt by their beds to pray. The younger brother shouted rather loudly: "Dear God I need a new bike." "Shhh! Not so loud. God isn't deaf," replied the older brother. To which the younger fella replied: "I know that. However, Grandma is practically deaf!" Technically the younger brother was praying but like the Pharisee in today's Gospel passage he was doing so not to praise or thank God but rather to benefit himself.

How and when do we pray? What are our motives for turning to God in prayer? Do we take time and pray to give God thanks and praise or do we only turn to God and pray when we are desperately in need of something or a favor?

Today's Scripture readings provide us with an important practical teaching on how we are to pray. Ben Sira, the author of the book of Sirach (formerly known as the Book of Ecclesiasticus) reminds us that our prayers must be connected with what is going on in our lives. We cannot separate our prayer-life from our daily living. We cannot pray one way and act another. Ben Sira also assures us that wealth and power do **not** make a person's prayers more effective. Our God hears and answers everyone's prayers including those of the down-trodden and rejected members of society because "the Lord is a God of justice, who knows no favorites." The poor who are accustomed to being overlooked, forgotten, and ignored can always pray with confidence that they will be heard by God.

In today's Gospel passage Jesus admonishes those people who were convinced of their own righteousness, priding themselves on their own virtues while despising and humiliating others. Using a parable about two men (a Pharisee and a tax collector) who go to pray in the Temple, Jesus contrasts the ways that each offer their prayers to God. The prayer of the so-called holy, observant Pharisee is revealed to be inauthentic and fraudulent since his words were merely a prideful recitation of a litany of his virtues. He has no sense of his need for God's mercy and forgiveness. Prayer for him is merely an ego trip and so it is not effective. On the other hand, the words of the publican are a heartfelt plea for God's mercy and forgiveness. The publican acknowledges his brokenness and sins. He begs for God's forgiveness, mercy and healing. His prayer is genuine, authentic and effective and so he is forgiven. Jesus declares that the tax collector went home justified while the Pharisee did not. To be justified means to be in right relationship with God. The Pharisee left the Temple that day the same way he came in, unchanged. The tax collector left justified because he realized that he needed God's grace in order to change and come closer to God.

True authentic, genuine prayer is always honest, heartfelt, trusting, humble, and sincere. Prayer is offered for the needs of the world as well as for our own personal intentions. Prayer is our faith in action; not merely an exercise of piety. Although we may not see the outcome we can be assured that all our prayers are heard by our loving and gracious God.

Love and prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Oct 26	4:00 p.m.	Cassie and Gregory Kiene
Sun Oct 27	10:00 a.m.	Fr. Gary Ferguson, Louis Barth, Charles Vogel, William Frideger, Ruth Badertscher, Rosemary Meyer, Robert Blake, George Donaldson, Rita Wenger, Tim Kahle
Sat Nov 2	4:00 p.m.	Mary Zaleskie
Sun Nov 3	10:00 a.m.	In thanksgiving

Communion Service

Fri Nov 1 9:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,017.00	Loose \$757.00
Children	\$22.62	Total \$3,796.62

71 envelopes returned = 35%



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

Assignments for November 2 & 3, 2019

Money Counters: Chad Wolford and Courtney Gerten

4:00 p.m. – please sign the sheet in the main entrance

Greeters: Basil Meyer

Cantor:

Ushers: Dave and Mary Hoffer

Lector: Amy Tabler

E.M.: Jennifer Tschour, Jim Tabler, Brianna Atkins

Servers: Grace Myers and Calvin Frideger

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: John and Sarah Schulte family

Cantor:

Ushers: Roger Brodman and John Schlumbohm

Lectors: Caitlyn Couch

E.M.: Basil Meyer, Logan Welch, Wes Lovett, Cathy Hermiller, Becca Schlumbohm

Servers: Carson Meyer, Ty Meyer

Readings for November 3, 2019

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 2:2

Gospel Reading: Luke 19:1 - 10

