

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 28, 2019

From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:

How Do We Pray?

Very often, we may wonder if God really hears our prayer, if we are praying effectively. Today's scriptures selections give us an excellent opportunity to look for insight on how the Lord expects us to pray and what we can expect from our Heavenly Father.

In the Gospel (Luke 11:1-13) there is an explicit call to us to pray. The wise disciple who curiously requested Jesus: "Lord, teach us to pray," is like the man who says: "Do not give me fish! Rather, teach me how to fish." Jesus not only tells them what to say, He assures them of His Father's attentiveness and concern.

Prayer forms the subject of the First Reading (Genesis 18:20-32) and the Gospel today. In the first reading from Genesis, we hear Abraham interceding, in other words speaking directly and boldly to God on behalf of Sodom; appealing on behalf of the faithful ones because he was troubled by the idea of the innocent being punished along with the guilty. He asks God for blessing even on the sinful city. In his pleading or bargaining with God, Abraham becomes a model of intercession for sinners; just as Sodom is a symbol of widespread sinfulness. In the book of Exodus again, after the Israelites escaped from Egypt and food was low, Moses and Aaron appealed to the Lord when the Israelites hungry in the desert and the Lord heard the grumbling of the Israelites." (Exodus 16,1-5, 9-15). This reading beautifully prepares our minds for the theme of the Gospel which is Prayer. As we know, Prayer is a favorite theme of St Luke no matter the situation.

Prayer is more than a bargain or a mere dialogue. Someone describes it as a project. Actually, it is the lifting up of our minds and hearts (spirit) to God. It is a two – way communication. The essential elements of Prayer are faith, humility, and communication. Whether it is private, public, personal, vocal, silent or official, it is the key to unlock, and enter the heart of God.

As we reflect on today's reading on how to ask, seek, knock on our spiritual and temporal needs; intercessory prayer of Abraham reveals the mercy of God to us. Abraham's boldly insistent for mercy from fifty innocent people to ten for the sake of the righteous people living with it tells us about God's patience even if we bargain with Him. All we need is to persevere in our prayer and be patient as well. The core of Jesus' teaching on prayer consist of:

- acknowledging God as 'Our Father' Who art in Heaven because He knows our needs before we ever dare to ask.
- Need for persistence, Like Abraham his boldness is another form of expression of trust in God.
- Recognizing His holiness and rule over all things, reminds us of God's tender love and care of a good Father. And so, we are invited to pray intimately and with full trust in our loving Father since God looks at us His beloved Children. The idea of honoring His holiness, asking for His kingdom over all (Psalm 103:19) illustrates the necessity of perseverance in prayer. The Father will not be turned away by such persistence but will give good things to the children who ask, even giving them the Holy Spirit.

***"The simple path, Silence is prayer, Prayer is faith, Faith is love, Love is service, The fruit of service is Peace."
" St Teresa of Calcutta***

Stewardship

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving on Sunday For 07/21/19 our Offering was \$2,717.00

Last Sunday second collection for Church Property Insurance was. \$964.00.

This Sunday our second collection is for Air Conditioning.

Next week second collection is for Latin America & Home Missions.

Summer is more than half over. Parents, children, teenagers, and adults are preparing to go back to school. Where can we help you at this time?

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

Last Sunday, we had Maria Zamorano, the Director of Latino Outreach Program who spoke to us about Catholic

Education and financial assistance available for those interested. You can call 646 794 2885 or visit

CatholicSchoolsNY.org or pick flier as you go today for more information.

Remember, next Friday is **FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH OF AUGUST**

Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

11:00 am – 11:45 am Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus & Rosary

11:45 am Sacrament of Penance

12:05 pm Mass in English

Are you interested in serving in any of the following role at the Mass?

Extra Ordinary Minister the Holy Eucharist

Altar Servers, Sacristan, Lector, Choir, Usher

~~~~~ Use of our Parish Hall

We are working on the Guidelines for the use / renting of our Hall.

Please, call our Parish Office for more information.

### **Sundays Readings:**

**First Reading:** Genesis 18:20-32 p. 62

The Lord was outraged at the sinfulness of Sodom and Gomorrah and was determined to destroy them, but Abraham interceded on behalf of the innocent who lived in those towns, and the Lord relented.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 p. 62

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

**Second Reading:** Colossians 2:12-14 p.63 The author of Colossians wrote. "You were buried with him in baptism,.. Also raised with him." God has forgiven all our transgressions and "removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross."

**Gospel:** Luke 11:1-13 p. 63

Jesus taught his disciples the "Abba" prayer. He encouraged them to pray with persistence and to keep knocking on the door. "For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds."

### **2019 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal Update**

Goal: \$39,500

Total Amount Paid: \$34,401.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$38,383.00

Number of Families: 119

Percent of goal: 97%

If you haven't had the chance to make your contribution, there is there still time. You can use the pledge letters that have already arrived at your home. And if you have not received one or have never made a pledge before, it is very easy to do so online.

Just go to [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org), click on Donate, select an amount, and direct your gift to our Church:

Immaculate Conception, Yonkers

### **All are welcome to our Up Coming Events**

- Religious Education Registration 2019-2020 The last day of registration is July 31, 2019. Come to the rectory to register your children. (Wednesday & Thursday, Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm)
- Bible Sharing: Do you want to learn more about the Word of God during the week, in English. Call and let us know whether Wednesday beginning in the month of September is convenient for you.
- Food Collection: Next Sunday August 4, we will have our monthly food collection for the needy in our community—and as always thank you for your generosity in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

**Mass Schedule for the week of July 27, 2019 to August 3, 2019**  
**Special Intentions for this week**

**Saturday, July 27, 2019:**

12:05pm— Available/Disponibile

5:00pm - Rose DiGiacomo + \*Cristina Monteiro

7:30pm - Mercedes Boada + \*Ana Medina

**Sunday, July 28, 2019:**

7:30 am – For the Parishioners

9:00 am – Joaquiám Neto \* Acción de Gracias

11:00 am - Brigitte Puma & Fred J. Ventrudo + \* Maria Ventrudo

**Monday, July 29, 2019:**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05pm Giuseppe Caterina Cosentino + \* Fernando Commodare Tuesday July 30, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05pm – Rafael Barragan + \*Peter, Maritza & Mallori Fitzgerald

**Wednesday, July 31, 2019:**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm – Ines Arezzo + \* John & Kathy Liszenwsko

**Thursday, August 1, 2019:**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm— Hector Rene Gabriel + \* Jose Gabriel

7:00 pm - Maria Eralia Vareyes \*Maria Rubio

**Friday, August 2, 2019:**

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm – Sagrado Corazon de Jesus + \*Gladys Arias

**Saturday, August 3, 2019:**

12:05pm— Steven Jordan Health \* Maureen Brennan

5:00pm - Vincnet Nowak + \* Castro Family

7:30pm - Legion De Maria

+Indicates deceased \* Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.

**The security cameras are now in place inside and outside of the Church**

**24 Hour Surveillance**

**Both Video & Audio**