

Practice of Faith

If you look at your parish calendar, night after night is likely to be devoted to classes, social activities, and outreach to various people in need. Putting faith into action is a good thing. It shows that we take discipleship seriously. A popular columnist in the Catholic press recently pondered what would happen if all parish activities were suspended for a year so that people could learn how to pray – really pray. In doing so, he said, “I have to believe that all the other ways a parish serves its people not only would fall into place, but would become driven by a fresh and awesome spirit.” As impractical as that might sound on first hearing, Jesus shows us again and again that prayer isn’t a last resort. For him, it was the beginning of everything. Do we trust enough to persist? If we seek, what will we find?

Scripture Insights

“Persistence pays.” Today’s readings afford apt illustration of this proverbial truth: Abraham bartering with God in typical Middle Eastern fashion; a man begging from his friend at an unseemly hour. Persistence pays. So Jesus would have us persist in prayer.

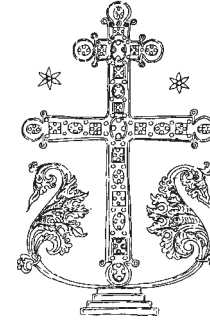
Not only do today’s readings tell us how to pray, but they speak volumes about God. Abraham recognized the Lord as the judge of all the world – a judge who will show justice toward the innocent who are undeserving of punishment as well as to the wicked.

But God is much more than judge, today’s Scriptures tell us, much more than “friend.” God is *Father*, one who brings us into life from the realm of the death wrought by our transgressions. “Father” is the relationship we are not only taught by Jesus, but the reality in which we are established through baptism.

The relationship between parent and child at the human level pales in comparison with that of the heavenly Father and his children. “If you, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

Note that this saying comes at the end of Jesus’ teaching on persistence. “Be persistent,” Jesus tells us, in beseeching your heavenly Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit, that principle of life, that power from on high that enables us to do far more than we can ask or imagine. So may we be in asking for this gift and may we not neglect what we are given.

At Home with the Word 2007. Reprinted with permission. Liturgy Training Publications.



Saint Cecilia Parish

Boston, Massachusetts

A Catholic Community in the Heart of the Back Bay

Saint Cecilia Church

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Parish Staff

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In Residence

Rev. Thomas A. Mahoney

Access for the Disabled

Both the church and parish hall are accessible by elevator.

Parking

Two hours of free parking for parishioners is available before 1:00 p.m. on Sundays at the Fitz-Inn Auto Park at Belvidere and Dalton Streets. Reduced rate parking is available with validation on Sundays in the Prudential Center Garage.

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 7:30 a.m.

Holy Days, 7:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays, 4:30–4:50 p.m., and by appt.

Christian Initiation

Infant Baptisms: Baptisms are celebrated at the 9:30 and 11:00 Sunday Masses and should be scheduled one month in advance.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: The parish welcomes those seeking fuller participation in the life of the Church. Classes run from September to May. Contact the rectory for more information.

Sacrament of Marriage

Couples preparing for marriage should contact the rectory at least six months in advance.

Religious Education

Classes are held after the 9:30 Mass.

CAP Team Members

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Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 29, 2007



Ministers of the Liturgy

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, presider
Amanda Grey, lector
Richard Barry, eucharistic minister

Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

Rev. David Beauregard, OMV, presider
Katherine Roz, lector

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider
Rosaria Salerno & Brita Ullrich, lectors

Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, presider
Zach Bourque & Megan Bourque, lectors

In the examples Jesus proposes in this gospel, people ask for what is immediate and mundane: three loaves of bread, a fish, an egg. These all sustain life on one level. But Jesus instructs us to pray persistently for what sustains the life of disciples and for what God really wants to give: the Holy Spirit. Prayer always includes a discernment of what God wants for us, not simply what we want for ourselves. Fruitful, persistent prayer is tied to the desire and will of God.

Living Liturgy™,
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2007



**Ask and you will receive;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be
opened to you.**

Special Intention

Sunday, July 29, 9:30 a.m.

Dawn Kipphut, Special Intention

Baptism

Sunday, 11:00 a.m. – Brady Daniel Field
child of Dan and Emily Field

Wide Horizons Program

A group of young adults from Ireland are coming to Boston in August for an 8-week internship in youth & community services throughout Greater Boston. The Irish Immigration Center is looking for host families (married or single adults, with or without children) to provide meals and a safe home for these 18-28-year-olds. Host families will be financially compensated and fully supported by the staff of the Center. For more info., please contact Ann-Marie Byrne at 617-542-1900 ext. 16 or amariebyrne@iicenter.org.

Praying the Rosary

On Sunday mornings at 7:15 a.m., parishioners are gathering in the church to pray the rosary together before the 8:00 a.m. Mass. All are welcome!

2007 Catholic Appeal Update

Thank you to all supporters of the 2007 Catholic Appeal. Our parish has raised \$15,331 from 30 households, reaching 52% percent of our parish goal of \$29,500. If you have not yet given, please consider a gift today and help us meet our goal. Remember, our parish will receive 25 percent of all funds we raise above our goal. So each gift has the potential to increase parish revenue while still supporting the ministries funded by the Catholic Appeal. You can pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the church to be mailed in, or for more information please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com or call 617-779-3700. Thank you.

Parish Registration

If you are new to the parish, or if you are a regular communicant who has never formally registered as a parishioner, there are registration forms at the rear of the church for this purpose. You can also register online by visiting our website: www.stceciliaboston.org. This parish is only as strong and vital as its members. Take that first step and let us know who you are!

Give Blood!

The American Red Cross is currently facing a critical blood shortage. Across the Northeast, supplies are down by almost 2700 units, and summer is always a challenging time for recruiting donors. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to give of yourself in the most concrete of ways. Call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or visit www.newenglandblood.org today. Thank you!

New Choir Members

We are always seeking singers and instrumentalists to join us at the 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. Masses. If you have a musical talent to share with the community, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Richard Clark at 617-536-4548 or StCeciliaMusic@aol.com. For more info about the music program visit our website and click on "Saint Cecilia Music."

Eucharistic Visitation

If you are aware of anyone who is homebound for any reason who would like to receive the Eucharist, please call the parish office.

Coffee Hour

Join us after the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Masses for coffee in the parish hall.