From the Desk of the Pastor ....

In today’s first Reading Abraham emerges as an intercessor who pleads to God to save the people of Sodom. This prayer presents a quality of persistence. Jesus gives us the great gift of the Lord’s Prayer in today’s Gospel. It is a prayer for all times and for every occasion. It embraces in its short and simple phrases every aspect of our relationship between our Heavenly Father and us. It is at once the simplest of all prayers and yet, most profound.

This prayer embraces the gist of the teachings of Jesus: ‘Seek you first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, then everything shall be given to you as well.’ Jesus outlines the kind of lives those of us who utter this prayer, are called to live. Jesus calls for a transformation in us: from ‘people who say the words of this prayer, to people who put those words into action’. If we try to live this prayer, by putting each of its phrases into practice in daily life, then we would indeed be brought to perfection as our Heavenly Father dearly wishes us to be. The ‘Our Father’ then truly becomes the beginning and the end of all prayers.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Children’s Liturgy of the Word

Children’s Liturgy of the Word is conducted during the 9:30 am and 12:30 pm masses. All school age children are invited to participate. Parents are urged to consider supporting this ministry to help our children to understand the Sunday Mass Readings better at their own level. If you would like your child to participate in the Children’s Liturgy on Sundays, please arrive 15 minutes before the mass starts to sign up your child and for the children to stand in line at the front of the church ready to be part of the procession. The sign up material will be supplied to you before the Mass.

To sign up please talk to Sonia Urquilla, the person in charge of the program.

Save the date for the “San Lorenzo Ruiz dinner and dance”

The FPC (Filipino Pastoral Council) of St. John the Evangelist will have their annual dinner and dance to celebrate the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz. The dinner and dance is scheduled for September 28, 2019. More details will follow.

Celebration of “Divino Salvador del Mundo”

The Hispanic Community of St. John the Evangelist invites you to the celebration of “Divino Salvador del Mundo”, next Sunday, August 4th after the 12:30 pm mass. There will be a small celebration afterwards in the Church Hall. This celebration is sponsored by the ‘Grupos Renacer’ of our community. Donations are greatly appreciated, please contact Sonia Urquilla at (415) 641-4406 or America Romero at (650) 991-2907. We hope to see you there!

Thank you!

The Religious Education Program would like to thank you all for making the garage sale a great success! A little over $1,271.00 was raised. The money collected will be used for new books for the children enrolled in the Religious Education classes. We are grateful to Sonia Urquilla and all the volunteers for their hard work. The remainder of the clothing donations will be given to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank you once again for making this event a great success!

Prayer is our focus this weekend. In the Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples, and us, the Lord’s Prayer, which we have cherished through the centuries. The first two words encompass much about our faith—unity among all Christians (Our), and a sense that we are in a deeply bonded relationship with God (Father).

In Genesis, we see Abraham in conversational prayer, in his creaturely humility before his Creator, seeking mercy and compassion for the innocent. The psalm is a lyrical prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the God who answered the sincere prayers of a people who had called out for help, showing them mercy. In Luke’s Gospel, the disciples want to pray like Jesus, with the same intimacy—to experience God as Abba in the depths of their being.

Do we try to talk to God? Do we listen for answers? This relationship is always a work in progress.

Be Careful What You Ask For...

Jesus talks about praying for whatever we need with faith and confidence, but he ends by asking, “How much more will the Father... give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?” Is he saying there are limits to what we can ask for?

“Be careful what you ask for,” the saying warns. Just because we want something doesn’t mean it will be good for us. So what is Jesus really saying?

God does hear our prayers and answers them. Many people take “ask and you shall receive” so literally that they expect God to do their bidding no matter what they want. Prayers, however, are not a magical ritual that somehow forces God to do our will. God is free to do what is best for us, free to answer some prayers with a no when we seek is against God’s will.

If we truly pray as Jesus prayed, we would ask for what we need, adding, “Not as I will, but as you will.” If we pray humbly and are open to what God wills for us, we will begin to see that what we really need most is actually God. Let us ask the Spirit to empower us to desire and pray for what we really need.