**From the Desk of the Pastor ....**

Prayer is a good test of our commitment and fidelity to God. How often do we pray? What kind of things do we pray for? Do we pray only for material things or when we are in trouble?

In the first Reading, the people of Israel put their trust in God to protect them. If they have faith, nothing can stand in their way.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about a tenacious widow. The story exemplifies the necessity to be persistent in prayer.

We pray too seldom. Sometimes we excuse ourselves by saying that we have no time to pray; and when we do pray, often our hearts are empty and our minds distracted and drifting into other things.

No matter how busy we are, we find time to eat, check our e-mails, phone messages, to read newspaper, etc., etc., don’t we all? Yet we say we do not have time to nourish our souls with prayer. If we starve our soul, we will deprive our lives of their fruitfulness, no matter how full they appear to be of activity.

We often hear people ask: why pray at all, if God loves us, He will give us what we need. However, prayer gives us insight as well as strength. It supports those who go beyond human hopes and human reasons. It helps us to entrust our cares to the Lord, to discern well, to choose and peacefully do things we could not have done if we did not pray.

‘Prayer is the oil that keeps the lamp of faith bright’ (Mother saint Teresa)

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**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.

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**Mass Intentions Book 2020**

The Mass Intention Book for the New Year 2019 is now open.

You are invited to come to the Parish office beginning this Monday with your request for Mass intentions. Please bring a written list with all the names, mass dates and times that you would like to request along with the stipend. The process is on a ‘first come, first serve basis’.

The Archdiocese of San Francisco has traditionally regulated Mass stipends for announced and unannounced mass intentions. The suggested donation for an announced mass is $10.00; for an unannounced intention it is $5.00.

Mass Intentions are published in the Parish bulletin with the deadline for printing on Monday afternoon. The Parish Office is open for business from Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

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**October Mass Count**

Each October the Archdiocese of San Francisco instructs its parishes to count and report the number of people attending Sunday masses. Ushers and greeters will conduct the annual count during all masses.

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**World Mission Sunday**

Next weekend is World Mission Sunday. Pope Francis invites the Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the world’s most vulnerable communities. Please keep the Pope’s missions in your prayers for next week’s collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

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**Funeral Services for Cardinal William J. Levada: Wednesday – Thursday, October 23 - 24**

Funeral Services for Cardinal William J. Levada, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, will be as follows:

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019 Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption,**

- VISITATION: 5:00-7:00 pm
- VIGIL: 7:00 pm Office for the Dead - Evening Prayer

**Thursday, October 24, 2019 Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption,**

- FUNERAL MASS: 10:00 am

Parking will NOT be available at the Cathedral for the Funeral Mass.

The Mass will be livestreamed on the Memorial webpage: starch.org/cardinal-levada-memorial