October 20th 2019 - Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of the Pastor ....

Prayer is a 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 only 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. How often is your faith tested? Have you lost faith at times?

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

How often do we pray? 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, etc., etc. Yet we do not have time to nourish our souls with prayer. If we starve our soul, we deprive our lives of their fruitfulness.

Often people ask: why pray at all, if God loves us, He will give us what we need. Prayer gives us insight and strength. It helps us to entrust our cares to the Lord, to grow in faith and to discern well. Prayer sustains us always.

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.

Parish Pastoral Council News

The Parish Pastoral Council thanks you for your overwhelming support and participation in the “Parish Mass Survey” conducted during the last few weekends.

The Parish Survey’s committee have tallied the survey. The survey results with your valuable suggestions and choices will be presented to the Pastor and all the members of the Parish Pastoral Council at the next meeting. Thank you for your support.

Mass Intentions Book 2020

The Mass Intentions Book for the New Year 2020 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.

Parish Directory

Thank you to all who participated in our parish photography sessions this summer. You should have received your individual pictures by now. If not, please contact Bill Elsbernd at 415-587-8816. The directories will be available in the parish later this year.

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.

Hour of Prayer for Vocations to Priesthood and Religious Life

Three churches, one in each of the three counties of the Archdiocese, will be open for a special Holy Hour of Prayer for Vocations to Holy Orders and Religious Life on the first Sunday in November. All are welcome to attend at whatever venue is convenient, and to join in this important campaign of prayer from 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

The three churches are:

- St. Sebastian, 373 Bon Air Rd., Greenbrae
- Star of the Sea, 4420 Geary Blvd., San Francisco
- St. Plus, 1100 Woodside Rd., Redwood City