

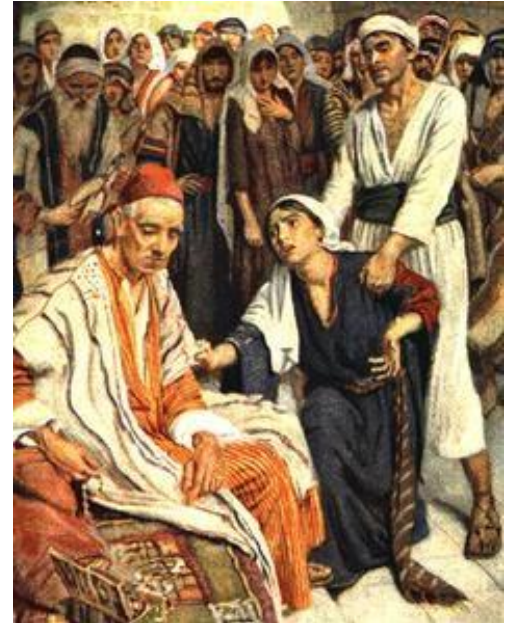


ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY October 16 & BEYOND

In this Sunday's gospel lesson, Jesus gives us a parable reminding us of our need to pray always and not to lose heart. He gives the example of a widow stubbornly demanding justice from an unjust judge, who finally gives in simply to get rid of her. Of course his point is that if persistence can bring about justice through an *unjust* judge, we should have the utmost confidence in coming to God, who is Justice and Love itself.

Even though we know we need God's help to meet the challenges of our lives, we don't always have the same "holy tenacity" of that widow. We give up too easily when we can't see anything happening and God seems silent, and the effects of this can be devastating. Jesus shows us this tragedy from God's point of view in a rhetorical question that completes verse 8 (but for some reason is omitted from the lesson): "Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?"



He's referring to his second coming at the final judgment, and wondering aloud whether there will be anyone left who really believes in him. While this might sound like exasperation or cynicism, what we're really seeing is Jesus baring his broken heart, and that of the Father, to us. He's just promised that God will never abandon us, and yet he knows that some of us will give up on God. Far too many people let this experience gradually dim the light of God in their lives, and even extinguish it when a particularly desperate plea seems to have gone unanswered.

So Jesus expresses an anguished plea of his own, hoping that we might be encouraged to trust and persevere, to stick with him through thick and thin, and not let life's difficulties wear us down. The way that we do that is to be constant in our prayer, offering everything that comes our way back to God *and* waiting on God's answer. If we're doing all the talking, we shouldn't be surprised when we don't hear his response. We have to be humble enough to let *his* will be done and quiet enough to notice when he's trying to move us in another direction.

A very simple way to start is with 10 minutes in the morning, 5 minutes in the middle of the day, and another 10 at night. Share what's going on in your life, and also think about what you have trouble submitting or entrusting to God's will. Whatever you do, be sure to leave space for silence, to sit and listen with an open heart and mind. If we're faithful in doing this, we'll soon find that it would be harder to stop going to God than to keep coming.

Father McQueen II

Readings for this Sunday

Genesis 32:3-8, 22-30 Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8a

Calendar

SATURDAY: 4:00p Solemn Mass (Church)

Note: This week ONLY the Sunday Masses have been moved to one Mass on Saturday because of the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, October 16.

—The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)

9:30a MASS (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meeting 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)