



ALL SAINTS'

CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY July 24 & BEYOND



When the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, how does he respond? He starts with a specific prayer, but of course the “Our Father” is not a magic formula for getting what we want. Instead, what Jesus is showing us is that prayer is much more about learning to want what we get.

Jesus begins by reminding us that God is our Father and encouraging us to bring all our needs, cares, and concerns to him. He then assures us that God hears *and answers* our prayers with the image of the man asking his friend for bread late in the evening. Surely if even that rude man’s request was granted with the imperfect motivation to get rid of him, we can know that God, in his perfect love, always generously responds to our needs.

But then, how can Jesus say that God always hears and answers our prayers, when we don’t always get what we pray for? Because God is our heavenly Father who always gives good gifts to his children. Jesus points out that when hungry children ask for fish and eggs, we don’t turn around and give them snakes and scorpions. We give them what will sustain them and help them grow, not something that will kill them.

Of course, children don’t always ask for good things. In fact, hungry children rarely ask for the kinds of things that will best sustain them and help them grow, and younger children try to eat all kinds of things that aren’t even food! Also, children often want to play in ways or places that are not safe. Children have to be protected from themselves and be taught what’s best for them, and that’s what God is doing for us in every moment of our lives.

To really flourish we have to trust God enough to want what we get, and one of the ways we learn to do that is by *not* getting what we pray for. If we pray about that and pay attention to what we get instead, we start to better understand and cooperate with the kinds of things God wants to do in our lives. We’ll begin to see how we need circumstances that challenge us and bring more out of us, and that even the worst of tragedies is not meaningless. So while it quickly becomes clear that prayer won’t magically get us what we want, if we remain faithful we’ll find that it’s much more powerful and produces something in us far more beautiful.

Readings for this Sunday

Genesis 18:20-33 Psalm 138 Colossians 2:6-15 Luke 11:1-13

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)
—*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 Meetings 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)