

St. Cornelius Parish



SUNDAY BULLETIN

July 27, 2025

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Amen.



160 Ridge Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317
Phone: (610) 459-2502 • Fax: (610) 459-3942
Web: www.saintcornelius.org

Email: stcorn1@comcast.net • Facebook: Like us on Facebook

Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor (Ret.)

Parish Council Members

Agnes Arkus	José Dominguez	Mary Jo Gordon	Laurie Hays	Michelle Nardozzi
Michael Brisgone	Franca Felcher	John Guest	Jon Lippard	David Ripsom

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Pastoral & Administrative Assistant: Marie McGuigan

Office Manager: Douglas Kitson

Parish Religious Education Program: Abbie McCusker

Director of Music: Margie Melchior

Directors of Parish Services: Thomas Bosch & Kelly Limmina

St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Abbie McCusker, Director

Phone: (610) 459-8663

Website: www.scornelius.org

St. Cornelius Parish Summer Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Noon

closed for Lunch 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Saturday: Confessions 2:30 - 3:30 Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 4:00 pm **Weekday Mass: 7:30 am**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Will return after Labor Day

LiveStream <https://vimeo.com/user123448673>

Thoughts from the Second Floor Front XVII Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 27, 2025

Both Abraham, the Father of our Faith, and Jesus' parable point to an elemental aspect of the life of a believer – perseverance and confidence. Both readings present the emblematic characteristic of tenacity both in prayer and practice. This posture is shown in the intercession of Abraham on behalf of the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah – the ancient cities of corruption that are synonymous with licentiousness and sin rather than innocence and righteousness. We have the benefit of knowing the outcome of the story but in his lived experience Abraham did not know how the fate of the twin cities of sin would eventually end.

Abraham's situation is pretty much like ours. Despite our best efforts, there are often circumstances and eventualities that we not only cannot anticipate but once on the scene are quite beyond our control. The old adage attributed to St. Augustine still holds true: "Pray as if everything depends on God. Work as if everything depends on you." At the end of the day we are, as St. Teresa of Calcutta once said, not called to success but to fidelity. This can be particularly challenging in our culture which places so much emphasis on individual accomplishments, self-reliance and instantaneity. It was Ralph Waldo Emerson who raised the personality characteristic of self-reliance to the level of such great importance in his often-read essay of the same name.

There are many times in our lives when we are not called to independence but to interdependence. This is certainly most true in a community and in a community of faith it is essential. The man in the story that Jesus presents in today's gospel is relying on the kindness of his neighbor. That parable aims at an important aspect of discipleship – confidence in God's overwhelming providence. When artists have created an image of this parable portraying Jesus knocking on the door they often leave out an important feature of the door; a handle on the outside. If the Lord is knocking on the door, the only way He is going to get in is if the person on the inside opens up and lets Him in. In this, Jesus is depending on us to do what He has begun. The only way He is going to come in is if we ask Him in; into our homes, our lives and our hearts.

This indwelling makes a demand on us. We are not called on to have a warm fuzzy feeling in our relationship with the Divine. Look at the parable again. The midnight calling friend is in need and turns to you for help. He cannot be satisfied with a pablum of niceties and pious assertions. This person needs help and is asking you for the help. We are called on to act and act in a manner that mimics Christ's own actions. The opportunity to do good does not knock at your door. It knocks at your teeth,

St. Teresa of Ávila, the 16th century Spanish Mystic wrote: *Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks out his compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.*

Allow Jesus to live and work through you.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



Prayer for the Fifth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

How beautiful are these words of yours, Lord!

Help us to continue our pilgrimage through time,
animated by the hope that comes from You!

Help us in this divisive world,
to bring the hope of communion.

Help us in this world, wounded by wars,
to bring the hope of peace.

Help us in this world, which is dehumanizing,
to bring the beauty of an ancient smile.

Help us to be, for our grandchildren, for our loved
ones and for everyone we meet,
the memory of your tenderness.

Help us to bring, in a world distracted from You,
the Hope of a new life that only You can give!

For in You, Lord, nothing is lost
For in You, Lord, everything begins again!
Amen

*Sacred Scripture offers us many examples
of men and women whom the Lord called
late in life to play a part in his saving plan.
We can think of Abraham and Sarah, who,
advanced in years, found it hard to believe
when God promised them a child. Their
childlessness seemed to prevent them from
any hope for the future.*

† Pope Leo XIV

*The life of the Church and the world can
only be understood in light of the passage
of generations. Embracing the elderly
helps us to understand that life is more than
just the present moment, and should not be
wasted in superficial encounters and fleet-
ing relationships.*

† Pope Leo XIV

For Pope Leo XIV complete address to
Grandparents and the elderly, scan the QR
Code.



Welcome to the Matthew XXV Garden Season 5

Matthew XXV

The First Harvest

Our first harvest is in! Last Monday, July 14, we returned to the garden to harvest the results of our spring labor. In total our volunteers harvested 87.6 lbs. of vegetables. We are on our way to fulfilling the mandate to feed those in need.

If interested in cutting grass around the garden beds, please TEXT Steve Muntz at 610-454-8937 and he will be happy to fill you in with what needs to be done.

Again, thank you,

Matthew XXV Committee
Laurie, JoEllen, Steve, & Regina



RETRouvaille
A LIFELINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held **August 1 - 3, 2025** at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

IN COMMUNION WITH OUR SAINTS

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Religious July 31

Saint Ignatius was born at Loyola in Spain, in the year 1491. He served his king as a courtier and a soldier until his thirtieth year.

At that age, being laid low by a wound, he received the call of divine grace to leave the world. He embraced poverty and humility, that he might become more like to Christ, and won others to join him in the service of God. Prompted by their love for Jesus Christ, Ignatius and his companions made a vow to go to the Holy Land, but war broke out, and prevented the execution of their project.



Then they turned to the Vicar of Jesus Christ, and placed themselves under his obedience. This was the beginning of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Our Lord promised Saint Ignatius that the precious heritage of His Passion should never fail his Society, a heritage of contradictions and persecutions. Saint Ignatius was cast into prison at Salamanca, on a suspicion of heresy. To a friend who expressed sympathy with him on account of his imprisonment, he replied, *“It is a sign that you have but little love of Christ in your heart, or you would not deem it so hard a fate to be in chains for His sake. I declare to you that all Salamanca does not contain as many fetters, manacles, and chains as I long to wear for the love of Jesus Christ.”* Saint Ignatius died on the 31st July, 1556.

A PRAYER OF SURRENDER TO GOD

by Saint Ignatius of Loyola

*Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess You have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these, I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more.
Amen.*

THE PARISH CHURCH AND ITS FURNISHINGS CROSS

A cross often dominates the sanctuary of a Catholic church. We trace its lines at the beginning and end of every Mass and we adore it every Good Friday. On solemn occasions, we incense the cross—even if it stands separate from the altar—to signify our respect for the suffering and death of Jesus.

For centuries, the location of the cross never varied in a Catholic church. It rested on or above the altar against the back wall. Then in the 1960s, we allowed the altar to come forward. This happily brought priest and people face to face around the table of the Eucharist, but the cross needed a new home. Resting on the altar or suspended above it, the cross might obstruct everybody’s view. Besides, the top of the altar itself is reserved for the most important elements of the Mass, bread and wine and whatever else is absolutely necessary, like the book from which the priest prays (Sacramentary).

The liturgy permits the use of a processional cross. If your parish wishes, you may lead the Entrance Procession into the church with the cross flanked by candles. Incense may prepare its way. When the cross leads the procession, it animates the first action of the Mass, even before we mark ourselves with its sign at the first words we speak. Once inside, the cross may stand somewhere near the altar. Its position may vary, depending on where other objects occupy the sanctuary.



Our Church urges us to avoid duplicating images where we pray—having two or more statues of the same saint. For that reason, parishes that elect to lead processions with the cross need not provide another cross on the wall of the church. The processional cross that first draws our eyes in the service keeps them focused on Christ throughout.



The main cross of the church should carry the image of Christ Crucified. A good cross is one that brings harmony to the sanctuary and inspires devotion among the people.

Written by Paul Turner.



The Sunday collection is very important for us to maintain our fiscal responsibilities. So, if you are away on a Sunday, ENJOY; but remember YOUR church.

July 20, 2025

WeShare e Giving \$8,102.40
Envelope Offering \$22,881.50
\$30,983.90



“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.”
Luke 12:34

St. Cornelius August School Supplies Drive benefitting



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DARBY, PA

(They are expecting 203 students, Grades 1-8!!)



2 Weekends:
August 9 - 10 and 16 - 17

Drop donations off at the Parish Life Center
PRIOR to Mass

St. Cornelius has always been very generous &
our recipients are VERY grateful!

Suggested school supplies:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Back Packs - Great need | Hand Sanitizer & Wipes |
| Copy Paper - for printers | Crayons |
| Loose Leaf / | Erasers |
| Filler Paper (wide - ruled | |
| Pens | Pencils & |
| (Blue & Black) | Colored Pencils |
| Index cards | Glue Sticks |
| Scissors | |
| (blunt end only) | Kleenex Boxes |

Gift Cards to Target or Staples are also appreciated; please write the value directly on the card.

For further information or to Volunteer
(**Help Needed** to collect, sort & deliver)

please contact: Mary Allen (text 484-432-5098)
or Colleen Zangla (colleenmz@hotmail.com)

*Thank you so much and God Bless You
for your Generosity.*



REGINA CAELI
Classical Homeschool Hybrid

ATTENTION FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN:

We will be hosting an Information Session to examine a hybrid Catholic Home School option on the campus of St. Cornelius.

Students K-12 attend classes on Mondays and Thursdays and follow the integrated curriculum, at home, during the remainder of the week.

This structure offers students a Traditional Catholic Education at approximately half the cost of a Traditional Catholic school.

Curriculum includes: Reading, Writing, Latin, Mathematics, Music, Debate, and the Visual Arts.

Scan the QR code below to register for the information session (*date to be determined*).



HEED THE CALL



VOCATION OFFICE FOR
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

Visit our website
WWW.HeedTheCall.org



Camp Cornelius

We had another fantastic week at summer camp at our early learning center, and this week's theme—Cooking with Storybooks—was a big hit! Each day, our little friends listened to a fun and engaging story, then brought the book to life by creating a yummy treat to go along with it. From making pancakes, pasta, muffins and pizza, the children explored new foods, practiced measuring and mixing, and had lots of hands-on fun in the kitchen. What a delicious and imaginative way to build literacy and life skills at the same time!



Helping Hands and Hearts

This ministry offers temporary help (meals, errands, etc.) to individuals and families in need! If you are aware of someone in need or would like to be a volunteer helper, please contact Marilyn Gustin at mgustin05@gmail.com (484) 947-7295.



YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS
Working in Witness for Christ™

In a world that can be void of meaning and leave young adults restless and dissatisfied, Young Catholic Professionals Philadelphia brings together young professionals in their 20s and 30s into a community of belonging, support, and encouragement at all stages of your faith journey. Young Catholic Professionals empowers and equips you to live your Catholic faith through everyday work and to perform all work with excellence for the glory of God.

Our patron saint is Saint Joseph the Worker. Our mission calls upon the intercession of Saint Joseph the Worker, a simple carpenter who reminds us of the importance of stillness, reflection, and prayer.

Young Catholic Professionals mission is to challenge, train, and inspire young adults working in various professional careers to work in witness for Christ. For more information go to our local Philadelphia website at www.ycpphiladelphia.org/cpages/home



Caring for Friends™

Help provide home cooked meals to neighbors in need! Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends) is collecting frozen meals and soups for homebound seniors and food insecure individuals. Meal trays and soup containers can be found in the utility closet on the right of the side door of the narthex. Consider putting aside an extra dinner or soup portion, freeze it and then bring it to the freezer also located in the utility closet. PLEASE sign the meals and soup in on the list attached to the shelves next to the freezer. The food is distributed all over the Greater Philadelphia Area. This effort is ongoing at our parish. We invite you to contribute what you can. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Todor 609-234-1193

CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Recently, there has been an abundance of misinformation on social media about Catholic Relief Services' work with refugees, migrants and displaced people. To clarify: CRS plays a unique role in the Catholic Church. We work exclusively overseas, not in the United States. Our last refugee resettlement program in the United States was over 60 years ago. We support refugees, migrants and displaced people where they are overseas by providing essential services like food, shelter, education and medical care in places like Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas.

At the same time, we address the root causes of displacement such as poverty and violence so that families can remain in their home communities and thrive. This prevents families from being forced to leave their home countries. We care deeply about the work we do. Most importantly, we care deeply about the people we serve. Visit www.crs.org for more information and to see how you can get involved!



Let us pray for our Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces. Especially for:

SSG Ana Brunal
SPC Mike Canfield
Cpl Michael Castle
Lt. Connor Cleary
Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain)
Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr.
Capt Joshua deFreitas
SSGT Michael DiVernieri
Cadet Emily Fanning
Lt. Ryan Gallagher
SSG. Eric Gardner
Capt Matthew Gibbons
Ens Patrick Gibbons
Ens John Paul Gibbons
Maj Rachel Gonzalez
SPC Logan Hannum
Sgt Andrew Hart
Devin J. Hunt
PO1 Nathan R. Keller
1st Lt Lauren Kinnee
Spc. Andrew Koehler
Capt Daniel Kohli
Maj. Chris Love
Maj. Megan Love
Sgt Jason Lyons

2nd Lt. Kevin Malone
Sgt Alexander Marlow
PFC Zachary Marlow
CPT. Travis Mauer
Lt. Cmdr Daniel McCadden
Capt Jonathan McGrath
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Maj. Sean P. Noll
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Lt. Cmdr Inga O'Shea
Maj James O'Shea
Sgt. Maj. Justin Rogowski
PFC L Roland
LTJG Christian Samulewicz
1st Lt. Olivia Samulewicz
Capt. Neal F. Schubert
Ens Nicholas Spadaccini
MSG Thomas Stone
Cpl Mark Truex
Lt. Christopher Vish
Capt. Aidan Walsh
PFC Ellianna Welsh
Capt Jennifer Wynn

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Luzmarina Lalli, Marianne Leader, Sandy Fecondo, Dominique Copper, Brian Walheim, Bob McKinney, Mindy Tumolo, Angelo Tiberi, Dorothy Brady, Joan Carrington, River Agren, Rosemarie Tangi, Kathryn Howland, John Faulkner, Sr., Janice Letourneau, Lorraine Farrugia, Patricia Ackerman, Doris Wysocki, Lott family, Ed Lovell, Lillian Corbett, Eileen Kane, David III, C. McCollum, Joshua Gidlewski, Denise Banta, Tom Eno, Diana Duffy, Isaac Burks, Nancy Cunningham, Jay Holland, Thomas Drane, Kara Ulatowski, Harold Von Brockdorff, Mary Helen Arthur, Anne Spetzer, Carolyn Duffy, Carleen Peters, Marian Short, Bryan Thompson, Paul Lucas, Carla Santoleri, Richard Meccarrielli, Edward Field, Judy Field, Joyce Monaco, Matthew Hurst, Leonard Smith, Jr., Jim Waters, Kathie Buckley, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Sean Mulvey, Patricia Wells, Kathy Williams, Michael Gibbons, Ellen Brisgone, Laura O'Brien-Black, Elizabeth Kephart, Tina Landis, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Michelle Dillione, Chris Roe, Frank Kuders, Dave and Ronnie Pryce, Rosemary Brennan, Ellie May McGrath, Vicki Wojdak, Andrea Bateman, Brandon Heacock, Nancy Young, Nanci Ehmer, Ken Rudert, Ed Shell, Ellie McCreight, Ellie Griem, Gregory Varacchi, Michael McKinnen, Connie Carney, Luke Post, Jim Buckley, Jerome Lienhard



The Ministry of Consolation

A St. Cornelius community response to the needs of people grieving the death of a significant person/persons in their lives, the ministry honors the words and example of the Lord Jesus:

"Blessed are they who mourn; they shall be consoled"
(Matthew 5:4).

A team of four St. Cornelius church members have been trained to set up and facilitate a Support Group for the Consolation Ministry.

On **August 16, 2025**, the Consolation Group will meet at the **Parish Life Center, Fr. Simon Room** from **2:30pm to 3:30pm**.

Contact Joan Holliday for any questions
docholliv@aol.com or call (610) 717-2180.



SAINT CORNELIUS

Early Learning Center
ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR THE
2025 - 2026
SCHOOL YEAR!

At Saint Cornelius Early Learning Center we are dedicated to educating each child to learn academic and social skills for success in their future. Our energetic teachers and staff create a nurturing, creative and exciting environment for children to learn, grow, and thrive!

Now enrolling PreK 3, PreK4 and Kindergarten!

CONTACT US

For more information or to schedule a tour, please email Abigail McCusker at

akohlbrener@scornelius.org

or call the Early Learning Center office at (610) 459 - 8663.

LENDING LIBRARY

You may not be aware of the Lending Library that exists in our ambulatory, near the large stain glass windows overlooking the family portico. The cart pictured to the right contains a variety of reading material that you are welcome to take with you. You may also find a variety of holy cards, prayer pamphlets and novenas. Please feel free to take what you like.



Monsignor's Thursday Email

Msgr. Diamond's weekly Thursday Email is a popular weekly newsletter for our parishioners. Currently there are **over 1,148** people who receive his email each Thursday afternoon. If you would like to be on our distribution list, please call the office at (610) 459-2502 or send your request to be added to our distribution at

Stcorn1@comcast.net.

Prayer Shawl Ministry... Come, Join US!



Did you know that each baby baptized at St. Cornelius receives a hand-made blanket made by our Prayer Shawl Ministry? You are welcome to join us in this rewarding ministry. We also make shawls, blankets, scarves, hats, mittens etc. for elderly homes, the Giving Tree and anyone looking for a comforting gift.

**Every 4th Monday of each month
1:30pm to 3:00pm, Parish Life Center**

We find ourselves in need of white acrylic yarn or funding to help continue this wonderful ministry. Please prayerfully consider donating to our ministry or purchasing a "Pound of Love" or "Caron Pound" of white acrylic yarn. We have a basket set up in the narthex, below the large TV monitor, to offer our works and for your donations. Also, you are welcome to drop off any yarn donations to the Parish Life Center. Donations are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact

Valerie Childs (610) 213-0515
and Vickie Gambino (317) 440-5210

Holy Hour - Join Us!

Monday, August 4, 8:00 am

After the 7:30 Mass, the Pro-Life Group is hosting a Holy Hour. We will pray a rosary for the unborn, and an end to abortion. We will also pray the Miraculous Medal Novena for the unborn. There will be time for silent prayer. The hour will close at approximately 9:00 am.



Look for this event monthly on the first Monday of the month.



Giving Hope to All





Kristin Keefer
Carol Wareikis

Sunday Mass Intentions

- 7:30 AM Deceased members of the DiFrancesco Family
- 9:00 AM Deb Weber
- 11:00 AM Donna Santoro
- 4:00 PM Mary James



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)
Saint Cornelius Parish

You can contact Mrs. Abbie McCusker at stcornprep@scornelius.org or by calling the PREP office (610) 459-7723

CALLED TO BE A CATECHIST

Do you like working with children? Do you enjoy growing your faith through sharing it with others? Then we have an **opportunity** for you!!!

We are in need of more teachers for our 2025-2026 PREP school year. If you are interested in sharing the Good News of our Faith and helping to shape the children of our parish, please consider **teaching** a class.

We are seeking individuals who are comfortable working with younger students (grades 1 & 2). If interested please email our DRE, Abbie McCusker at stcornprep@scornelius.org.

BULLETIN PRAYER LIST

Many of the names on the prayer list have been there for several years. I would like to begin the prayer anew.

Later in the summer, after Labor Day, we will eliminate the current names on the prayer list. I ask that **after that date** you contact the Parish Life Center by email (stcorn1@comcast.net) and submit the name of your relative whom you believe would benefit from our parish prayers. Our first bulletin with the updated list will be September 14.



- Weekly Mass Schedule (Week of July 28 - August 1)**
- Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning**
Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
Reading: Gn 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13
- Monday 7:30 AM**
Intention: Raul Gesmundo
Reading: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Mt 13:31-35
- Tuesday 7:30 AM**
Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus
Intention: Louis Porsia
Reading: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
- Wednesday 7:30 AM**
Intention: Margaret & Michael Holliday
Reading: Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9; Mt 13:44-46
- Thursday 7:30 AM**
Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Intention: Frances Hicks
Reading: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11; Mt 13:47-53
- Friday 7:30 AM**
Memorial of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Intention: Msgr. Alexander Palmieri
Reading: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58

TABERNACLE CANDLES

For the intentions of Tom & Chris Weber

PILGRIM STATUE



- 07 - 27 - 2025 Ellen Ward
- 08 - 03 - 2025 Kathy Howley
- 08 - 10 - 2025 Open

The dates for August thru December are now available on the sign-up. Call Carla Santoleri at (610) 361-8447 for more information.

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?" (Luke 1:13). 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. Remember the Indiana Jones movies? The artifact that the bad guys were seeking usually turned out to be lethal. But if we have enough faith to pray for something, we probably would not pray for anything evil. So what is Jesus really saying? He is giving us two lessons about prayer.

First, he assures us that 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 what we seek is against God's will. So maybe our first prayer should be to ask God to show us what we really need.

That leads us to the second lesson: prayer changes

us, not God. If we truly pray as Jesus prayed, we would ask for what we need, adding, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). 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. It's not easy to change our minds about what we want or need. To change our desires from selfish to holy takes a lot of power, the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was raised from the dead by that power and we will be, too (Romans 8:11). Mary conceived by the power of the Spirit (Matthew 1:18). The bread and wine of the Eucharist become the Body and Blood of Christ by the Spirit's power. So when Jesus promises that the Father will give the Spirit to us for the asking, the Spirit is both the source of and the answer to our prayers. Let us ask the Spirit to empower us to desire and pray for what we really need.

Tom Schmidt



Steve Scanlon, Proprietor
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Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will
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