



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Theme: Prayer is Not “One ’n’ Done”

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

What kind of father would give his asking child something harmful? What kind of mother would respond to a pleading middle-schooler by handing over everything the child claims to “need”? These questions lie at the heart of this Sunday’s Gospel, where Jesus reflects on his own prayerful relationship with the Father.

The disciples, eager to learn how prayer “works”—if such a thing can be said—ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. In response, he offers them Luke’s version of the Lord’s Prayer. But he doesn’t stop there. He continues by sharing a simple parable to illustrate a deeper truth: prayer isn’t a one-time request followed by instant gratification. It’s about **persistence** and **presence**.

Imagine the neighbor who comes at midnight, pounding on the door for bread. Unless the sleeping household is completely deaf, the persistent knocking will eventually earn a response—if only to quiet the noise.

God, of course, is not deaf. But Jesus reminds us that **our cries to God are guaranteed to be heard**—even if the answer isn’t what we expect or arrives on a timeline different from our own. What Jesus demonstrates throughout his life is the posture of someone who knows his need for the Father’s care. His prayers aren’t filled with detailed demands like, “Father, please change Judas’s mind,” but rather take on a humble, trusting form:

Bring us into your reign. Let your name shine through us. Teach us to forgive. And keep us safe from all that leads us astray.

This is not just a prayer for a moment, it’s a prayer for life. A prayer we return to **daily**, even **hourly**, because it binds us to the One we need most. The One who can guide, protect, and renew us—but *only if we’re paying attention*.

So no, prayer is not “one ’n’ done.” It is a constant conversation. A practice of presence. A relationship rooted in trust.

May God bless our parish family and bless each of you abundantly in your journey of faith.

In Christ,

Fr. Albert and Msgr. Mike