

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVING ST. MARY'S MARY'S/MALTA, SACRED HEART/DODSON, ST. FRANCIS/SACO

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CHOSEN

ONES WHO CALL
OUT TO HIM
DAY AND NIGHT.

LUKE 18:7

©LPI

Contact Us

Fr. Felix Nayak, Pastor

Cell 406.946.2195 or Rectory 406.654.1446

Deacon Tom DePuydt

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Administrative Assistant office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 2pm at RE Center

Please check our website for additional information.

Weekly bulletins are posted in full color with several additions – check them out here: <https://www.saintmarysmalta.org/bulletins>

Confession – Friday's 9-10am, Saturday's 11-noon or contact Fr. Felix directly for an appointment.

Adoration – every Friday 9:00-10:00am immediately following daily Mass.

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday vigil – Malta 5:00pm

Sunday – Saco 8:30am, Malta 10:30am, Dodson 12:30pm

Homily by Fr. Felix:

XXIX Sunday (C): Exodus 17:8–13, 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2, Luke 18:1–8.

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Today's reading speaks to us about perseverance, not just any perseverance, but a faithful, prayerful endurance that keeps us grounded in God even when the world around us seems to oppose us.

In the First Reading from the book of Exodus, we find Moses on the hilltop, arms raised, praying as Joshua leads the Israelites in battle against Amalek. As long as Moses' arms are raised, the Israelites win. But when he tires, they begin to lose. Aaron and Hur step in they hold up his hands until victory is secured. Moses, the intercessor, persevering in prayer, upheld by his community. His raised hands become a sign of prayerful dependence on God, and his need for help reminds us that even the strongest among us need support.

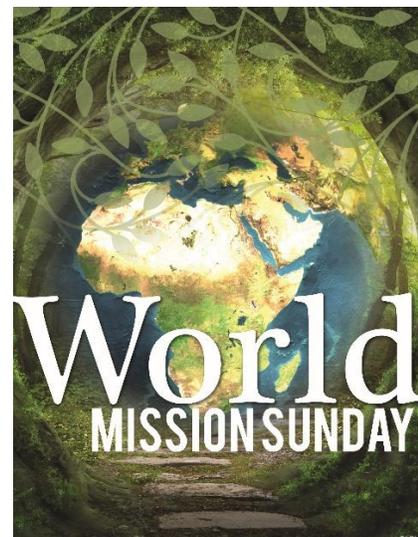
In the Second Reading, we read, St. Paul writes to Timothy. Paul is facing persecution, imprisonment, and the looming shadow of death. Yet he tells Timothy, "Remain faithful to what you have learned." Paul is urging Timothy to hold fast to the Word of God, because Scripture is not just information, it is transformation. In a world where truth is often twisted and the Gospel is not always welcome; Scripture is our anchor. And like Moses on the hill, Timothy must stay faithful, not by his own strength, but by standing on the foundation of God's Word, strengthened by the witness of others.

And then, we come to the Gospel of Luke, where Jesus tells us a parable: the persistent widow and the unjust judge. This judge doesn't care about God or people, but even he gives in, simply because the widow won't stop coming. And Jesus says: if even an unjust judge responds to persistence, how much more will our loving Father hear our prayers?

Jesus ends with a question: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" That's the heart of today's message. Will we keep praying even when it seems like nothing is happening? Will we trust God's justice, even when the world seems unfair? Will we persevere in faith, especially when it's hard? Like Moses, we get tired. Like Timothy, we face discouragement. Like the widow, we sometimes feel powerless. But in all these readings, God is saying: "Do not give up." Hold up your hands in prayer. Stand firm in the Word. Keep knocking. Keep asking. Keep trusting.

Let us be reminded that we are not meant to persevere alone. We need Aarons and Hurs in our lives, people who will pray with us, hold us up when we are weak, speak God's truth to us when we can't see clearly. We are part of a Church, a community of faith, called to support one another as we wait in hope. So today, let us ask ourselves: Are we persevering in prayer or have we given up too easily? Are we rooted in the Word of God or are we swayed by the noise of the world? Are we supporting others in their faith or are we walking alone?

My friends, God is faithful. He hears every prayer, even the ones we whisper in the silence of our hearts. The widow was heard. The Israelites prevailed. Timothy remained strong. And so can we. Let us go forward today with faith that does not give up, prayer that does not grow weary, and hearts rooted in the Word of God. Amen.



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Deacon Tom will lead an OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) class. If you are interested in joining the Catholic Church or know of someone interested in the faith, please have them contact Deacon Tom at 406.674.7060. Please note - because of the distance and travel time, many of the classes will be held over Zoom.

St Francis in Saco is having their **Fall Dinner on Sunday, October 26th from 11am to 1pm** in the church hall. Menu includes seasoned roast beef and all the trimmings. \$14 for adults, \$6 for children 12 and under or \$35 immediate family rate. We would love all to join us!!

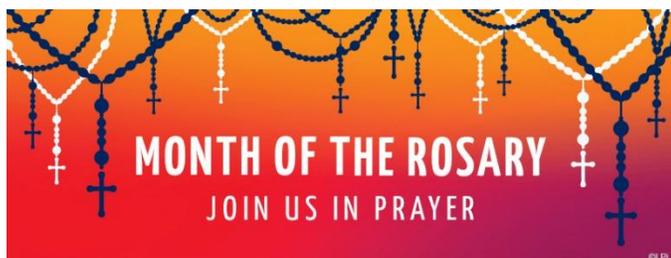
St. Mary's Religious Ed middle school and high school students will be participating in the Malta Food Bank "Trick or Treat" for canned goods on Wednesday, October 29th. This will be during regular scheduled class time – please dress for the weather!!

Felix is pleased to announce that **Macie Hould** has been hired as our new **part-time Administrative Assistant and Religious Education Director**. We welcome Macie to this role and ask for your patience and support as she becomes familiar with her new responsibilities. Hours are Tuesday & Thursday 10am-2pm at RE Center.

General Fall Church Cleaning will be on Saturday, November 15th beginning at 9AM – there will be task lists divided by PCCW bands, but all parish members are invited to join in. If you are unable to join the group cleaning on the 15th, please complete a task as an individual or family and cross it off the list. Thank you in advance for your dedication to our parish facilities and keeping them clean and maintained.

This week on Formed –

<https://app.formed.org/app/videos/3827787>



Prayer Requests

*If you have a prayer request, please contact **Dianne Salsbery at 406-654-4675**. Names will be listed in the bulletin for a minimum of 30 days.*

Please pray for – Staci B. Franch and her family, for Skyla Sisco, for the family of Norma Wyse, Carletta Benson, Joe Simanton, Judy Henry, Lorena James, Adalyn McCollom, Ramona Kienenberger, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, Brian Shevlin, Kristi Shettel Peterson, Dianne Salsbery, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of – Shirley Eklund, Alvina Doucette, Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens and all souls in need and pray also for their families that they find comfort and peace.

Mass Intentions - to schedule an intention,

Saturday 10.18 .25	For Sue Kron, r/b Julie Howell
Sunday 10.19.25 10:30 Malta 8:30am Saco 12:30 Dodson	For the faithful of our parish Repose of soul of Father Greg Staudinger r/b St. Mary's-Malta For the faithful of our parish
Monday 10.20.25	Jack Miller r/b Deb Sjostrom
Tuesday 10.21.25	Ralph Waters r/b Darlene and Bruce Cummings
Wednesday 10.22.25	Repose of soul of Father Greg Staudinger r/b St. Mary's
Thursday 10.23.25	For my family r/b Lana Fortin
Friday 10.24.25	Repose of the soul of Joyce Wright r/b Larson
Saturday 10.25.25	Repose of the soul of Father Greg Staudinger r/b St. Mary's
Sunday 10.26.25	For the faithful of our parish

please contact Fr. Felix, suggested offering is \$10 each.

Readings for the week of October 19, 2025

Sunday: Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2)/2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8

Monday: Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Lk 12:39-48

Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 12:49-53

Friday: Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/Lk 12:54-59

Saturday: Rom 8:1-11/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 13:1-9

Next Sunday: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 (7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14

Calling all October

Anniversaries and Birthdays!

First Sunday (weekend) of each Month – please join as Fr. Felix gives a special blessing for everyone in our parish celebrating either a birthday or marriage anniversary during the coming month. Youth can come forward and adults can simply stand at their seat or raise their hand to be recognized. First Sunday weekend will be October 1&2nd Masses.

Finance Council members include:

Deb Sjostrom 406-654-1451, sjostrom@itstriangle.com.

Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh_99@hotmail.com

Mike Ereaux 406-658-2613 (H), 406-654-7803 (C), mfe7195@itstriangle.com

Scott King 406-654-7302, sbking1959@gmail.com

Shyla Sunford 406-399-1484, shylasunford@gmail.com (Saco)

Bonnie Lankford 406-390-2276, Bonnie4339@hotmail.com (Dodson)

Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. If interested in serving please contact a member of the finance council.

Parish Council members include:

Alora Snider— 399-1675, alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com

Shawn Bleth— 654-7303, shawn.bleth@gmail.com **Nancy Ereaux**—658-2613 (H),

Jeff Van Heel—406-266-1133

Joy DePuydt—674-5560, joyful@itstriangle.com (Saco)

Leona Kienenberger—383-4459,

leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com (Dodson)

"How did the rabbit get to her mission field?"



"By hareplane!"



Missionaries spread the love of God across the world, a message that everyone needs to hear!

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

As long as Moses kept his hands raised up,
Israel had the better of the fight,
but when he let his hands rest,
Amalek had the better of the fight. (Ex 17:11)

Psalm:

Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Ps 121)

Second Reading:

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed,
because you know from whom you learned it,
and that from infancy you have known
the sacred Scriptures,
which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tm 3:14)

Gospel:

"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones
who call out to him day and night?
Will he be slow to answer them?
I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done
for them speedily." (Lk 18:7)

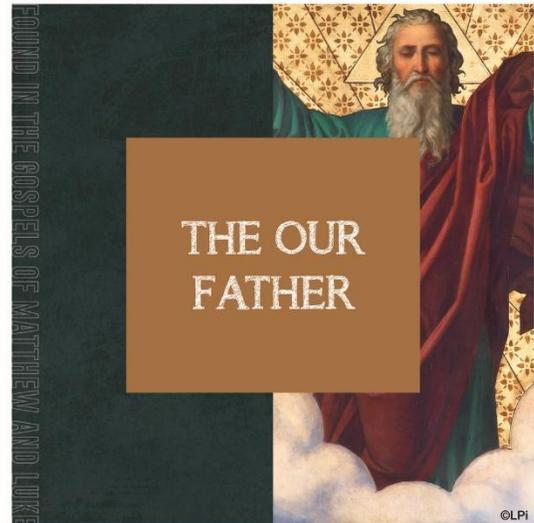
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We are all the widow in Luke's Gospel. We are vulnerable. We feel small in the estimation of the world. We feel ignored. But Jesus is telling us to be bold in prayer, to bring our needs before the judge who will always hear our case.

Observances for the week of October 19, 2025

- Sunday:** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Mission Sunday
- Monday:** St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
- Wednesday:** St. John Paul II, Pope
- Thursday:** St. John of Capistrano, Priest
- Friday:** St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
- Next Sunday:** 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

The Our Father, also known as The Lord's Prayer, is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Universally beloved in most traditions of Christianity, its words are those of Jesus Christ himself as he answers his disciples' queries on how best to pray.

Prayer for Life of Mission

Dear God,
You are the one who finds a way in
the darkness, and clears the path for
those You love. Help us to trust in
Your call, and to answer generously to
the unknowns we face,
knowing You will never leave us alone.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of October 19, 2025

Sunday:

Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2)/2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8

Monday:

Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/
Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday:

Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a,
8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday:

Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/
Lk 12:39-48

Thursday:

Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 12:49-53

Friday:

Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93,
94/Lk 12:54-59

Saturday:

Rom 8:1-11/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 13:1-9

Next Sunday:

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23
(7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A woman in my parish has an adult son who has rejected his faith. She prays for him every day. She lights candles, says rosaries, and asks God again and again to bring him back. But nothing changes. Is God listening? Is He delaying? She told me once that she feels like the widow in Jesus' strange parable — crying out for justice, but hearing only silence. And yet, she said, she is at peace. I asked why. She responded, "God is *already* answering. I just can't see it yet."

She embodies something of the mystery in Jesus' parable this week in Luke 18. A powerless widow demands justice from a corrupt judge. This isn't about wearing God down until He gives in. It's about faith in the justice that is already coming. The widow isn't just persistent; she believes that justice is inevitable. And when Jesus points to the judge's words — his fear of being "struck" — He hints at something deeper: God's justice does not creep in gradually. It strikes. It comes like lightning.

Blessed Mary is, of course, the ultimate widow demanding justice. At the foot of the cross she stands before what looks like the ultimate injustice — the brutal execution of her son. But she did not despair. She did not beg for a last-minute rescue. She knew that justice was not delayed. In fact, it was happening. The power of the cross was already unleashing justice upon the world — suddenly, decisively, like a blow that would topple every corrupt power, making even the most corrupt fear her strike.

This parable asks us: will the Son of Man find faith on earth? Or will we mistake God's silence for absence? The cross proves that justice is not slow. It is only hidden. The lightning has already struck. In the cross, justice is speedily being done.

— *Father John Muir*

Liturgical Life

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: In the same way that a judge cannot go looking for conflicts to mediate, God will not force His way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God?

The Prayers We Don't Say

It has always confused me: why a judge?

Jesus could have compared prayer to the subject who requests a gift of his king. He could have compared it to the child who asks a favor of a parent. But in the parable of the widow and the judge, Jesus compares prayer — specifically constant, unwearying prayer — with the marginalized person who doggedly pursues her claim through an unforgiving legal system.

It's not a rosy or reassuring picture. So what is he trying to tell us?

Unlike a king or a parent, a judge has strictly drawn lines which he cannot, under any circumstances, cross. He can only help people who bring their case to court. Even good, earnest judges cannot render justice if charges are not brought.

God is all-powerful. But that doesn't make Him a meddler. He will not force His way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God, in every instance — adoration, gratitude, need?

Today, I sat down and made a list of problems I don't pray about. When I was done, I looked at the list and asked myself: why not? Why don't I pray about these things? Some are huge issues over which I have absolutely no control, and prayer feels futile. Some are small grievances I never even considered mentioning to God.

If I prayed about them all, my life would be totally consumed by prayer. Constant, unwearying prayer. The kind of prayer Jesus calls me to in the parable of the widow and the judge: continual surrender of myself to the mysterious, limitless power of God.

Praying that way could make me tired. The widow was tired, too — but she kept bringing her charges. She got justice. And her judge wasn't even a nice guy.

So say the prayer. Bring the charges. Our judge is one who wants to help, but He won't overstep His bounds.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I volunteer every once in a while. How can I incorporate serving the poor in my everyday life?

Answer:

In the Gospels, Jesus is very clear about emphasizing outreach to vulnerable persons on the margins of society. These may be the materially poor, the disabled, the lonely, or any others whose circumstances drive them from mainstream society. We can all respond to Christ's call to love by incorporating direct service into our regular life routine. Here are some ideas to find your niche:

Consider your life. Before you look for direct service opportunities, consider your schedule, commitment levels, and personal gifts. When can you help out and how regularly? Where have you volunteered in the past that has felt like a good fit? Do you have any particular skills or personality traits that lend you to particular work?

Do some research. There are a lot of structured ways you can get involved in your community. Your parish might have a social concerns outreach program. If not, ask friends and family. A simple online search for local nonprofits can also expose you to new opportunities.

Be open to God's invitation. The chance to serve may be closer than you think. Befriending an elderly neighbor, widowed and far from children, is an act of serving the poor. Keep your eyes and heart open!

“Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”
- Lk 18:7-8

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Moses needed to rely on his brother (Aaron) and his friend (Hur) to assist him in defeating the Amalekites. Can you think of a time when you really needed the support of your family or friends?

Second Reading:

Paul instructs Timothy to be persistent in relying on what Sacred Scripture teaches us. How do you use Scripture as a guide for your life?

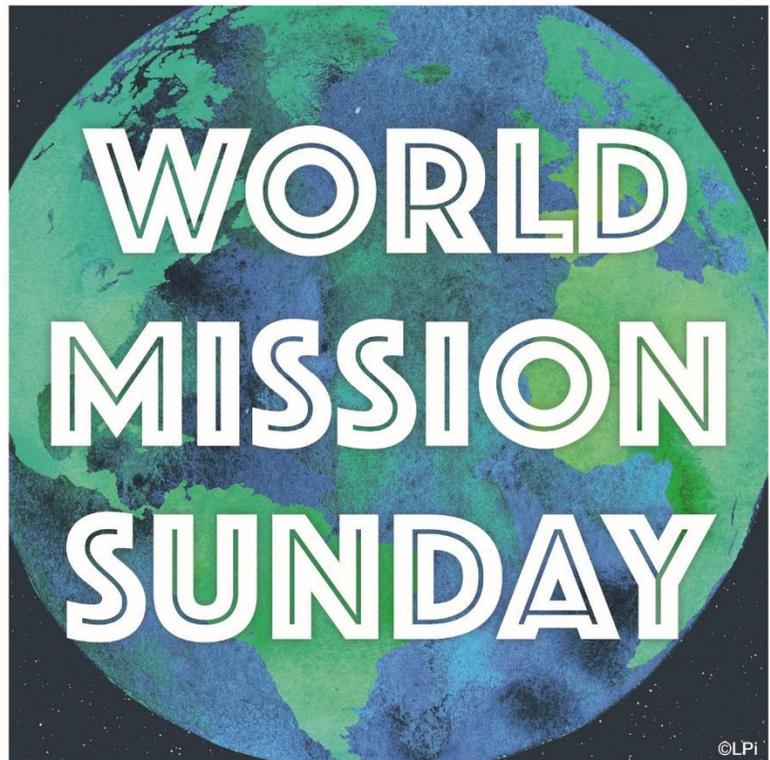
Gospel:

With the parable of the persistent widow, Jesus teaches the disciples about the importance of praying often to God. When do you find yourself praying?



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Prayer

Lord, hear my prayer and please answer me.

Mission for the Week

I will ask for just the things I need.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus told his disciples that they should never stop praying. He said that you should never give up. If your cause is worthy and good, keep asking for it. Keep asking God for help for your good things. The noisy wheel gets the most grease. When you keep asking God for help, he will know you are sincere. Can you give 10 good reasons why you are asking God for what you need?

Now color the picture!



Circle the picture that is **different**.
Then color in all the pictures.

