



July 27, 2025 | The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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Tazewell, VA 24651

St. Elizabeth's

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Pocahontas, VA 24635

St. Mary's

1122 Farmer Street
Richlands, VA 24641

St. Joseph's

1007 Independence Rd.
Grundy, VA 24614



MASS TIPS

What is a Mass Intention?

From the days of the early Church it has been common practice to offer Mass for the dead, as well as for others. Archaeologists have discovered epitaphs on tombs in the Roman catacombs, asking for prayers for the departed one. Numerous early Church Fathers witness to this practice. Recall from St. Augustine's "Confessions" St. Monica's one dying request, "that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be." Countless Christians have made this same request of their survivors.

*In his encyclical *Mirae caritatis* (1902), Pope Leo XIII situated the offering of Mass for others in the true context of our concern for others, the Communion of Saints. "For faith teaches us, that although the venerable Sacrifice may be lawfully offered to God alone, yet it may be celebrated in honor of the saints reigning in heaven with God who has crowned them in order that we may gain for ourselves their patronage. And it may also be offered — in accordance with an apostolic tradition — for the purpose of expiating the sins of those of the brethren who, having died in the Lord, have not yet fully paid the penalty of their transgressions" (No. 12).*

PRAYER: A CHILD-FATHER AFFAIR

By Fr. Renier Supranes

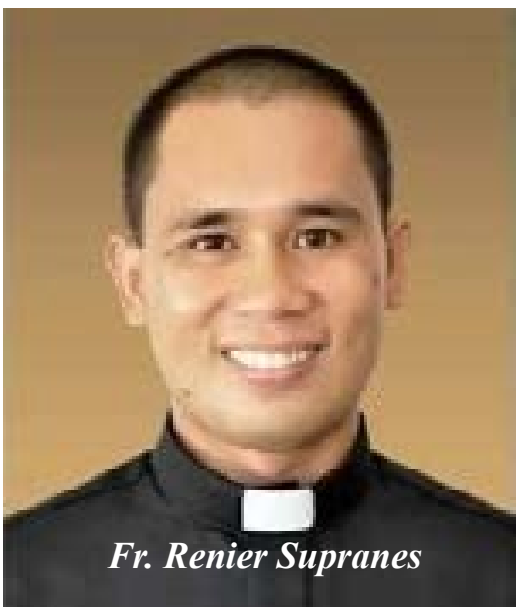
The central theme of our Gospel this Sunday is about prayer. In the Gospel, Luke the Evangelist presents three episodes concerning prayer. The first (verses 1-4) recounts Jesus teaching His disciples the Christian communal prayer, the "Our Father"; the second (verses 5-8) recounts the importance of persistence in prayer; the third (verses 9-13) recounts the effectiveness of prayer.

Overall, what is the main point of Jesus regarding prayer? When we pray to God, we must have the disposition of a child before his/her Father. We see immediately that according to Jesus, prayer is a child-Father affair. When praying we must put ourselves in a situation where we see God as a Father, and we speak to Him as His children. We must view God as our Father; and He truly is. In viewing God as a Father, we must therefore be trustful and confident that God will answer our prayers. Prayer is not difficult. We don't need to make appointments with God the Father. We do not need to study our words when we speak to Him. We can talk to God anytime we want, anywhere we want, and in any way we want.

Jesus also teaches us that as God's children, we must persistently pray. We must show the same spirit of perseverance in prayer just like the friend in the Gospel who refuses no for an answer. If the man in the Gospel gives when his friend asks from him persistently, how much more our Father in heaven? Let us persevere in asking and we will receive; let us persevere in seeking and we will find; let us persevere in knocking and it will be opened.

It is unthinkable that God will not answer our prayers. God listens to our prayers. There is no such thing as an unanswered prayer. God answers our prayers according to His plan, according to His ways, according to His time and according to what is best for us. God knows best. The problem is that we do not want to accept what God gives us. We tend to question His ways. We tend to doubt His will. Sometimes, we become impatient in waiting. And worse, we go against God, against His will, and His plan for us. Let us remember, God's answer to our prayers may not be what we expect but we must know that it is the best for us. We must trust Him. What we may ask for at times is not good for us, or might harm somebody else, or might prevent us from growing as a person. Therefore, out of love for us, God will not give us what we ask for, but what He will give is better.

God is always good. He is always gracious. He is completely generous. There is only one thing which God is asking from us. It is our perseverance in prayer. Let us remember Jesus' assuring words, "*For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.*"



Fr. Renier Supranes

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him,

"Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread

and forgive us our sins

for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us,
and do not subject us to the final test."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend

to whom he goes at midnight and says,

'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,

for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey

and I have nothing to offer him,'

and he says in reply from within,

'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked

and my children and I are already in bed.

I cannot get up to give you anything.'

I tell you,

if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves

because of their friendship,

he will get up to give him whatever he needs

because of his persistence.

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive;

seek and you will find;

knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks, receives;

and the one who seeks, finds;

and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

What father among you would hand his son a snake

when he asks for a fish?

Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg?

If you then, who are wicked,

know how to give good gifts to your children,

how much more will the Father in heaven

give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

PASTOR

Fr. Renier Supranes

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Secretary: Eric Burns

OFFICE HOURS

Mon–Fri 9:30am – 2:30pm

Please call the parish office to

make arrangements for the

Sacraments of Baptism,

Anointing of the Sick or Holy

Matrimony as well as funerals.

Reconciliation is available

from 30 minutes before a

scheduled Mass.

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY

4pm – St. Joseph's

6pm – St. Mary's

SUNDAY

9am – St. Elizabeth's

11:30am – St. Theresa's

DAILY MASS

Tuesday 10am – St. Theresa's

Thursday 10am – St. Mary's

Friday 10am – St. Theresa's

Monthly First Friday Adoration

at St. Theresa's 10am w/Mass

Cover image:

James Tissot, *The Lord's Prayer*, c.

1886-1894

Hearing God Speak: Using the Daily Examen

Jim Manney, simplycatholic.com

How can we hear God? Few questions are more important to answer than this one. We want to know God and what God wants of us. We want to hear His voice. Most basically, we want a connection with God — a daily sense of His presence and loving care.

Catholic tradition points to at least four ways that we hear God. We encounter His presence in the natural world itself, which God created and pronounced “good” (Gn 1:31). We hear God’s voice in Scripture, “the word of God.” We also hear God speaking in the teaching of the Church.

In addition, God speaks to us in our experience. He is present in our daily lives: in our relationships, our work, our decisions and accomplishments, our dreams and disappointments. The prayer strategy known as the Daily Examen is a method for hearing the voice of God in our experience.

A Saintly Habit

The great saints, mystics and masters of prayer have long taught that cultivating a habit of prayerful reflection on our daily experience is a key to spiritual growth. The Daily Examen has been practiced by Christians since ancient times as a technique of doing precisely that. The Examen involves us in prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God’s presence and to discern His direction for us.

One version of the Examen is the examination of conscience, which many Catholics practice as a way to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. But the Daily Examen is useful for much more than just preparing for confession. It can help us see God’s hand at work in our whole experience.



St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits), believed that the Examen is a gift that has come to us directly from God, and that God wants it to be shared as widely as possible. One of the few rules of prayer that Ignatius made for the Jesuit order was the requirement that Jesuits practice the Examen twice daily — at noon and at the end of the day. It’s a habit that Jesuits, and many other Christians, practice to this day. How exactly is an Examen conducted? Christians have developed various versions, but one popular version, composed of five steps, is based on the Daily Examen that St. Ignatius practiced.

“Rummaging for God”

Father Dennis Hamm, S.J., a Scripture professor at Creighton University, Omaha, Neb., calls the Daily Examen “rummaging for God.” He likens it to “going through a drawer full of stuff, feeling around, looking for something that you are sure must be there.”

That’s an accurate description of what it’s like to pray the Daily Examen. We look back on the previous day, rummaging through the “stuff,” and finding God in it. We know He is there; we just have to look for Him.

Sometimes our prayer can become too formal and abstract. The Daily Examen helps us avoid that problem by keeping our feet on the ground. This reflective, Spirit-led review of the day

grounds our prayer in concrete reality. Because we are God's creatures living in a world that He loves and sustains, we can be assured that we can hear His voice in our lives in this world.

One final advantage to making a habit of the Daily Examen: We never run out of things to pray about.

Sometimes prayer gets dry. Sometimes we wonder what to say to God. The Examen eliminates these problems. As long as we have 24 hours to look back on, we'll have hundreds of things to talk to God about — and to thank Him for.

How to Conduct a Daily Examen

This five-step Daily Examen is based on the one described by St. Ignatius Loyola in his "Spiritual Exercises," perhaps the most influential book about prayer ever written.

Step 1. Become aware of God's presence. Look back on the events of the day in the company of the Holy Spirit. The day may seem confusing to you — a blur, a jumble, a muddle. Ask God to bring clarity and understanding, to show you where He was at work in each situation.

Step 2. Review the day with gratitude. Gratitude is the foundation of our relationship with God. Walk through your day in the presence of God and note its joys and delights. Focus on the day's gifts. Look at the work you did, the people you interacted with. What did you receive from these people? What did you give them? Pay attention to small things — the food you ate, the sights you saw and other seemingly small pleasures. God is there in the details.

Step 3. Pay attention to your emotions. One of St. Ignatius' great insights was that we can detect the presence of the Spirit of God in the movements of our emotions. Reflect on the feelings you experienced during the day.

Did you feel boredom? Elation? Resentment? Compassion? Anger? Confidence? What is God saying to you through these feelings? In this reflection, God will most likely show you some ways that you fell short. Be sure to make note of these sins and faults. But look deeply for other implications as well.

Are you frustrated? If so, perhaps this means that God wants you consider a new direction in some area of your work. Are you concerned about a friend? Perhaps He wants you to reach out to her in some way.

Step 4. Choose one feature of the day and pray about it. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct you to something during the day that God thinks is particularly important. It may involve a feeling, positive or negative. It may be a significant encounter with another person or a vivid moment of pleasure or peace. Or it may be something that seems rather insignificant. Look at it. Pray about it. Allow the prayer that it provokes to arise spontaneously from your heart, whether it's intercession, praise, repentance or whatever.

Step 5. Look toward tomorrow. Ask God to give you light for tomorrow's challenges. Pay attention to the feelings that surface as you survey what's coming up. Are you doubtful? Cheerful? Apprehensive? Full of delighted anticipation? Allow these feelings to turn into prayer. Seek God's guidance. Ask Him for help and understanding. Pray for hope.

St. Ignatius encouraged people to talk to Jesus like a friend. End the Daily Examen with a conversation with Jesus.

Ask forgiveness for your sins. Ask for His protection and help. Ask for His wisdom, too, about the questions you have and the problems you face.

Do all this in the spirit of gratitude. Your life is a gift, and it is adorned with gifts from God.

Conclude with the Our Father.

Mass Intentions

07/26 SATURDAY

4PM

6PM Jerry Altizer †

07/27 SUNDAY

9AM

11:30AM

Stewardship of Treasure

Donations Received for July 20 (Week 03)		
CHURCH	ATTENDANCE	OFFERINGS
St. Joseph's	12	\$171
St. Elizabeth's	27	\$695
St. Mary's	14	\$180
St. Theresa's	55	\$1,696
Total	108	\$2,742
Budgeted Yearly Collection		\$8,076
Yearly Actual Collection		\$9,065
Amount Over/Under Budget		\$989

Please Pray for

Nick Ulate	John Shumate
Frannie & Rayburn Minton	Doug Vance
Sue Bailey	Jody Hamilton
Christian Lambert	Annette Pike
Shane Neal	Sharon Mullady
Pete Belcher	Veronica Ross
Lucas Boyd	Skip Reynolds
Chris Jessie	Allen & Melody James
Junior Aiken	Betty Tabor
Jeanne Hash	Joseph Romeo
Lara Marshall	Sara Griffith
Carol & Jim Shumate	Chuck Blevins
Andrew Satmary	Juanita Sharrock
Christian Marshall	Bob Robinette
Alice Godin	Rick & Beth Wright
Roger Empson	Bernie Spencer
Dreama Ritter	Brenda Pierallini
Chris Lambert	Michael Kroll
Clinard Coleman	Audra Dalton
Joan Harrison	Cecilia Miller
Joe & Yvonne Blevins	Sandy Hampton
Amelia Proffit	Randy & Cathy Bolling
Maurice Law	Amanda Reese
Bill & Jo Testerman	Sarah & Phillip Meadows
Josh Cornwell	Betty Jones
The Dalton Family	Lori Palombo
Scotty Hagerman	Beth George
Galileo Molina	Bobby Barrett
Beth Cieversten	Richard Baxter

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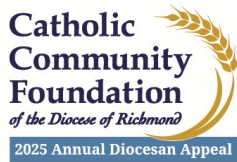
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Parish News & Events

Welcome to our new Members!

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal



Your gift to the
Annual Diocesan Appeal
supports Fuel & Hunger

Scan to donate or visit
RichmondCatholicFoundation.org/Appeal



Birthdays & Anniversaries

July 27: Kathy Buchanan | **29:** Steven Ryan, Brian Presley, & Rene Adair

31: Kevin & Maureen Blackler (anniversary) | **August 1:** Eric Burns

***“You have received a Spirit of adoption,
through which we cry, Abba, Father.”***

- Romans 8:15bc

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