

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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WELCOME!

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration
6:00 pm Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



PARISH STAFF

PASTOR:

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Liturgy Coordinator

Barb Ridge

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment
 Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
 Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
 Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (OCTOBER 8TH- 9TH)

Donation	\$4,202.00
Donation Online	\$2,377.00
Maintenance Fund	\$5.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$6,584.00

2022 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL \$24,876

GIFTS RECEIVED \$39,695.00

 **Annual Catholic Appeal**

**TOGETHER WE CAN
 be Christ to Others**

SPECIAL COLLECTION: WORLD MISSION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH & OCTOBER 16TH

Mission Sunday is celebrated the world over. Remembering that we are baptized and sent as a Universal Church, this collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith ensures the work and service of the Mission church, as it supports mission priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay catechists who are Christ's witnesses to the most vulnerable communities.

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time - C

Homily by Fr. Peter Doan

How often have you called an emergency number in your life? If ever you called an emergency number, I am sure, it now brings to your mind some traumatic experience. In any case, I suppose, the emergency number is not the most frequently dialed number on your personal telephone. What is the most dialed number in your phone, anyway? Is it that of your lover, spouse, child, parent, friend, business partner? Perhaps, these days, thanks to the mobile phones you might even call the same person more than two, three times a day! And what does that frequently dialed number say about your own priorities in life?

Now, here is a more important question: how would you describe your own acts of calling on God! Are they emergency calls, or are they frequent calls?

Here is a piece of interesting information from current research. A study among recovering alcoholics revealed that even alcoholics pray! Sometimes, even when they are drunk, they pray. But their prayer is often like calling an emergency number: "God get me out of this mess!" But the research also revealed that prayer takes another form among recovered alcoholics. Their prayer becomes more constant. Their prayer is no more just occasional God-get-me-out-of-this-mess type of prayer, but a constant: "Father, lead me not into temptation."

In the gospel today we have a reminder on making frequent calls to God. Jesus is still on his way to Jerusalem – a journey that is nearly reaching his final destination. Meanwhile he begins to tell us two stories about prayer. One is about constancy in prayer; and another about our attitude in prayer. This Sunday we take up the first story, about the woman who went knocking at the door of the agnostic judge.

Though the woman in the parable of today is seeking the help of the judge because she is in need, we should not lose sight of the context of the story. Luke tells us that Jesus "told them a parable, to the effect that they ought *always* to pray and not lose heart". Besides, this story comes after Jesus has been talking about the coming of the Kingdom of God. And the story ends with the statement from the mouth of Jesus, "When the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Lk 18:8). Therefore, the parable is about praying as long as we are on the face of the earth. It is about prayer in our daily life.

Jesus says to pray persistently not because God is hard to convince, but rather because our sinful human character is hard to change and does change only gradually. One of the main reasons God doesn't answer all our prayers just right away is that he wants to stretch us and cause us to open ourselves to trust more fully in God's grace and thus develop in us that spiritual fortitude which is the fruit of persistence ... and thus become disciples who will do his will faithfully and with self-sacrificing courage and love, regardless of the challenges and obstacles we face.

On our earthly journey, when faced with obstacles, on what type of strength do I rely on? Oh yes, I do pray. Oh yes, I do dial the emergency number. So is prayer just dialling an emergency number? Is God a mere paramedic who turns up at my door to provide me with the first-aid? Is that what I desire most? Do I not want to build a relationship with God? And if it is a relationship, how do I sustain it? Am I able to hold up my hands in prayer throughout the day? That is why, St Paul would urge us to pray "*always* and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father" (Eph 5:20).

So what troubles are you dealing with right now? The woman in the parable was facing mistreatment and injustice. Jesus uses this story to assure us that God will vindicate, secure the rights of, all who pray to him persistently day and night. Your troubles may be different, but God's promises are as true for you as they were for her. So, turn to him and spend time in his presence and learn from him. Ask him to make you courageous in times of trouble and loving when you feel hate. Ask him persistently to mold you into the saint he wants you to be.

God needs to be the most frequently dialed number in our daily lives.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

As long as Moses kept his hands raised up,
Israel 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

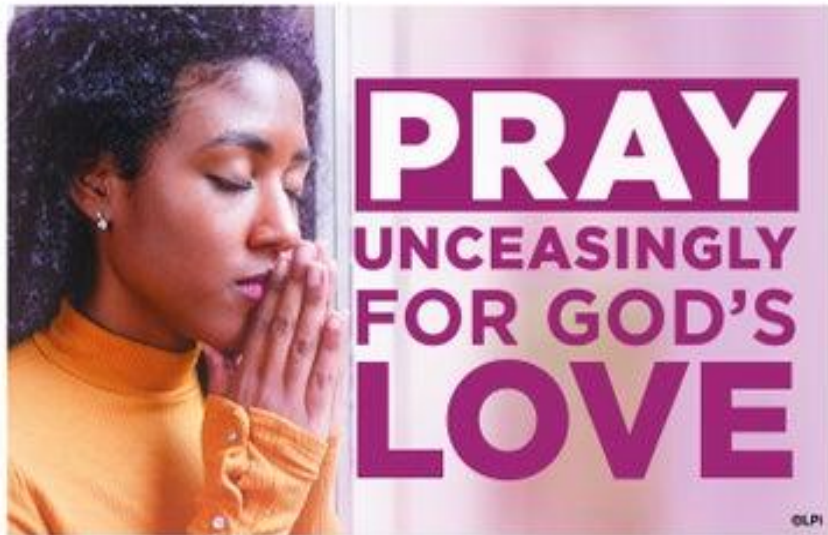
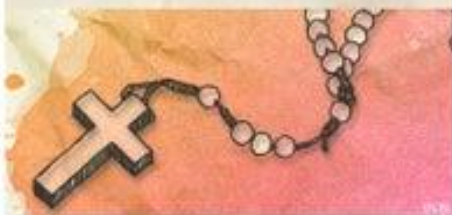
So that one who belongs to God may be
competent,
equipped for every good work.
(2 Tm 3:17)



GOSPEL

"Will not God then secure the rights of his
chosen ones
who call out to him day and night?"
(Lk 18:7)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Brendan wouldn't stop. He continued nagging his mom to let him have a little more time with his phone. He knew the rules but wanted to finish a game and text a few more friends. He begged, had a temper tantrum, pleaded, screamed, pouted, and used every means he could think of to get Mom to change her mind. Mom had a busy day and was tired. At first, she held her ground. Then, her son's persistence got the best of her, and she caved. "Brendan, you can have 30 more minutes and no more!" she retorted. Brendan's determination paid off. He won. Is this how it works with God too? If we want something enough and feel it is our due, does our persistence allow us to eventually get our way? Judging God by human standards, it would seem so. But is this the way God works? It gets a bit confusing when Jesus tells his disciples to "pray always without becoming weary" and then further tells them how God will "secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night." If we catch God at the right time, when he's having a weak moment, then our tenacity ought to pay off. What we want, we will get. Really? Sadly, the way many approach prayer suggests that this is precisely how it goes.

Good parents set boundaries and offer proper discipline. They learn the art of being steadfast when presented with determined minds and wills. They know what is best and, at times, have to say "no." God is always there with His full attention and unconditional love showering itself upon us. God also knows what is best. And, as with any good parent, the one constant that is always available and never withheld is love. We can be as persistent and determined as we want if what we are seeking is God's love. We are never a bother and requests for God's love are never denied. This is the prayer of the heart. Desiring God alone and not only what we want God to do for us places this love relationship foremost in our minds, hearts, and souls. God is never bothered by this prayer. As we breathe in and exhale out, the Divine Life freely flows.