

**Mass Intentions ~ October 21-27, 2019**

Monday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish  
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Stu Murphy (RIP)  
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Joan Millington (RIP)  
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Rosie Morris (RIP)  
Friday @ 7:30 am — People of the Parish  
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Fr. Patrick Noonan (RIP)  
Sunday @ 8:00 am — The Joseph Giglio Family (Sp Int)  
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Greg Begonia (RIP)

Contact the Church office to schedule Mass intentions and to add names to our prayer list.



Altar Flowers this week are donated by Paula Young, in honor of October Birthdays.  
Blessed Mother Flowers are donated by The Pipitone Family, in memory of Dorothy Galloway.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** — Saturday @ 4:30-5:00 pm (or by appointment — call the Church office)  
**Adoration this week:** Monday — Friday, 8 am - 12noon

**New Prayer Requests**

**Special Intentions:**

Kenny Weikum  
Esther Cowell, neighbor of Jo Bowden  
Jerry Snell, neighbor of Jo Bowden  
Marie & Gerald Peralta, friend of Jo Bowden  
The McNeese Family  
Dan Armstrong, brother-in-law of Ed Prybylski  
Steve Richards, friend of Melinda Cannon  
Barbara Shenefelt, daughter of Jesse & Teresa Spain

**Rest of the Soul:**

Fr Frank Corcoran  
Brennon McNeese, friend of the Borne Family  
JD Ford, relative of the Watts Family  
Sharon Hoffman, friend of Marion & Jack McKee

**ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ EVENTS ~ INFORMATION**

**Second Collections:** October 19/20th — World Mission Sunday Second Collection for the Propagation of the Faith  
October 26/27th — Habitat for Humanity (Our parish has pledged \$3,000 to the Catholic Build)

**Discovering Christ begins Tuesday, October 22nd @ 6:30 pm**  
**St. Dominic Ministry — Tuesday, October 22nd** — Sign up on the information table to donate lunch items for families of ICU patients. All items due in the Family Life Center kitchen before 10 am on October 22nd.

**6th Annual Trunk or Treat — Friday, October 25th @ 7:00 pm** Ghosts, Goblins, and Super Heroes are in need of volunteer Trunks (tailgates and tents), please sign up on the information table near the offices this weekend. Fun with trick-or-treating, hayride, movie, hot dogs, and popcorn! Dress up and join us!

**34th Habitat for Humanity Catholic Build — Saturday, October 26th — Sign up this weekend!** Our Parish will be building at a new location in North Jackson. We will have a Second Collection to meet our \$3,000 pledge on Oct 26 & 27.

**Give us Generous Hearts — A Time of Spiritual Reflection with Carla Nicks — Saturday, November 2nd, 9 am-12 pm**  
Registration begins at 8:30 am. Light lunch will be provided. Contact [wgstpaul@gmail.com](mailto:wgstpaul@gmail.com) for more information.

**N2R (Night 2 Remember) - Big Deal Youth Lock-in — Friday, November 8th-** Sign up at Youth Group on Wed. night!

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Offertory Collection for October 12/13:**  
Regular collection \$17,872.58  
Capital Campaign \$3,257.83



**Our mission is to invite everyone into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.**

**October 20, 2019**  
**Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**PRAY, PRAY, AND PRAY SOME MORE !!!**

Between last week's Gospel passage, "The Cleansing of the Ten Lepers," and this week's "Parable of the Persistent Widow," there is a shift to the subject of the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus tells the Pharisees that the coming of the Kingdom of God isn't something for to be observed, it's to be lived. He says, "For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you." Lk17:21

Jesus knows His disciples are becoming weary on this journey. He is preparing them for the great suffering that lies ahead, the pain and strife they will face in Jerusalem. He wants them to remain strong and faithful, understanding that God will not abandon them. What better way to achieve such a posture than being steadfast in prayer?

We were immersed in Jesus' teachings on prayer just six chapters back, in Luke Ch 11. The Disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. His gift was the beautiful Lord's Prayer. Then, in verses 5-8, we reflected on the parable of the persistent friend knocking and asking for loaves of bread which is very similar to today's "Parable of the Persistent Widow." Jesus wants us to get this message — be persistent in prayer! It is both an invitation and encouragement to pray without ceasing, confident that God hears and will answer us.

In this week's parable, we get further encouragement to "pray always without becoming weary." The widow continually bothers the judge until he offers her a just decision. She is basically powerless compared to that judge who holds the power in this situation. Jesus wants His disciples to remain faithful to Him while they await His return. They cannot grasp what is to come, and they are at great risk of losing faith and giving up on the hope of His promised return. It will be difficult! Jesus tells them, "The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it." Stay strong! He says. Persist in prayer! God is most generous. He hears you. He will answer.

We don't pray because God doesn't know what we need. We pray to keep ourselves faithful and trusting in His care for us. Prayer keeps us turned toward Him and seeking His will for our lives. We continually open our hearts to His plan because we can easily slip back into our own agendas and become impatient, thinking we need to push things along. We fall back to wanting things done in our timing, rather than His.

The judge answered the widow in his timing. She trusted that he would render justice for her, so she persisted. He did it in his timing. God will also render justice and answer our persistent pleas — in His timing. May we continue to pray, pray, and pray some more!

Our St. Paul Intercessory Prayer Team regularly meets to pray intentionally for the needs of our Parish. We have placed a Prayer Intentions book on the back counter in the Church. All are invited to submit prayer requests on the perforated cards provided in the book. Drop your card in the basket, and the team will take the cards to prayer during their regular gatherings. These may be submitted anonymously, and they will not be published.

# Pray Like Jesus

Wow! The title of Step Five in our Study Book, *Walking the Disciple's Path*, just seems to be too much! How can I possibly pray like Jesus? I am just me, with all of my foibles, and shortcomings, and failings, and sin so present in my life ..... How can I possibly pray like Jesus?! For many, there would be a natural tendency to give up and say, 'There is just no way I could pray like Him!' Indeed, that has been the experience of many Christians throughout the centuries. We can so easily give up on prayer, because even after sustained efforts and extended periods of prayer, we ask ourselves what is the point ..... why bother?

Two weeks ago, we had a great experience of this reality from the prophet Habakkuk in our 1st Reading at the weekend October 6th Mass. The prophet cries out to God:

***“How long O Lord, how long, I cry for help but you do not listen!  
I cry out to you ‘Violence!’ But you do not intervene.  
Why do you let me see ruin; Why must I look at misery?”***

Every Christian who has developed a perseverance in prayer knows and understands the experience of the prophet. It seems to just be a part of the deal. Why is that? God's response to the prophet appears to help him a great deal ..... and it can also help us, if we choose to hear the same. God says to the prophet:

***“Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets,  
So that one can read it readily.  
For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment,  
And will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will  
Surely come, it will not be late.”***

Those are pretty powerful words for the prophet, and for us.

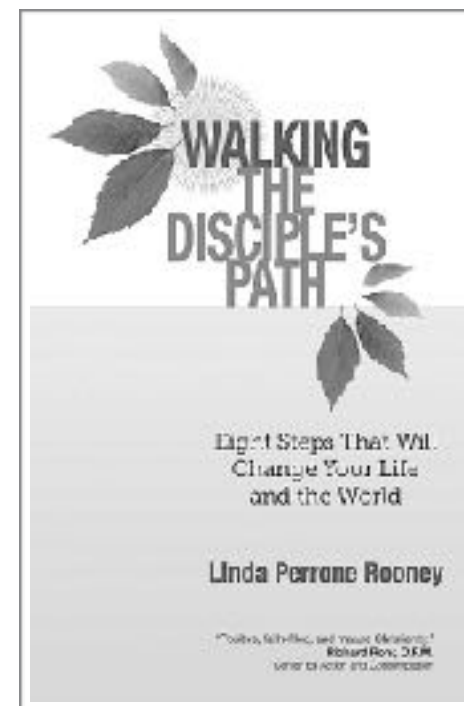
The question naturally is — *What is the vision? Whose vision are we talking about?* This is a very helpful and clarifying piece when it comes to prayer!! The vision God is talking about is — His Vision. The prophet appears to get this, and his final writing is a Hymn of Praise and Thanks to God for helping him understand.

Habakkuk comes to understand a fundamental issue in regard to prayer ..... In prayer, we are trying to come into an experience of what God's vision is for us and for the world, not vice-versa. Much of our prayer in the Christian experience throughout the world, has been me trying to present my vision to God. To a great extent, this is how many of us were taught in our formation, in our upbringing. We go to God with our troubles, and ask Him to fix things (according to our plan of course). Not surprising then, that most of us have the same feelings of frustration as the prophet Habakkuk!

The piece we didn't learn well was that the objective of prayer is to come into "His Vision," not to try and impose our vision on Him. The old Catechism definition of prayer, which was quoting St. John of Damascus, states: "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God." (Or, the requesting of good things from God.) That is not a bad idea or a bad definition, but maybe the integral piece that is missing is — Am I trying to understand His plan, or super-impose my own plan on the request to Him?

Our Study Book gives us some great insights in this chapter. The author, Linda Rooney asks a powerful question early in the chapter: ***“How did our easy childlike way of being with God and spilling our hearts out change into formal and ritualistic patterns?”*** What a great question for each one of us!

Rooney goes on to explore some of the critical issues regarding that question. She reminds us on page 79:



***Prayer is about being connected to the love of our lives.  
Prayer is as much about offering love as receiving it.  
Prayer is dangerous because it changes us.***

I found that she has done a marvelous job in bringing us to a much greater understanding of prayer .... its purpose in our lives, and how to proceed in prayer at this point in our lives. She has set up so well for us this deeper understanding of prayer by her development of the previous chapters. How great it is that she didn't begin with the chapter on prayer. No! She provided us the understanding, the basis, the how-to, as we approach prayer. All of the previous chapters were the perfect set-up for inviting us to approach prayer in a new and powerful way :

***Surrendering Your Nets  
Live as a Blessing  
Love Your Enemies  
Cultivate a Generous Spirit***

How beautifully these previous chapters have built one upon the other, to help each of us look at the real meaning of prayer in our lives. A whole lot of surrendering is required for us to enter into the powerful experience of prayer.

Most of my life, and most of my training, led me to a practice of prayer that genuinely bypassed the above invitations. I have attempted to engage in prayer, but I have been unwilling to *Surrender my Nets, Live as a Blessing, Love My Enemies*, and I have failed in many ways to *Cultivate a Generous Spirit*. — How long, O Lord, how long? It has taken me this whole journey to realize that He has been listening all of the time ..... I was not! I am so grateful for such teachers who have taught me the things I didn't know or understand about prayer. It has taken me the major portion of my life to trust and to surrender to this form of prayer ..... and how rich that understanding is!

Rooney focuses on the 'Our Father' as a powerful example of prayer. It is good for us to remember that Jesus' own Disciples struggled with prayer, just as we do. His instruction in the 'Our Father' was a response to the disciples' request; "Teach us to Pray." Rooney does an excellent job of bringing us into the heart of that prayer by reflecting on each one of the five petitions separately. The disciples had been observing Jesus as He prayed all the way along the journey, but they just couldn't seem to get it. Now, this prayer helps them to get it, and better understand what it means to pray.

The common denominator in all prayer is "to be at one with God" ..... to seek His Vision, and to imitate Jesus in our prayer. Yes, we can pray like Jesus ..... but it requires a great deal of surrendering. Jesus says:

***“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added unto you”***

Happy Prayers to you!  
Fr. Gerry Hurley

