



ALL SAINTS



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Youth Mass: 1st Friday at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary

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Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-12:00

August 4th, 2019, Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings (Missal no. 906): Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23 • Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 • Col 3:1-5, 9-11 • Luke 12:13-21

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

- Lector: NN • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt •
- Greeter: Anthony Kwasi Sessi • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: NN • Designated collection: All Saints •

Reflections on the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our first reading from the Book of Genesis completes the doublet we began last week, and we see that the three men who visited Abraham were God and two of his angels. They now move on to check out the towns of Sodom and Gomorrah, with the intention of wiping out their sinfulness by wiping out the towns and their inhabitants. The two angels go on to the towns while Abraham speaks with God and bargains with him. He begins by asking the Lord to spare them if there are fifty just men in the town, and finally persuades the Lord to spare the people if there are but ten just men found there. The Lord listens to the pleas of Abraham and relents each time. Last week the Lord promised new life to Abraham, and today Abraham pleads for life for the just. The Psalm is a hymn of thanksgiving to the Lord for listening to the cries of his servant.

In our gospel text we see Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray and about perseverance in prayer. In the first part they ask him to teach them to pray and this was important because each religious group or community had a form of prayer which separated them from the other groups, and this group is no different in that respect. Jesus teaches them the 'Our Father' which doesn't simply give them something to say to God but also gives them a guideline for living. If the prayer is to have an effect in their lives then they must conform their lives to the Gospel and to God's will so that God's name may be held holy and his Kingdom become a reality in their own world. The prayer also reminds the disciple to practice forgiveness, while also reminding them that they too are sinners in need of God's help in order to avoid giving in to temptation. This is followed by an exhortation to persevere in prayer and to never give up because all prayer is answered. All too often people forget that 'no' is also an answer, as is silence. In answering our prayers, the Lord does not always give us what we want because what we want might not be what we need or for our good, but only by persevering in prayer can we discern God's plan for us and why, at times, he doesn't give us what we want. No matter what we do we always have the Lord on our side and he is ready to forgive our sins and to answer our prayers whenever we turn to him in faith and trust, just as he answered Abraham's request to save the town for the sake of ten just men.

In the second reading the people of Colossae are reminded that through the immersion in the waters of baptism they have died and been raised up again with Christ, a key element for which is belief in God. Through their sins they were dead and separated from God, but through the cleansing waters of baptism they have risen to a new life in union with God. This comes about because their sins were forgiven through the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross, and so the debt of sin has been cancelled.