



Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.

Luke 11:3

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 24, 2022

How often do we hear about snakes and scorpions at Mass? Well, today we do! Jesus uses these frightful (to most of us!) images for their shock value in order to emphasize how graciously and unfailingly our Father in heaven cares for us. The first reading sets the stage for our reflection. Who can hear the story of Abraham negotiating with God in the first reading and not smile at his audacity? The middle Eastern custom of bartering likely honed Abraham's skills in that arena. He even appeals to God's sense of honor, saying, "Far be it from you to do such a thing" [as to wipe out the innocent with the guilty]. Have we not all bargained with God at one time or another when we were desperately in need?

YOU HAVE HEARD THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH

Notice that the very first words of today's Gospel are "Jesus was praying." Of course, the disciples would be curious about a practice that was so central to Jesus' daily life.

He was obviously good at it. Perhaps they wanted to know how they could more easily "influence" God themselves! They wanted to know what would work. Luke's version of the beloved Lord's Prayer (one of two found in the Gospels) is highlighted today in response to the disciples' request.

The two parables following the Lord's Prayer teach us about prayer both from the point of view of the one who prays and from God's point of view. The parable of the friend who knocks on the door at midnight illustrates prayer from the point of view someone who urgently needs something. Persistence is the key. The last section of the Gospel offers us a glimpse of prayer from God's point of view. If you seek, you will find; if you knock, the door will be opened. With Jesus as our mediator, we are assured of a hearing before our Father in heaven who is waiting to give good gifts to his children.

Today's Readings: Gn 18:20-32; Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8; Col 2:12-14; Lk 11:1-13

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the
anticipated date 903-769-3235

Holy Spirit

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Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."*

*Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!*

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Anna & Bob Parker Patsy Pregeant. Kelly & David Barber. Carol Komis. Jean Quinn. Pat Gallardo. David & Tammy Winfrey. Msgr. Ron Diegel. Doug Lawson. Richard & Dottie Schuetz. Tom Fabitz. Jodie Woods. Carolyn Davis. Russell Jackson. Jim Hickey. Doris Hoffman. Yolanda & Eldon Boyd. Wanda & George Duke. Lonnie & Tammy McClung. Jean Hamilton. Randy & Louise Beard. Kathleen Fleming. Jaye Anderson. Georgette March. Greg Mooney. Garry Fetsch. Karee Haney. Charlie Parker. Jacob Stephens. Elise Sugg. Avery Boultinghouse. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REMOVE OR ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYERS OF THE SICK.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

Dawn Quinn, US Army PFC (Granddaughter of Jean Quinn). Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike Stephens). 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Senior Airman, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Pat Gallardo). Lt. Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Emma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (Son of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & brother of Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REMOVE OR ADD NAME & RANK TO THE ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Day for Grandparents and the elderly

Monday: St. James

Tuesday: Ss. Joachim and Anne

Friday: Ss. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

Saturday: St. Peter Chrysologus; Blessed Virgin Mary

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1bc-6; Mt 20:20-28

Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 59:2-4, 10-11, 17-18; Mt 13:44-46

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-6ab; Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9; Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34; Mt 14:1-12

Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Abraham bargains with God to spare the city (Genesis 18:20-32).

Psalm: Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me (Psalm 138).

Second Reading: Buried with Christ in baptism, we were also raised with him; all our transgressions are forgiven (Colossians 2:12-14).

Gospel: Jesus speaks of God's sure response to those who pray (Luke 11:1-13).

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 7/23 Charles Kay+ (M/M Laudt)

Sun. 7/24 Ben Witcher+ (Marie Hansen)

Tue. 7/26 Carolyn Bonicard

Wed. 7/27 Cooper Anderson+ (Ruddie)

Thurs. 7/28 Rev. Uchenna Uzoechi (Mother Susan Catherine)

Fri. 7/29 Very Rev. Nolan Lowry (Mother Susan Catherine)

Sat. 7/30 Cathy Gero+ (Mary Catalano)

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts for the year of 2021

Expenditures \$ 3,666

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,799

Attendance: 7/16 Saturday: 54 7/17 Sunday: 75

One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving.

Pope's Intention for July:



For the elderly. We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

Reflection question:

In what ways can I use the good things of this world without clinging to them?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

CONVERSATION WITH GOD

Prayer is our focus this weekend. In the Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples, and us, the Lord's Prayer, which we have cherished through the centuries. The first two words encompass much about our faith—unity among all Christians (Our), and a sense that we are in a deeply bonded relationship with God (Father).

In Genesis, we see Abraham in conversational prayer, in his creaturely humility before his Creator, seeking mercy and compassion for the innocent. The psalm is a lyrical prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the God who answered the sincere prayers of a people who had called out for help, showing them mercy. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples want to pray like Jesus, with the same intimacy—to experience God as Abba in the depths of their being.

Do we try to talk to God? Do we listen for answers? This relationship is always a work in progress.

JULY NEWS & EVENTS

NO DONUTS OR COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY MASS DURING JULY

Last chance to join in on the fun!

Tickets: \$1.00 each. You pick your prize.

Prizes will be displayed after the masses this weekend July 23rd & 24th.

Winning tickets drawn after Mass Sun. July 24th.

Funds raised goes to our church.

Mon. July 25th: Funeral Mass for John Kominis at 10:00am. Rosary begins at 9:30am.

Tues., July 26th: 9:00am Mass. Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm.

Wed., July 27th: 9:00am Mass. Cenacle of Life devotion 3:00—4:00pm. Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life.

Wed., - Fri., July 27th—July 29th: 9:00am Mass

AUGUST NEWS & EVENTS

NO DONUTS OR COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY MASS DURING AUGUST

Tues., Aug. 2nd: 9:00am Mass. Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm.

Wed., Aug. 3rd: Communion Service at 9:00am. Cenacle of Life devotion 3:00—4:00pm. Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life.

Thurs. Aug. 4th—Fri. Aug. 5th: 9:00am Mass

Sat., Aug. 6th: 9:00am Mass of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart & Patriotic Rosary

Tues., Aug. 9th: 9:00am Mass. Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm.

Wed., Aug. 10th: 9:00am Mass. Cenacle of Life devotion 3:00—4:00pm. Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life.

Thurs. Aug. 11th—Fri. Aug. 12th: 9:00am Mass

We're excited! **FORMED** subscription is coming soon to our parish. Will send you the instructions in the next couple of weeks.

Please remember in your prayers the following people that have recently passed:

Dr. Themistokles John Kominis, spouse of Carol Kominis 120 Fairway Knl, HLR, TX 75765. **Mon. July 25th: Funeral Mass** for John at 10:00am. **Rosary** begins at 9:30am.

Ken Davis, spouse of Carolyn Davis 642 Clear Water Tr., HLR, TX 75765

July Second Collections 23rd & 24th: "Church in Africa."

Legion of Mary—Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749. If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church welcomes new parishioners.

Please take a few moments to fill out a Registration Form. They are available on the table in front of parish office, or online at www.holyspirthollylake.com, click on About Us, then forms and downloads, click on registration form.

WELCOME!

All visitors to our beautiful East Texas community of Holly Lake Ranch are welcome to visit our Prayer Garden directly behind our parish hall to pray and worship with us.

If you are Catholic, and have recently received the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you are also invited to share in the Holy Eucharist.

If you are not a practicing Catholic, we invite you to come forward with arms crossed over your chest to receive a sacramental blessing.

Pray that we all continue to grow together into the body of Christ, to which the Lord call us.

Forms for those interested in volunteering as **Angels for our Gabriel Project Outreach** are available in the **GABRIEL PROJECT** folder on the church office door. It was not required to attend the training at the Cathedral on July 9th to volunteer.

The forms also list other opportunities to support this very important outreach.

Please complete the form and return in a sealed envelope marked Gabriel Project to the church office or to Nancy Mullen, Parish Coordinator.

Watch the bulletin for further information.

Questions: Contact Nancy @ 903-530-1426.

Our Welcome Committee will be having a "Sweet Sunday" from 2:00—4:00pm on Sunday, August 28th in our St. Jude's Hall.

Everyone Welcome! This is a good way to meet and get to know our parishioners. Watch the bulletin for more information.



The Holy Spirit Food Ministry would like to thank all our parishioners for their food donations. The large plastic bin is located by in the hallway by Bridget's office. **Can meat, can vegetables, pasta sauce, 1 lb box of pasta, pudding cups, can fruit, peanut butter, and toiletries.**

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry.

Call or email Bob Mailliard at 503-559-6022 or theduckdude@att.net

Thank you, Bob Mailliard; Bryan & Dolly Todd; Stan & Terry Evans; Al & Evelyn Murfin. Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 20 July 2022 Edition
(Submission date: 15 July 2022) Submitted by Randy Munoz

Previously, we discussed the languages in which the Bible was originally written. We also discussed the various versions/translations. Today we ask about authenticity. What are the Dead Sea Scrolls?
<https://www.biblica.com/resources/bible-faqs/what-are-the-dead-sea-scrolls/>

In 1947 in an obscure cave west of the Dead Sea, Bedouin shepherds discovered some scrolls carefully placed in ten tall jars. They did not know what they had come upon, but they sold the scrolls to a nearby dealer. This was the opening chapter to an astonishing archeological find; eventually some 800 different manuscripts would be found in eleven caves near the valley called Wadi Qumran. In all, some 60,000 fragments, portions, or complete scrolls of these 800 manuscripts were retrieved, covering many subjects.

Many of the documents contained biblical texts. Either fragments or complete copies were found of every book in the Old Testament except Esther. They had been placed in these caves around the middle of the first century AD, and the amazing fact is that they had lain there undisturbed for 1900 years! But why are these Dead Sea Scrolls so important for us? The reason is that before this discovery the earliest manuscripts of biblical texts dated from the ninth century after Christ. They were copies of earlier copies which were long lost. But now, for example, we have a scroll of the complete book of Isaiah dating from the second century before Christ. It is a thousand years older than any previous Hebrew Scripture document that we had before 1947.

So as these scrolls were painstakingly unrolled and translated, biblical scholars and Christians everywhere wondered what the results would be. Would the new finds provide contradictory texts, quite different from the text of our Bibles? Would the Bible have to be altered or expanded? Even though not all of the scrolls are unrolled and translated more than half a century later, the answers are coming clear. The texts are amazingly similar to the documents we already have. The variations are less than two percent, and not a single teaching or doctrine of the Bible we have is altered. Rather than posing a threat to the Christian faith, **the Dead Sea Scrolls have, in fact, provided convincing support for the genuineness of God's revelation as given to us in the Bible.**

Nevertheless, Bible scholars are having intense debates about some of the texts. For example, some new Bible translations have added approximately 70 words to the end of 1 Samuel 10. The passage tells us that a certain king Nahash gouged out the eyes of the Israelites. While the text itself is of little consequence, it raises some very basic questions. Are new parts of the Bible still coming to light? Don't we have God's complete revelation? How is this possible? Such questions need a forthright answer, and that answer is to trust in God's provision. This trust embraces our faith in His plan for the universe, and in His sending of His son to our needy world. Therefore, it also certainly embraces our trust in His revelation. If we trust Him with our destiny, we can trust His provision of exactly what we need to know and receive from Him.

The Dead Sea Scrolls have provided enormous light for Bible translators. The Scripture text we have today is clearly reliable and substantiated from these ancient scrolls. The challenge we face in responding to this marvelous find is to place our faith in God's Word and in His provision of light on our path for time and eternity.

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