

Holy Spirit Catholic Church



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Ask
and you will receive;

Seek
and you will find;

Knock
and the door will be
opened to you.

Luke 11:9

JULY 24, 2022



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH
3130 Parkwood Lane
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Phone: 314-739-0230
Fax: 314-739-0237
Website: www.holyspiritstl.org
E-mail: parish@holyspiritstl.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday
8:30am to 4:30pm

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Bob Evans, Pastor.....	Ext. 103
revans@holyspiritstl.org	
Fr. Jerry Meier, In Residence.....	Ext. 112
jmeier@holyspiritstl.org	
Deacon Jim DeNatale	
deaconjim@holyspiritstl.org	
Deacon Scott Kaufman	
deaconscoth@holyspiritstl.org	
Mary Saputo, Parish Secretary	Ext. 102
msaputo@holyspiritstl.org	
Julie Spinner, Parish & PSR Secretary	Ext. 101
jspinner@holyspiritstl.org	
Jim Essner, Business Manager	Ext. 104
jessner@holyspiritstl.org	
Marilyn O'Neill, Director of Music.	Ext. 107
moneill@holyspiritstl.org	
Donna Eisenbath, PSR Director/Youth Minister	
314-954-1326 deisenbath@holyspiritstl.org	
John Honey, Maintenance	
Faith in Action	(Call the Parish Office)
Prayer Chain:	prayerchain@holyspiritstl.org
HandS	314-739-9796
Stephen Ministry	314-739-0230 ext. 130

SCHOOL

(K-8 & PRE-SCHOOL & PREK INFORMATION)

3120 Parkwood Lane
Maryland Heights, MO 63043
Phone: 314-739-1934
Fax: 314-739-7703

Katie Koberlein, Principal
kkoberlein@holyspiritstl.org
Kate Ayres, School Secretary,
kayres@holyspiritstl.org

PARISH ANNEX

3111 Parkwood Lane,
Maryland Heights, MO 63043,
Pre-School, Pre-K 314-739-5020

MASS SCHEDULE

*MASSSES ARE LIVE-STREAMED AT 6:30 AM MON/TUES/WED;
8:00 AM THUR/FRI; AND 9:00 AM ON SUNDAYS
(YOU TUBE HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH MARYLAND HEIGHTS)*

Monday thru Wednesday.....6:30am
Thursday and Friday.....8:00am
Saturday:8:00am and 5:00pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, and 11:00am
Holy Days: Please consult the bulletin.

Eucharistic Chapel Hours

Weekdays: 12am to 6am and 9am to 12 midnight.
Saturdays: 12am to 7am
Chapel will close at 7am Saturday until 9am Monday.
Eucharistic Adoration
1:00pm—6:50pm followed by Benediction

SPECIAL REQUESTS

COMMUNION CALLS

Please call the Parish Office to request Communion if someone is unable to attend Church.

HOSPITAL VISITS

Please notify the Parish Office concerning hospitalization.

SACRAMENTS

CONFESSION

Saturday 4:00 to 4:45pm or by appointment

BAPTISMS & CLASSES:

Baptism Class for parents/godparents is normally held on the first Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church. To register for the meeting and/or to arrange for a baptism, call the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage contact the pastor at least six months in advance.

Registration

New parishioners may register at Parish Office or download a registration form, www.holyspiritstl.org.

New information, such as change of address, phone numbers or moving from the parish, please call Parish Office at 314-739-0230

BULLETIN INFORMATION

Please submit information for the bulletin by Noon TWO Fridays before publication. Include name, daytime phone number of person submitting information, and group name.
Items can be e-mailed to msaputo@holyspiritstl.org.



A Note From Father Bob

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you!

Annual Archdiocesan Mission Co-op Appeal

This weekend we welcome Father Zbigniew Pienkos, a Polish Redemptorist Priest who will speak to us at all the Masses for the Annual Archdiocesan Missionary Co-op Appeal. During his talks, he will share information about the missionary work that is being carried out in the newly formed Prelature of Esquel in the Patagonia Region of Southern Argentina. We will have a second collection at all Masses to benefit the missionary work of the Church. Thank you for your generous support.

Missionary Plan Of Cooperation

"Since they are members of the Church by virtue of their Baptism, all Christians share responsibility for missionary activity. 'Missionary cooperation' is the expression used to describe the sharing by communities and individual Christians in this right and duty.

Missionary cooperation is rooted and lived, above all, in personal union with Christ. Only if we are united to him as the branches to the vine (cf. Jn 15:5) can we produce good fruit."

Pope St. John Paul II, *Redemptoris Missio*, 77

About the Program

One of the most important missionary animation, education and support programs is the Missionary Plan of Cooperation. Each year, the Mission Office accepts applications from missionary groups and dioceses to speak at parishes in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. These groups and dioceses make an appeal for their missionary cause and ask for the parishioners' prayers and financial support. Through this program, parishioners also learn more about the missionary work of the Church, which leads to a better understanding of our baptismal calling to share in the mandate of Our Lord: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:20). By praying with the missionary and by sharing in the celebration of the Mass, parishioners join their prayers with those of the missionaries and the people they serve.

This program is carried out through (arch)dioceses across the country and encouraged by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Please know that you are in my prayers always! Let's pray for each other this week.

Peace,

Father Bob

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 24

7:30am Michael Noetzel
9:00am Norm Himmelsbach
11:00am People of the Parish

Monday, July 25

6:30am Chrismer Family

Tuesday, July 26

6:30am John Bockerstett

Wednesday, July 27

6:30am Melissa Stief

Thursday, July 28

8:00am Glenda & Hope Rosas

Friday, July 29

8:00am Cory Fisk

Saturday, July 30

8:00am Shirley Casey
5:00pm Helen Mente

Sunday, July 31

7:30am Mary Miller
9:00am Rosalia Zito
11:00am People of the Parish

PRO-LIFE NEWS



Mass celebrated by Archbishop Rozanski
Food trucks by Street Dogz and The Ice Shack

Sunday, July 31—11:30 am
At St. Mary Magdalen Church
(2618 S. Brentwood Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63144)

R.S.V.P. to: bit.ly/NFP-LL-2022
R.S.V.P is appreciated, but not required to attend.
Need More Information?
Please call (314) 997-7576 or e-mail
stlnfp@archstl.org

Consider Electronic Giving Year-Round

TO SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING, GO TO

<https://holyspiritstl.org/Online-Giving>

If you need help navigating the website, please call
Mary Saputo at the Parish Office
314-739-0230

ST. PATRICK CENTER CASSEROLES—JULY 27

Casserole Collection for
St. Patrick Center will be Wed., July 27
from 6:30—9am

in the white bin at the curb outside
the entrance to church.

(In case of inclement weather, in the Parish Hall)
Pans/lids will also be available for you to pick up.
For more information, contact Mary Beth Schulte,
314-229-8067 or SpecRelEdu@aol.com.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Stewardship for July 4 - July 10, 2022

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 10,990.00
Loose Collection	\$ 534.00
Online Donations	\$ 8,099.00
Total	\$ 19,623.00
Weekly Budget	\$ 17,410.00
Weekly Surplus (shortfall)	\$ 2,213.00

HandS	Parish Improvements
\$270.00	\$204.00



FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

We express our
deep sympathy
and assurance of our prayers
to the families of

- ♦ Tammy Schmitz, wife of Michael
- ♦ Richard Wright, husband of Lisa
- ♦ Eleanor Schindler, parishioner

MAY THEIR SOULS REST IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST.

OUR MISSION:

We, the community of Holy Spirit Parish, centered in the Eucharist, and guided by the Holy Spirit, will use our shared wisdom to be a joyful, accepting and forgiving community. We encourage all to grow in the Catholic faith by teaching and proclaiming the Gospel, serving others and praising God.

Please remember in your prayers our
Sick and Home-Bound Parishioners
and those who care for them.

Don Abramovitz	Sherry Holland	John Rath
Julia Andert	Kenneth Jordan	Jean Schepers
Lorraine Bath	Sue Knoesel	Pete Schwaninger
Ronnie Bindbeutel	Ken Kramer	Gary Szevery
Carol Bonner	Charles Medvick	Jan Telthorst
Becky Bonner	Susie Meyer	Rudi/Brenda
Jim Brockmeyer	Glenn Mueller	Torricelli
Sr. Bernice Coreil	Jacob Painter	Bill/JoanWeinzirl
Leon Deimeke	Bob/Donna Pedrotti	Tom/Jeanne
Tom DuBois	Karen Piskulic	Zemblidge
Till Fehrbacher	Pat Romano	
Ray/Betty Garvels	Bob/Tootie	
Jim Gerdes	Ponder	
Kathy Glaser	Carolyn Putnam	

Please remember in your prayers our
Sick Relatives and Friends:

Kathlyn Arnold	Carol Heffner	Jan Redden
Bailey Family	Greg/Jane Hefley	Alford Snowden
Kendell/Tina	Paul Hyduchak	Grace Solimando
Bedell	Suzanne Johnson	Caroline Van Scoyk
Ann/Bill Boewer	Jenny Lemkemann	Jerry Sutterer
Teagan Bracken	Barb McDonald	Chris Wells
Brenda Joyce	Trish Merklin	Paul Williams
Crouch	Lou /Betty Merritt	Michelle Wilson
Byron Difani	Colin Meyer	Ruby Winschel
Steve Essner	John Misauraca	
Harold Feltmann	Bill Nobles	
Kathy First	Melinda Oeth	
John Garvels	Liz Prange	
Michael Gill	Mike Prinzi	



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

MINISTRY FOR ROOM AT THE INN

Our ministry feeds the homeless at their shelter 16 times a year. It is the FIRST weekend of the month. (If there is a 5th Wednesday, we also provide meals)

This consists of Dinner and a Breakfast.

Donations of pre-packaged items for either meal OR cash is urgently needed. Please deliver your food or cash donations to 3415 Bridgeland Dr., Bridgeton,

MO 63044 c/o David Weber

Please call us for food ideas or more information:

Peggy Owens-314-738-0562

pemaquid_ptloma@yahoo.com

OR

Clare Duffy-314-291-2144 (leave a detailed message)
ceduffy@att.net

Please pray about this opportunity to help the homeless. God will bless you and We Thank You!

ROSARY—NEXT SUN. JULY 31

Please join us for The Rosary, led by The Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus on the 5th Sunday this month, July 31, at 10:15 in Church (after 9:00am Mass.) The Knights are also going to gather for lunch after the 11 am Mass .Check with the Knights in attendance that day.
All are welcome for both of these events.

For questions, contact Deacon Scott Kaufman
deaconsco@holyspiritstl.org or 314-229-6633.

ST. PATRICK CENTER SALAD TODAY—SUN., JULY 24

Holy Spirit volunteers provide salads and/or components to help feed the homeless of St. Patrick Center, the 4th Sunday of each month.
Salad and/or components will be collected between 8 & 10 am, on Sun., July 24

The container will be in the Gathering Area.

For more information contact
Ellen Staples, 314-422-2381.

ST. PATRICK CENTER CASSEROLES—JULY 27 Casserole Collection for St. Patrick Center will be Wed., July 27 from 6:30—9am

in the white bin at the curb outside
the entrance to church.

(In case of inclement weather, in the Parish Hall)
Pans/lids will also be available for you to pick up.
For more information, contact Mary Beth Schulte,
314-229-8067 or SpecRelEdu@aol.com.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS AVAILABLE

Gluten allergy? Would you like a gluten-free host? Please contact the Parish Office, 739-0230.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sunday, July 24

7:30-12pm—Scouts Car Wash, Front Lot
8:00am-10am—St. Patrick's Ctr. Salads
7:00pm—Al Anon, Rigali Rm & Zoom

Monday, July 25

1:00-7:00pm—Eucharistic Adoration,
closing with Benediction at 6:50pm
6:00pm—Quilting, Annex

Tuesday, July 26

9:00am—Quilting, Annex
3:30pm—Contemplative Prayer, Resource Ctr

Wednesday, July 27

6:30am-9am—St. Patrick's Ctr. Casseroles
9:00am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.

Thursday, July 28

9:00am—Senior Exercise, Rigali Rm.
7:00-8:15pm—Al Anon, by Zoom only

Saturday, July 30

4:00pm—Confessions

Sunday, July 31

7:00pm—Al-Anon, Rigali Rm & Zoom
10:15am—Knights of Columbus ROSARY

Holy Spirit ACTS

Help continue the 20th anniversary celebration of
ACTS at Holy Spirit Parish
with our next women's retreat:

"Increase Our Faith Dear Lord"
September 29-October 2, 2022

Director:

Sharon Silver
314-578-5186

or sharonsilver2433@gmail.com

Co-Directors:

Angie Breakfield: 314-750-3053
Laura Shambro: 314-607-8703

Questions? Want to help?

Please contact **Alli Kleitz** or **Jeanne Kielhofner**,
Core Team Communications.

Alli: 314-344-9034

or kleitzfamily@gmail.com

Jeanne: 314-973-2769 or
jeannekielhofner@yahoo.com



Bridges Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in Everyday Life

Are you looking for a deeper prayer life and a closer
relationship with God? If so, please consider the
Bridges Retreat based on the 450+ year-old
Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola.

The retreat begins in September and information
sessions will be offered at 5 Greater St. Louis-area
sites on various days and times this summer,
as well as Zoom.

For more information, contact
Denny Klosterman, 314-341-6924
dgklos@gmail.com

Or

Steve Givens, 314-401-2072
Executive.director@bridgesfoundation.org

Save the Date

*For the 6th Annual
Katy Trail Marian Pilgrimage
Oct. 10th through Oct. 14th*

For more information,
please visit our website at:

www.katytrailpilgrimage.com

Or send an email to:
MarianPilgrimage77@gmail.com

**SCRIP ON SALE EVERY SUNDAY
during the summer from 8am - 11am!**

THE MARK OF THE MAKER

**If things created are so full of loveliness, how resplendent must be the One who made
them! The wisdom of the Worker is apparent in such handiwork.**

~ St. Anthony of Padua

YOUTH MINISTRY

FIND HOLY SPIRIT YOUTH MINISTRY

ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM www.facebook.com/hsyouth AND as [hs_youth_stl](#) (HS Youth STL) on Instagram

HIGH SCHOOL TEENS:

EAT. PRAY. DISCUSS. gatherings are on Thursday nights in the Resource Center from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The more people we have the more fun it will be. Join us and bring a friend. Everyone is welcome. You don't have to commit to every Thursday. Just come when you can and stay as long as you like. We are always happy to have you. **Stay Tuned** for some fun activities in the works: BBQ, Messy Games, Fun with Food, Movie nights, Video Game Party, Fire & Fun Bonfire Night, etc. . .

CONFIRMATION

7TH GRADE FAMILIES – Session 6: Relationships along with a service project should be done over the summer with your sponsor. Look for a sign-up sheet for your fall sessions in your email.

Your Sacramental Record Form was due in April. Please be sure to turn this in to Donna Eisenbath as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have turned them in.

WE NEED YOU!

MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS CHAPERONES – We will need PCG adults to help chaperone monthly gatherings during the 2022.23 school year from October to April. Please contact Donna Eisenbath if you are able to help one month. We have 7 dates to gather. Volunteer for one or more months to help make this fun opportunity possible for our 7th and 8th grade.

Ways to Pray with for Parents and Teens:

- Notice the Earth around you – plants, temperatures, air – Say a prayer together asking God to help you care for God's Creation.
- As you buy school supplies, say a prayer of blessing over them asking God to send the Holy Spirit to you to inspire you?
- Make a sign of the cross in prayer every time you leave the house.

PSR NEWS

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION-REGISTRATION FOR 2022-2023

If you have not registered your child(ren) for Parish School of Religion for the 2022-2023 school, please do so **as soon as possible**.

PSR registration is completely online. If you do not have computer access and need assistance, please contact Donna Eisenbath or Julie Spinner to set up an appointment to complete the registration process.

The Parish School of Religion has religion classes on Tuesday evenings, from 6:45-8 p.m. for students in grades 1-8 who attend public schools. PSR sessions focus on the message of Jesus, experienced within a community of faith with opportunities to pray, worship and do service for others.

Registration and payments are through our online program, www.holyspirit.psrenroll.com.

For more information, please contact:

Donna Eisenbath, 314-954-1326 or deisenbath@holyspiritstl.org

or Julie Spinner, 739-0230 or jspinner@holyspiritstl.org



Lunch Bunch!

TUES., JULY 26 our ***older adult*** parishioners are invited to gather at ***11 am*** for light-hearted conversation while enjoying lunch together.

Please Call The Office for More Information: 314-739-0230

SPORTS CAFÉ, 3579 Pennridge Dr., Bridgeton, MO 63044
(Next to Bob Evans and Olive Garden)

****Note that lunchtime is 11 am and the restaurant opens at 11 am**

Directions: West on St. Charles Rock Rd. Pass under Hwy 270 and then make a left at the stoplight onto Pennridge Dr. Make another immediate left to stay on Pennridge Dr. Sports Café will be on the right.

Invite a friend or come alone because it's just for fun!



Sing to the Lord a New Song!

Auditions for the Archdiocesan and Cathedral Choirs will take place on August 2nd and 3rd as well as August 16th and 17th.

They will be held in the Saint Cecilia Chapel at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd, from 6:00-9:00pm.

Please see the following audition guidelines and Requirements for the Archdiocesan Choir:

1. Prepare one of the following hymns: Holy God We Praise Thy Name, Morning Has Broken, or Praise to the Lord the Almighty
2. Sight Reading
3. Scales / vocal range testing

Ability to read music is preferred for this ensemble.

For more information, contact Andrew Kreigh
Director of Sacred Music, Archdiocese of St. Louis
314.792.7231 OR at Worship@archstl.org



The CARNIVAL is quickly approaching!
It's time to start donating those cute and cuddly stuffed animals.

Please make sure that they are NEW or GENTLY USED
There is a drop-off box in the Gathering Area.
Thank You!



SAVE THE DATE!
The Holy Spirit Carnival is Coming!
Friday & Saturday, September 9 & 10

VOLUNTEER AT THE CARNIVAL!
BOOTH WORKERS NEEDED
SIGN-UPS COMING SOON!

For questions contact:
Jeff Purvis (314) 249-6572 (jeffrey.l.purvis@gmail.com)
OR
Shannon Purvis (314) 276-6934 (shannonpurvis@hotmail.com)



2022

HOLY SPIRIT CARNIVAL BOOTH CHAIRPERSONS

SIGN-UP LINKS COMING SOON!

ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE BOOTH CHAIRPERSON

Position	Booth Type	Chair	Phone	Email
Prize Room Monitor	Adult	Jeff & Lori Pattison	853-6197	jeffpattison1@gmail.com
Beer Booth	Adult	Dave Klaus	298-8792	klausdave@gmail.com
Bingo – Parish Hall	Adult	Lisa and Paul Jenkins	344-3243	lisaandpaul93@gmail.com
Chicken Dinner	Adult	Angie Breakfield	314-750-3053	angie@breakfield.com
Chuck a Luck	Adult	Linda & Dan Shine	583-3654	Lolly13@charter.net
First Aid Booth	Adult	Kathy Farrar	314-606-3341	celtickate13@live.com
Funnel Cake	Adult	Brett & Alli Kleitz/Don Casey	344-9034	kleitzfamily@gmail.com
Golf	Adult	Caleb Grothoff	406-1991	cegrothoff@aol.com
Golf	Adult	Allison Brown	681-1332	allisonbrown681@gmail.com
Instant Bingo	Adult	Judy Alles	291-5948	jtalles47@gmail.com
Instant Bingo	Adult	Mary Schulte	739-0741	mary_schulte@att.net
Money Counter	Adult	Matt Sicking	452-6677	matt@sickingfamily.com
Parking	Adult	HSAA - John Nero	750-2792	johnnynero@rocketmail.com
Quarter Toss	Adult	Dan Walsh	542-2358	dwalsh9800@sbcglobal.net
Quarter Toss	Adult	Lori Walsh	866-0660	lmh0412@sbcglobal.net
Raffle Booth	Adult	Mary Webb	314-479-4924	mcwebb4u@yahoo.com
Raffle Booth	Adult	Mary Beth Shulte	314-229-8067	mbschulte@holyspiritstl.org
Ride Tickets	Adult	Matt DeWitt	541-7400	dewittmw@gmail.com
Ride Tickets	Adult	Edna Accardi		
Ticket Booth #1	Adult	Ruth		
Ticket Booth #2	Adult	Peggy Rumph	298-0338	jprumph@hotmail.com
Ticket Booth #2	Adult	Renee Armon	429-2469	
Wheelbarrow of Booze	Adult	Bummer Barry		bummerbarry@gmail.com
Food Court	Food Court	Jerry Rumph	298-0338	jprumph@hotmail.com
Basket Raffle	Game Booths	Shelly Barry	707-6049	bummerbarry@gmail.com
Basketball	Game Booths	Jackie Woodard	680-9969	woodardjackie@yahoo.com
Beehive	Game Booths	Sheila DeMand	344-5099	sdemand@sbcglobal.net
Bottle Booth	Game Booths	Maria and John Weber	482-6109	maria_luisa@live.com
Crazy Hat	Game Booths	Cathleen & Jason Leick	780-1243	catleick@yahoo.com
Duck Pond	Game Booths	Amy Grothoff	277-0786	amygrothoff@aol.com
Duck Pond	Game Booths	Scott Grothoff	258-4888	scottgrothoff@aol.com
Monopoly	Game Booths	Katie Strebeck		lillygirl7777@gmail.com
Plinko	Game Booths	Joan Stephens	314-517-8018	joan_bannon23@yahoo.com
Plinko	Game Booths	Susan Peroutka	314-302-0472	bannonse@hotmail.com
Ring Toss	Game Booths	Isaac Mason	314-482-5672	ilm11mason@gmail.com
Shooting Gallery	Game Booths	Rhonda Cates	314-443-9207	rhondap25@charter.net
Teddy Bear Booth	Game Booths	ACTS 2022 Women's Retreat	314-291-2724	anncallman@gmail.com
Vault	Game Booths	Flo Davidson	314-724-8225	floencedavidson11@gmail.com
Top Doc	Game Booths	Pollyana Appleton	609-1810	pollyana.appleton@gmail.com

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138:1-3,6-8
Colossians 2:12-14
Luke 11:1-13

Monday July 25 St. James

2 Corinthians 4:7-15
Ps 126:1bc-6
Matthew 20:20-28

Tuesday July 26 Sts. Joachim and Anne

Jeremiah 14:17-22
Ps 79:8,9,11,13
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday July 27

Jeremiah 15:10,16-21
Ps 59:2-4,10-11,17,18
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday July 28

Jeremiah 18:1-6
Ps 146:1b-6ab
Matthew 13:47-53

Friday July 29 Sts. Martha, Mary, Lazarus

Jeremiah 26:1-9
Ps 69:5,8-10,14
John 11:19-27
or Luke 10:38-42

Saturday July 30

Jeremiah 26:11-16,24
Ps 69:15-16,30-31,33-34
Matthew 14:1-12

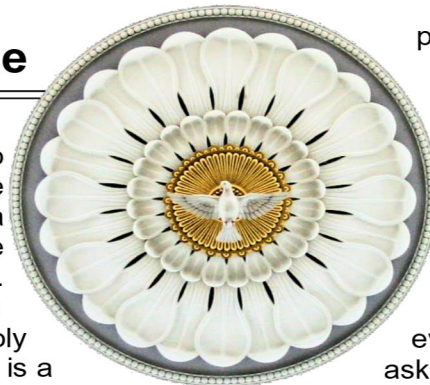
In Luke 11:1-13, Jesus teaches us how to pray with faith. The "bread" that runs as a theme in this scripture is the life of holiness. The "Bread of Life" is Jesus. The gift of the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life, is a *holy* life.

Notice also that the visitor in the parable is a friend of God, not a stranger, who wants to share the bread with another friend. This represents a baptized Christian who wants to share the friendship of God ("three loaves" – the Trinity) with others, but he or she is inadequate for the task.

When we knock on the door to God's heart seeking help for our inadequacies, the Father gives us his fully adequate Holy Spirit. And that's not all we get! Whenever we pray, this Holy Spirit connects us to the Father and to Jesus. Therefore, every prayer increases our holiness, brings us closer to God and empowers us to be more like Jesus. But holiness does not come quickly nor easily. We must

be persistent in our prayer lives. We must continually rely on God's Spirit in order to resist temptations and grow in faith.

No matter what we ask God to share with us, including the material things that we need or desire, God wants to use it to nourish our souls. This is what we ask for when we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." Be



persistent. Receiving God's bread takes time (we're slow learners).

It's the devil who says we can have everything we ask for as fast as

we want it. New Age and occult practices are fast-food spiritualities that are riddled with the dangerously unhealthy fat of false beliefs. They lack the growth in holiness that we can only receive from the Holy Spirit. Many people turn to the occult because they don't have the desire to do the hard work of holiness.

The supernatural adequacies of the Holy Spirit are ours for the asking, because we already received the Holy Spirit during baptism. However, to live in God's supernatural power, we have to pray persistently, identify our sins and repent, and humbly open ourselves to the holiness of the Holy Spirit.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How much do you rely on the Holy Spirit's help in your daily life?
2. How often do you humble yourself before the Lord in prayer and ask for an increase of holiness?
3. Describe your prayer life. How does it help you become holier in your daily activities?
4. How has the Holy Spirit purified you?

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME— (JULY 31, 2022)

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



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