# This Sunday's <u>Counsel</u>

#### THEME:

We live a life of unwavering faith when we do not grow weary in our prayers and in proclaiming God's word.

#### PROMISE:

"The Lord will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever." (Ps 121:8)

#### **WORD:**

Ex 17:8-13/ Ps 121:1 -2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/ 2 Tim 3:14-4:2/ Lk 18:1-8

#### **ORDERS:**

- Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed. (2 Tim 3:14)
- Be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient. (2 Tim 4:2)

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

- Encourage faithfulness in attending teachings.
- Be consistent and persevering in prayers.

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# Community News

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# Persevere In Prayer

#### **REFLECTION:**

In the Gospel this Sunday, Jesus tells His disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He invites us to persist in prayer especially in times of difficulties, and not fall into desperation or discouragement. In the parable, Jesus says that if perseverance obtains justice from an unjust judge, how much more from a good and loving Father if

we never give up in asking Him. Jesus tells us not to lose heart because God will always answer our prayers. Because of the Lord's great love for us, we are assured that He will always hear us when we come to Him in prayer lifting up our needs. The Lord will grant our needs in a way that is best for us and in His perfect time.

In the same token, St. Paul echoes the teaching of Jesus by exhorting us to, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give

thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you," (1 Thess 5:15-18). It is not merely to rejoice, pray and give thanks, but to do these constantly and always, regardless of the situation, because doing so would glorify the Lord, in our expression of praise, worship and thanksgiving.

There is an acronym 'PUSH' which stands for "pray until something happens." Probably this is a good measure to determine

if we have prayed enough. Persistence in prayer is not to be understood as trying to change God's mind, as if God is unwilling to help us in the first place. It is actually us who need to change and for us to express to God, 'not my will but your will, Lord.' Having a steadfast and expectant faith will enable us to patiently wait until we receive the Lord's response. We are also encouraged not to lose heart when the answer to our prayer is not as we ex-

Prayer - See Page 2

## Forced To Give Good Fruit

How was that unjust judge immoral and wicked? How was the upright judge gracious and just? The first in his iniquity was not willing to vindicate the widow, and in his wickedness, he was not willing to put her mind at rest. The justice of God knows how to vindicate, and his grace discerns how to give life. The iniquity of this wicked judge was contrary to the justice of God, and the wickedness of this rebel was in opposition to the grace of the gentle One. His wickedness therefore was stubbornness, for it dared to go against the fear of God. His boldness was stubborn, for it refused the lowly person.

These two were stubborn, but persistent prayer was even more stubborn. The persistence of the widow humiliated both the iniquity that was rebelling against God and the boldness that was behaving arrogantly towards human beings. She subjected them to her will, so that they might provide her with a vindication over her adversary. Persistence transformed these two bitter branches, and they bore sweet fruit that was against their nature. The iniquity of the judge brought about a righteous judgment and a just retribution for the falsely accused woman. His wickedness gave peace to the afflicted one,

Good Fruit - See Page 2



#### **Online Giving**

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**. Donate link can be found at www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to: BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 1367 Toms River, NJ 08754

### The Lord's Provision

October 7, 2022

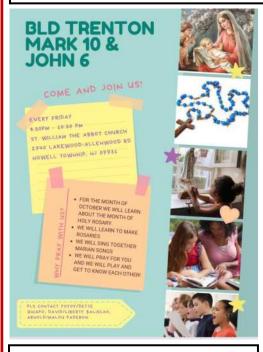
: \$ 460.00 Tithe Love Offer: \$ 192.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

The sun will not harm me by day, nor the moon by night; My guard neither dumbers nor deeps He is the Lord who made heaven and ear

# Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407 For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541



#### Good Fruit - Cont'd from Page 1

although iniquity does not know how to judge, and wickedness does not know how to give refreshment. Persistence forced these two evil and bitter branches to give good fruit against their nature. If we persist in prayer, we should be even more able to prevail on the grace and justice of God to give us fruit that agrees with their nature. Let justice vindicate us, and let grace refresh us. Accordingly, the fruit of justice is the just reward of the oppressed, while the giving of refreshment to the afflicted is the fruit of grace.

> ~ Ephrem the Syrian (306-373 AD)

# God's Blessings

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#### **Birthday**

Ayana Perez 10/14 Weddy Balmaceda 10/18 Edd Rov 10/14 Beth Felibrico 10/18 Neri Roldan 10/15 Jomar Janolo 10/18 Gerard DelaFuente 10/15 Sionee Abalos 10/18 Julie Saria 10/15 Marsha Supapo 10/19

Kimberly Estomo 10/20

#### Anniversary

Jim & Irma McCracken 10/14 Ricky & Rissa Gomez 10/15 Marlon & Sionee Abalos 10/18 Arwin & Sona David 10/18

#### **Passwords**

Did you Living in the age of information technology, we know how important it is to know the password in order to get into the programmes where the most personal and valuable information is stored. But spiritual life, too, has its "passwords": there are words that touch the heart because they refer to what we are most sensitive to. The tempter, that is, the devil, knows these passwords well, and its important that we know them too, so as not to find ourselves where we do not want to be. Temptation does not necessarily suggest bad things, but often haphazard things, presented with excessive importance. In this way it hypnotizes us with the attraction that these things stir in us, things that are beautiful but illusory, that cannot deliver what they promise, and therefore leave us in the end with a sense of emptiness and sadness.

~ Pope Francis

## Prayer - Cont'd from Page 1

pect. We have to develop a keen understanding and to realize that what we prayed for may not eventually be beneficial for us when it is not in accord with the plan of God for us.

Isaiah 55:8 says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord." God's response to our prayers is that His plan is far greater than what we hope for. Oftentimes we are simply unaware that it may have been answered in another way, better than our expectation. We experience a deeper sense of joy and appreciation whenever we receive God's gracious favors.

Prayer is a spiritual communion with the Lord that enables us to remain connected to Him. It allows us to remain in the state of grace so that we can sustain a spiritual relationship with the Lord in our

life's journey towards eternity in His kingdom. Our prayer is a solemn request for help which varies according to our physical, emotional and spiritual needs directed towards our most loving and compassionate God. Our persistence in prayer shows our humility and dependency on Him. He wants us to express our desires in prayers, so that we can rightly receive what He is prepared to give. Jesus gave us his words in scriptures which we can use to pray to God and it is in prayer that we will be able to proclaim God's word to others.

Let us then faithfully persevere in prayer, putting our trust in the Lord and relying on His goodness and tender mercies. God never fails us as we are assured of this: "The Lord will guard your coming and your going, both now and forever," (Ps 121:8).

Adapted from <u>www.bldworld.org</u>