

**BLD Trenton**

Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We are empowered to build God's kingdom as we honor the Father and persistently pray for all our needs.

PROMISE:

"For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds: and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." (Lk 11:10)

WORD:

Gn 18:20-32/ Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8/ Col 2:12-14/ Lk 11:1-13

ORDERS:

- When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. (Lk 11:9)
- Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Lk 11:9)

DIRECTIONS:

- Immerse ourselves daily in the Holy Word of God.
- Pray unceasingly.

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Keep Knocking

REFLECTION:

Jesus knows his father. Jesus obeys his father. Jesus honors his father. In every moment of his time, he prays to his father. Building God's kingdom is following Jesus. And just like Jesus, we are to have an intimate and trusting



relationship with God, our Father. We need to be, without pause, connected with Him to know His heart, to know and trust His will, and to know His righteousness.

Who is our "father"? He is perfect, holy, and worthy of honor and adoration. But Jesus doesn't tell us to say, "holy father"; just "father." He makes it clear that our father is not far away, not beyond our reach. He is close to us. He hears our voice. Right off the bat, Jesus tells us, there should be no reason for us not to pray because God is everywhere. He has done his part of making himself

always present and available.

The Lord's prayer reveals much about who Jesus is and his own prayer life. It explains how Jesus wants us to relate to his father - with the same mind and heart that he had. It shows how

every aspect of our lives - our spiritual well-being, our daily bread, our relationships and our battle against temptation - is based on our dependence on God. We need Him if we want to enter His kingdom; we need Him to provide us with all that we need each day, both materially and spiritually, and we need Him to strengthen us against sin's destructive forces. In short, we need Him to treat us, as a perfect father would treat his children.

So Jesus taught us how to pray. Jesus taught us that only through prayer that we will be in communion with God. But

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Tending the Flock

St. Luke passes the Our Father on to us in a shorter form than that found in the Gospel according to St. Matthew, which has entered into common usage. We have before us the first words of Sacred Scripture that we learn in childhood. They are impressed in our memory, mold our life and accompany us to our last breath. They reveal that *"we are not ready-made children of God from the start, but that we are meant to become so increasingly by growing more and more deeply in communion with Jesus. Our sonship turns out to be identical with following Christ."*

This prayer also accepts and expresses human material and spiritual needs: *"Give us each day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins"* (Lk 11: 3-4). It is precisely because of the needs and difficulties of every day that Jesus exhorts us forcefully: *"I tell you, ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened"* (Lk 11: 9-10). It is

The "Our Father"

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Last Week's Prophecies



- *My children, I am your Shepherd. Trust in Me. Abandon everything to Me. Come follow Me.*

- *My child, you may not recognize the blessings I have bestowed upon you for my blessings come in various forms. It may even be disguised as a trial and as a tribulation; however, with the help of the Holy Spirit, you will realize the abundance of my generosity.*

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

July 15, 2022

Tithe/LO : \$844.00

July 17, 2022
(YE#17)

Tithe/LO : \$708.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

I give thanks to you, O Lord,
with all my heart,
For on the day I called for help,
you answered me.

God's Blessings

Birthday

7/22	Boilly Arriola	7/24
7/22	Florence Acosta	7/25
7/23	MaryAnne Arias	7/26

Anniversary

Morris & Emma Teves	7/22
Drin & Sandy Aparicio	7/24
Cesar & Luz Agustin	7/24
Bill & Lilia Calves	7/24
Eddie & Josie Rodriguez	7/24

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

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not so much asking in order to satisfy our own desires as, rather, to keep a lively friendship with God who, the Gospel continues, “will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Lk 11: 13). The ancient “Desert Fathers” experienced this, as did contemplatives of all epochs who became, through prayer, friends of God, like Abraham who begged the Lord to spare the few righteous from the destruction of the city of Sodom (cf. Gen 18: 21-32). St. Teresa of Avila addressed an invitation to her sisters with the words: we must “beseech God to deliver us from these perils for ever and to keep us from all evil! And although our desire for this may not be perfect, let us strive to make the petition. What does it cost us to ask it, since we ask it of One who is so powerful?”. Every time we say the Our Father our voices mingle with the voice of the Church, for those who pray are never alone. “From the rich variety of Christian prayer as proposed by the Church, each member of the faithful should seek and find his own way, his own form of prayer... each person will, therefore, let himself be led... by the Holy Spirit, who guides him, through Christ, to the Father”.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus Message , July 25, 2010



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Jesus also challenges us to the next level: to have a life that is anchored in continual prayer, without ceasing and praying persistently.

Need causes us to pray. Desperation causes us to pray more. Hopelessness causes us to pray harder. During these times of our lives we become persistent in our prayer. We ask, we seek and we knock. We ask again, we seek again and we knock again.

Persistence in prayer strengthens our relationship with God, and intimacy with God leads to increased faith. Whether it be illness, troubled relationships, job security, financial problems, or something else, we seek God and communicate our need thru prayer. Looking at our own interests, being a persistent prayer is

justifiable. But how about the needs of others?

Notice that the parable of the persistent friend comes immediately after Jesus teaches his disciples the Lord's prayer. In the story, the persistent neighbor is asking his neighbor for help, not for himself, but for a visitor who has shown up unexpectedly. This is the nature of intercessory prayer: we ask, seek and knock on behalf of other people. By teaching us the Lord's prayer and following it immediately with a story about a persistent neighbor, Jesus is telling us to go to God for our needs and for the needs of other people—and to do it persistently. This is God's kingdom where prayers, love and compassion exist.

God listens to our voice. God lis-

tens to the cries of His children. That is his promise. He is asking us not to give up. He is asking us to keep following Him. He wants us to keep pounding on the door. God knows our need even before we ask Him (Mt 6:8). But He wants to hear it from us; just like a child to his father. He wants us to have an intimate relationship with Him. For only then that we will be able to know Him more, to know His heart and to know His goodness. God encourages us to confidently ask, seek and knock. Whether he answers 'yes', 'no' or 'wait', we know that in His perfect time, His response is always measured with love. We know that God's ways are beyond us, and we can always trust that they are good.