Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ASKING FOR HELP

The Beatitudes praise the poor in spirit. One characteristic of those who are poor in spirit is their ability to ask for help; they know when others can provide what they lack. Today's readings encourage us to practice poverty in spirit by asking God for what we need. What could be more natural than to ask God for good things? God is, after all, the inventor of goodness and the giver of all good things.

Asking God for help puts us in conversation with God. These conversations take many forms. The reading from Genesis shows Abraham bantering with God like a skilled negotiator, while Saint Paul's letter to the Colossians praises God for answering us even when we don't deserve it. In Saint Luke's Gospel, Jesus not only gives us words to use in our conversations with God (the Our Father), but also promises that God always listens to our prayers.

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REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Prayer has always been part of the Christian heritage. The book of Psalms long ago became the prayer book of the church, along with some hymns and canticles from other books of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments. Among the most beautiful prayers we have are the Magnificat of Mary, the Benedictus of Zechariah, and the Nunc Dimittis of Simeon, all in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 1:46–55; 1:68–79; 2:29–32).

Most importantly, Jesus prayed. Think about that for a moment. Jesus, the Son of God, the Word made flesh, the only begotten Son, prayed. We know that he went off by himself to pray. He did this before some of the most important moments in his ministry, like before he chose those who would be with him. But it is safe to assume that he did it as a habit.

So when one of the disciples asked him to teach them to pray and Jesus responded with the Our Father, it deserves our attention. This prayer reveals the heart of Jesus, and tells us how we should speak to the Father. The prayer has two parts: blessing the Father and calling for his presence in the world, then turning to God for our basic needs of food, forgiveness, and fidelity.

The parables that follow call us to persevere and persist in prayer because God is a Father who will give us his life-blood, in this case, the Holy Spirit, to all who ask. Continue to knock, continue to ask. God will respond.

—James A. Wallace, C.SS.R.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The pilgrim experience of going by foot to Santiago de Compostella, the shrine of St. James, reached its high point this week at the feast of the Apostle, with tens of thousands of pilgrims on the road. Typically, they cover twelve to twenty miles a day through rough territory. The difficult journey and the often primitive lodging facilities are made bearable by the joy of the pilgrims, their songs and prayers. When their journey is documented properly, they receive the scallop shell, a reminder not only of James the fisherman, but also his call to fish for human beings and to baptize the nations. In the Middle Ages, those who wore this badge on their hats were granted lodging and hospitality wherever they went. Next to the palm, the sign of a Jerusalem pilgrim, the scallop shell was most highly prized.

In the Middle Ages, some people so enjoyed the pilgrim road, although it was filled with discomfort and danger, that they spent most of their lives on the road. Today, some people take up the route for exercise, but are drawn gradually into the spirituality of the journey. As you make your summer travels, always fold in an element of pilgrimage: a long walk through beautiful countryside, a visit to a church, a prayer of gratitude for your journey through life's hills and valleys.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-23 Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday:	Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-11, 12-13; Jn 11:19-27
Wednesday:	Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5-7, 9; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday:	Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3-6a, 8, 11; Mt 13:47-53
Friday:	Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Ps 81:3-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58
Saturday:	Lv 25:1, 8-17; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; 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

HOLY SPIRIT YOUTH GROUP - is still accepting donations for school supplies for kids in our area in need We Need:

Pencils, Wide ruled paper, Pens, Bottled Glue, Glue sticks, Crayola 24, Map colors, Playdough, Backpacks, Kleenex, School box, and Wired Headphones.

Your help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

August 2 - Misioneros August 9 - Guadalupanas

JAMAICA September 28, 2025
Holy Spirit Jamaica Committee is getting ready for our annual festival! Once again, we are asking for donations for the bingo prizes, cakes for the cake walk, 2 liter soft drinks, and stuffed animals for game prizes. All donations may be dropped off at the parish office and cakes the day before the Jamaica. If you would like to help in any other way, please contact Ellie Mendez @ 725-0671. Please remember to pick up your raffle tickets and to return them to Patty Torres (finance). Someone from the finance council will be outside after all the masses. The raffle is the biggest money maker of the Jamaica! Thank you for all your help!

WEDNESDAY – Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm & Adoration until 7:30pm at IHM. Confession will also be available during Adoration.

FIRST FRIDAY – is Friday, August 1st; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 8:00pm until 10:00pm at Holy Family. Confession is available.

WHY AM I CATHOLIC? Deacon Bill's sharing session is every Tuesday at his home, @6pm. All are invited!

ULTREYA– meets Monday, July 28th, 7:00pm at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don't have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html

GRUPO MISIONERO will meet Thursday in the hall @7:00pm.

YOUTH GROUP meets Wednesday, July 30th at 6:30pm Holy Family Hall.

¡ATENCIÓN! ¿Quiere aprender más sobre la fe? Entonces, está invitado a participar en las clases de catecismo para adultos en español. El curso comenzó en abril y se prolongará durante todo el verano hasta que se hayan impartido todas las clases. Las clases son los miercoles, a las 7:00p.m. en el Salón de Inmaculado Corazón en 507 W. Alabama Ave. El catequista es Victor Rubio Jr. (Mas informacion, llame a la oficina.)

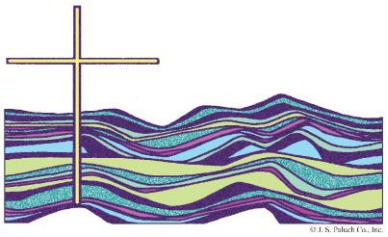
PARISH MOVIE GROUP – will meet this Sunday, July 27th at 4:00pm Holy Family parish hall.

BAPTISM – To schedule, please call the office

July 19/20, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS……$3470.00
LOOSE PLATE……1502.00
BUILDING FUND……..1013.00
TOTAL COLLECTION…….$5985.00

Thank you for your generosity



**You were buried with him in baptism,
in which you were also raised with him
through faith in the power of God,
who raised him from the dead.** *— Colossians 2:12*

Saturday, July 26th -
5:00PM-IHM – +Daniel Grimaldo;
+Gloria Castro, Delia Sparkman, Rudy Torres, Nellie, Dolores, Francisco, Frank, Jr., Velia, Juana,
Tony y Patricia Gomez

Sunday, July 27th -
8:00AM – En acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Refugio Gonzalez y Bruce Kelly;
+Ezequiel, Albina, Delia y Teresa Gonzalez;
+Rafael y Concha Acevedo
11:00AM – For the People of Nolan County

Tuesday, July 29th 9:00AM - HF
For the well-being of Tanis Moreno's family

Wednesday, July 30th 6:00PM–IHM
+Fidela Gonzales

Thursday, July 31st 9:00AM - HF
For the well-being of Humberto Diaz

Friday, August 1st 9:00AM - HF
+Domingo & Rosalinda Lictawa

Saturday, August 2nd -
5:00PM-IHM – Guadalupanas living and deceased;
+Ruben Gutierrez
7:00PM-St. Albert Por la gente de Nolan County

Sunday, August 3rd -
8:00AM – +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira; En acción de gracias por el cumpleaño de Alexis Arc
11:00AM – In thanksgiving for John Falana's birthday; +Aurelia Garza

COED SOFTBALL – Coed Softball Church League is just around the corner. This is for anyone interested in playing, male and female, from the ages of 14 years old and older. No experience required. If you are interested in playing, there will be practice at Jones Park this Sunday, July 27th, at 7:00pm. For more information, contact Deacon David Mendez @325-725-6333.

ADVERSITY Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which, in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant. —Horace

Holy Spirit Catholic Parish
Sweetwater, Texas

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
2025-2026

REGISTRATION

(Note: **ALL CURRENT and NEW STUDENTS**)

WHEN: **Starts:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Ends : Thursday, August 28, 2025

Days : Monday through Thursday

Time : 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: IHM Hall c/o Sister Tita, OND

PLEASE take note. Thank you!

NO REGISTRATION on WEDNESDAYS or SUNDAYS when CLASSES START!

Classes begin on: a.Wednesday, September 3rd: 7th to11th Grades
Class time: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

b.Sunday, September 7th: Pre-K to 6th Grades
Class time: 9:30-10:40 a.m.

*Religious Education Calendar 2025-2026 will be given upon registration.

*Baptismal Certificate is required of all new registrants and current students without baptismal records.

"please come & register early"

tita,ond:05/30/2025