









**COME, JOIN US AFTER 8:30 MASS EVERY SUNDAY:**

On **Sunday August 3**, Catholic Daughters will be serving you coffee and donuts after Mass in the Parish Hall. Come and join us for some coffee, donuts and friendly conversation.



### **Homebound Ministry to the Sick**

#### **DO YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE AT HOME WHO WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?**

Our parish is blessed to have parishioners who serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Communion (EMC) to parishioners who are homebound. It is most fitting to bring Communion to the sick and/or the homebound from the Mass, but other times may be arranged depending on availability. This ministry, a corporal work of mercy-visiting the sick-reminds those who are homebound that they are an important part of our faith community. Do you know a Sacred Heart Church parishioner who is homebound? Share this bulletin announcement with fellow parishioners whom you know and please invite them to call us. Please call the Parish Office at (503) 842-6647 to make arrangements.

### **St. Joseph's Church, Cloverdale**



St. Joseph's Altar Society would like to expand their membership and in hopes of more women of the parish joining their meetings, and are asking women of the parish if an occasional evening meeting would help them to participate. Please respond to Stjosephcloverdale@gmail.com. St. Joseph's Altar Society meets the second Monday of each month, September through May. All ladies of the parish are invited to join us. Meetings start at 10 a.m.

### **Sacred Heart Catholic Church Cemetery**

Do you have a loved one buried at the cemetery, have a few hours a month to spare or love lending a helping hand?

With limited hands helping, it's making a lot of work for the few that do. Can you donate a couple of hours a month to help mow? Riding lawnmower awaits you! We'd love to hear from you! Contact Christina Maahs at 503-812-8689 or hit us up at church. We'd appreciate the help!

### **Baptismal Preparation Classes:**

Baptismal Preparation Classes are offered every second Saturday of the Month at 10 am as needed. If you plan to take the class, you need to register a week before the class. If there is no interest, there will be no class.



**Catholic Daughters** are planning a rummage sale in October. Start planning on items you wish to donate to the sale. Stay tune for more information to come.

### **Sacred Heart Carnival**

We are planning our Sacred Heart Carnival for August 23rd. We will need Volunteers to help. There is a sign up sheet in the vestibule for you to sign-up if you would like to volunteer. Stay tune for more information to come.

### **FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH!!!!!!**

We are looking for flowers from your gardens to decorate the Church. If you are interested in donating flowers, please contact Stephanie Rangel at 949-874-4407 or stephanie@jsa-inc.com

Spirituality of the Readings  
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday July 27, 2025

### **Ask and You Will Receive**

When you want something, do you pray to God for it? A lot of people in this country, even in these troubled times, do say that they "whisper a little prayer." Excellent. Others put aside time each day for prayer or even for Mass. A number use the present web site to understand and pray about the readings for the coming Sunday.

Of course, in our secular culture, there are those who do not believe in prayer at all. So, when their friend is having an operation or is traveling or if the world situation is as bad as it is, they say, "we will be thinking of you." This instead of "we will be praying for you," as we used to say.

### **Thinking? Do you sit alone in your house and think?**

Others go all out. Years ago, a group of cloistered sisters, called "the Pink Sisters," prayed many months for sunny clear days during Pope John Paul's visit to St. Louis. Guess what. Sunny clear days the entire time. I was present when his plane lifted off for Rome and I watched the clouds gather afterwards and the rain begin to fall—afterwards but not before!

Abraham in the First Reading is an example of this kind of refusal to give up. Remember his visitors from last week? This week they went on their way to the city called Sodom while God waited—during which he told Abraham about his intention to destroy Sodom and its surrounding cities because of their depravity.\*

### **Abraham, against all reason and expectation, began negotiating with God out loud.**

Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? (First Reading)

God agrees that he will not destroy the city if fifty innocent people can be found. Abraham slyly asks for more. What if only forty-five innocent people are found? God agrees. What about forty? Ok, God says. Abraham goes on and on until he negotiates down to the number ten. God replies, "alright, for the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it."

As you may remember, not even ten innocents lived in that city, so Sodom did get destroyed. But notice, God actually had granted each of Abraham's requests.

Jesus in the Gospel recommends the same kind of shrewdness. He tells the famous parable about knocking at the door of a friend late at night to borrow some bread. The friend refuses because he and his family are all in bed. Jesus says, "if he does not get up to give loaves to the visitor because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of the visitor's persistence."

### **Fine, but why do we have to pray and pray over and over for what we need? Why must we haggle?**

### **Because of love.**

Like a good parent who cares for its child very much but will at times allow deprivation, allow what seems like a non-answer to pleading. Perhaps there is something even better that such a parent, or God, is trying to give us. The loving answer might be to sit beside our bed and suffer with us. This is true even in the midst of the violence now present in the USA! Look at Christ's agony on the cross: God's love will go to any lengths to give us what we most need and want, and that is: himself.

### **When we wait for him, God's love, Jesus, will be there for us.**

<https://liturgy.slu.edu/15OrdC071325/main.html>