

**July 24, 2022**  
**Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Genesis 18: 20-32

Ps 138

Colossians 2: 12-14

Luke 11: 1-13

Persistence

Boy, does Abraham drive a hard bargain! (See first reading.) He is relentless with God. Abraham wears God down. Or, does he wear Him down?

When I reflect on my own prayer life, I see I do not convince God of anything. There is no wearing Him down. Rather, it is an exercise in coming to recognize first, God is near and second, what it is I am to do, not what God is to do. The time it takes for me to gain insight or accomplish anything is a matter of me coming to recognition of my calling. I must come to awareness of Truth. God does not need my direction.

Saint Paul lets us know God has already acted. (Second reading.) God has liberated each of us and the world from the power of sin and nailed it to the cross. Jesus says we are to remain persistent in prayer. (See the gospel.) It is what gives us time to become aware. He tells us to ask, seek and knock.

Thus, persevering in prayer is necessary for us who pray. It provides the time to come to a greater awareness of God in us. It makes the space actually for us to hear God and not so much for God to hear us.

So, besides speaking to God, even telling Him what to do, also listen in silence. Read some scripture where God's message is embedded. Or, turn to some sacred writing by a saint. Then, pause in silence. Think about what you just read. Perhaps you might recite the Jesus Prayer. (Lord, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner.) By its repetition clear out the clutter that might obscure the still small voice of God. Hear what God has to say. All of a sudden, the "better way" becomes clear.

So, all of this is very easy to say, "slow down, pray, listen to God." Yet, when is anyone to find the time to do so. Well, take brief moments each day for the prayer and listening. Try the following made for busy people.

**Practical Prayer Breaks**  
**During the Day.**

1. Thanksgiving. As you awake give thanks for life, relative health, the day, etc. Just express gratitude.
2. Pray for Insight. As your day gets going such as arrival at school or at work pray for direction, wisdom, and discernment from God. Ask that God guides you through the day and that He enlightens you.
3. "Where Is God?" After Lunch reflect on what has occupied your mind during the morning. How have you been asked to act based on

how God has guided you up to this point. This will give direction for the rest of the day.

4. Petitions. Look at the day's experiences and ask God's grace to touch all the day's situations. For example, what people entered into your life that can use God's love?

5. Reflection and resolution. What elements of the day gave glory to God? What do you need to do tomorrow to give glory to God? In what way can you reform what you did today to do so?

Whatever you do to pray, be persistent.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS  
Ecc1:2,2:21-23;Col3:1-5,9-11;Lk12:13-21  
**Scripture Sharing is on Thursdays at 7:00pm.**

**STEWARDSHIP**  
**Time, Talent, Tithing**  
**It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself.**  
**It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.**

<b>Attendance last week:</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>Tithes Collected:</b>	<b>\$5,989.27</b>
<b>Online Giving:</b>	<b>\$898.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,887.27</b>
<b>Per Capita:</b>	<b>\$28.82</b>

**Thank You!**

**STEWARDSHIP**

**Tithes**

Remember that while you might be away on vacation the parish is still in operation. Costs continue. Therefore, PLEASE keep up with your weekly tithe! Either submit your tithe prior to going out of town or when you return. Everyone thanks you.

**Apostolates You Might Be Interested In**

Reflecting on the above column it might strike you to become involved in some apostolate here in the Parish. That is, you take up participation in something that serves others.

There is one service in particular we wish to begin. It is called "**Church Watch**". We need people who will take turns being in the chapel during the mid-day. That is, be in the chapel from 11:00am to 1:00pm. The days we wish to have the chapel open are Tuesday through Friday. If several people sign up for this apostolate it would not be a burden to any one volunteer. Naturally, those of you who are retired would be most likely to participate in this work.

We want to cultivate an atmosphere for people to come during their lunch hour for prayer. We often are asked if our chapel is open on a daily basis.

Be in touch with God and then with the Pastor.  
(There are a couple of people who are interested.)

## SPIRITUAL & FAITH FORMATION

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA

Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

These are the Sacrament of Initiation. Through these we become members of God's Church and begin on the path to salvation.

Perhaps you need initiation to the Church. God supports us on our earthly journey by calling us to the Church where we are disciples together.

**It is time to start the process of initiation, contact Fr. Bob about the journey. He will set up a time to talk with you. 954-564-1010**



### Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, Oct. 21-23, 2022

You're invited to deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. A series of presentations made by the Presenting Team, consisting of 3 married couples and 1 priest. Each presentation builds on the last as we examine ourselves, our behaviors and attitudes, our relationship with our spouse and God. Communication tools are taught on the weekend helping couples connect in healthy, constructive ways on areas that can deepen their intimacy and connectedness. After the Weekend couples often return to their lives and families, refreshed, with a renewed commitment to each other and their faith.

Sign up here: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org), Fort Lauderdale is the location. \$100 Non-refundable registration fee applies. Contact Information: For more information contact: Frank & Fran Kulzer, 954-961-5078/954-804-0661 or Roberto & Maria Ibarra, 954-972-8129.

Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, Joseph Devlin, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Jackson Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

### MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 23

4:00 p.m. † Josephine Marotta by son,  
Carmine

† Joseph De Paola by sister,  
Concetta

Sunday, July 24

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

10:45 a.m. Nelly Kane by Family

† Sirirat Chumpramoht by Brit &  
Mickey Doherty

Monday, July 25

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, July 26

8:00 a.m. † Nicholas Kolp by Crepages

Wednesday, July 27

8:00 a.m. † Alisa Sladky by William

Thursday, July 28

8:00 a.m. † Sirirat Chumpramoht by Brit &  
Mickey Doherty

Friday, July 29

8:00 a.m. † Sirirat Chumpramoht by Brit &  
Mickey Doherty

Saturday, July 30

4:00 p.m. † Cameron Funkhouse by Gary  
Buckhardt

† Gustavo Gomez by Elaine Hall

Sunday, July 31

9:00 a.m. † Ann Gramlich by Dolores & Mike  
Palevoda

10:45 a.m. † Sirirat Chumpramoht by Brit &  
Mickey Doherty

† Nicholas Griffo by Joe Johnson

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard,

**Financial Review**  
**Blessed Sacrament Parish**  
**2022**  
**This is for an 11 Month Period up to May**

This review gives a snapshot of the financial situation of the parish. It is a consolidation of all line items.

The parish remains in good standing and able to support itself through tithes, interest from the Trust and rental income. It must be noted the parish ought to be able to support its operational expenses through tithes alone. That is Stewardship. Before COVID it just did so to a dollar. Since then, we have had to rely on the Trust Fund interest and "other income" to do so. The trust and other income ought to be used for special purposes as has been the case in the past. For example, the interest from the Trust was allowed to build over 15 years and paid for new A/C units and the new roof. In the future the parish might be put in a position to borrow money for any major repairs and improvements. Thus, we want to get back to paying all operational bills through your tithes. Here are the basic figures.

**Income.**

Tithes, \$308,006. This is about \$2,000 better than last year. There was miscellaneous income of \$250. Special donations above one's regular tithes was \$35,264. This might come from people who do make an extra gift. It also may come from a will or such financial instrument. Rental income for the Land Use Agreement with the city for the park, \$9,133. A special rental income came as a onetime fee from Three Rivers Condo Association. They used our parking lot when theirs was being redone, \$5,000. Devotional Candles brought in \$734. Therefore, these income sources totaled \$364,167.

**Expenses.**

All Salaries including stipends for visiting priests and speakers, \$161,628. Health Insurance, \$28,372. Pension contributions, \$8,631. (All pension contributions must be made until all pensioners are done. The Archdiocese of Miami now uses a 403B Employer Match format.) 403B Employer Match, \$2,952. Payroll Taxes \$8,465.

General Supplies such as office supplies, maintenance, and cleaning supplies, etc. \$16,786.

Utilities \$39,617.

ABCD Under Goal. (This is when people do not pledge or do not pay off their ABCD pledge.) \$6,994.

Assessment. This is the "tax" a parish pays to the Archdiocese for all support services such as management services and oversight. It is based on income. \$24,942.

Property and Liability Insurances. \$34,477.

Other Banking Charges (such as when people bounce a check on us) \$105.

Accounting Fees. For example, these are for the payroll company all the parishes use throughout the Archdiocese. This keeps the complex payroll taxes, etc. managed and our central management can monitor all transactions. Besides managing payroll and other payables this deters any fraud or misuse of funds \$2,770.

Inspection Fees. This year we had to comply with an every 10-year total inspection of all buildings. This is a government regulation that prevents catastrophic failures of publicly used buildings. \$6,660.

Gifts to Archdiocese Entities. This is the money we collected for the Respect Life Ministry Office through the Mother's and Father's Day flower Placement. \$1,127.

Other Operating Expenses. These are various other daily miscellaneous things. \$7,000 of the total are the taxes the Church must pay. Yes, you read it right. The Church does pay taxes locally for fire and EMT protection as well as sewer water runoff. Total for this category is \$12,292.

Total Expenses with Salaries. \$415,265

The every 10-year inspection fee pushed our expenses up greatly from last year.

Explanation of the “bottom line”.

If we only had your tithes to pay the relatively low expenses for a plant of this size, there is a deficit of \$107,258! With the “other revenue” as listed above that brings the deficit down to \$50,841. So, to pay off everything we used the interest from the Trust. Therefore, as stated at the beginning the parish remains in good financial standing. However, we are not saving up much for the future from the Trust interest.

If we want more flexibility in a budget for so many things we still anticipate to be fixed, replaced, or dreamed of, and if we may give proper pay raises in the future to reach parity for the positions our staff hold, two things must happen.

1. We must grow the size of the congregation. When COVID happened nearly 50% less people have been showing up on Sunday. A study by Georgetown University done in the earlier stage of the Pandemic showed people liked staying home to “watch” Mass on T.V. They said they will not come back to church in person. That holds true here. Further, this parish has always hosted “snowbirds”. Naturally, the winter visitors stopped. There has been a slight uptick in visitors but not many. We have also had several deaths in our parish family during this period.

2. Increase the tithes. With God’s blessing we have added several people who have either come back to the practice of the Faith or who have found the Lord for the first time. This is wonderful. You people must now learn and commit to tithing! We have prayed for you to come to the Lord and then welcomed you when you did. Please do your proper duty and tithe. We ask 6% to 8% of your financial resources as a tithe. The other 2% goes to the Archbishop’s Charity and Development Fund drive.

If you have been here a while, please reflect on your current tithe. Is it just and within the tithe formula mentioned in the above paragraph?

As pastor I shepherd you and keep watch on the resources of the parish. With the help of a fantastically committed Executive Leadership Team we plan well all aspects of a parish and have dynamic Liturgies and other services. We support the work of serving the “poor”. And that goes way beyond the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

We may be very happy with the blessings God has given us and our use of these blessings. We are a standard of Stewardship in this Broward community. And let us give tribute to our “paid” staff. They serve and sacrifice more than anyone else.

Peace be with us all!

*Fr. Bob Tywniak*