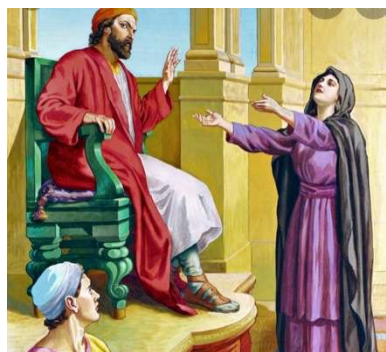


Consistent Prayer

Jesus told His disciples the parable of the persistent widow in order to teach them the necessity to pray always without becoming weary. Those were the key words: "To pray always without becoming weary." (Luke 18:1) The parable depicts a widow who used to go to a judge, insisting that he render a just decision for her against her adversary. For a long time, the judge was unwilling; but he finally relented because the widow kept bothering him. He said, "I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me." (Luke 18:5)

Jesus said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of His chosen ones who call out to Him day and night? Will He be slow to answer them? I tell you, He will see to it that justice is done for them speedily." (Luke 18:6-8)



What is not mentioned in the parable, but quite reasonable to presume, is that the dishonest judge must have either kept ignoring the widow or giving her an unjust judgment each time she went to him. But she wouldn't settle for anything less than a just decision. She persistently pursued the judge until she got what she deserved.

One common misconception about persistent prayer is that one should keep "nagging" or "bothering" God until He gives us what we ask for, just as the widow kept on bothering the judge until he relented. Jesus did not use the parable to make us think that God is anything like the dishonest judge. Rather, He used the parable to draw the big difference between God and the dishonest judge; He made the point that if a bad judge can eventually do something good due to persistence, then how much more will God, who is all good, secure the rights of His chosen ones who call out to Him persistently? This reminds me of what Jesus said in Matthew 7: "Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him. (Matthew 7:9-11)

What the parable teaches us is that we should keep on praying even though it feels wearisome to do so. Persistent prayer is the act of continuously coming before God in prayer with an unwavering attitude. It's not a one-time request but an ongoing pursuit of God's favor and will. Being persistent in prayer means that we acknowledge that God is working in our lives, even behind the scenes.

Do you feel weary praying? Do you feel that it is a burden, more like something that you need to do, rather than something that you want to do? Perhaps it is because we have forgotten what prayer is really all about. Many times, I have heard people say, "There is no use praying. I never get what I pray for." Prayer becomes burdensome when we think of it as a means to get what we want and we end up not getting what we ask for. Prayer is not about getting what we want; prayer is about coming to understand how God works and intervenes in our lives. Prayer enables us to acknowledge our human limitations and our need for divine guidance and strength.

What happens when we stop praying consistently? There will be little or no regular communication with God, there is little chance for a deeper relationship with God and almost no chance to align our will with God's divine purpose. A lack of consistency in prayer distances us from God – I am here and God is there, so far away. Our faith, trust and dependence on God all diminish. Jesus underscores the disastrous effect of our lack of prayer on faith, we could end up with no faith at all, just as He said, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:1-8)

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2025 年十月十九日 October 19, 2025

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention children and parents: we will have Sunday School class today.

Fr. Bill has prepared a special Book of Intentions in preparation for the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine, Florida on November 24-26, 2025. All parishioners are invited to write their personal intentions in this book, which will be presented to our Blessed Mother during the pilgrimage. All written intentions in the Book of Intentions will be offered during Holy Mass on November 25 in the pilgrimage site. You can find the Book of Intentions in the church foyer.

The 10th year anniversary of the dedication of our church will be on November 19, 2027. We would like all church members to have their picture taken for the 10th year anniversary commemorative parish book. Please sign up with Tommy Puk.

For our iGiveCatholic initiative this year, SUPPORT OUR OUTDOOR PRAYER GARDEN AND RECREATION AREA. We have begun the first phase of a new outdoor prayer garden and recreation area in our church property by clearing the space needed for this small capital improvement project. The first phase includes ground covering, outdoor benches and a gazebo or mini-pavilion, our goal for Phase 1 is \$10,000. There will be additional future phases. When completed, the prayer garden will contain an outdoor Stations of the Cross and a monument to Our Lady of China with engraved commemorative bricks. The prayer garden will provide our parishioners and visitors a sacred outdoor space for group prayer and private meditation, as well as open up opportunities for activities which foster both spiritual growth and community building. Please use the iGiveCatholic envelopes provided.

We have an opportunity to help local Norcross Schools this Thanksgiving! Proximity Gap Network is a charitable organization that is supporting local schools this Christmas by providing 350 food boxes to families in need. We will hold a food drive in our church on Oct. 19 & 26. Please pick up a flyer and bring only the items listed in the flyer. Please bring all food items to the church by October 26. If you would like to donate money to this cause, please use the special FOOD DRIVE envelopes. Please write your check payable to HNOJ and write FOOD DRIVE in the memo.

Prayer List: Gao Aishang, Xie Yannong, Xu Chunmei, Bian Meiyi, Chen Kun, Chen Shupeng, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		