

Legacy Prayer

Heavenly Father,
You have never ceased to provide.
We come before you in faith and
gratitude for the many blessings
in our lives and in our parish.
We continue **BUILDING FAITH**
while remembering future
generations will reap what we sow.

O Blessed Mother of God,
Mary our patroness,
watch over our parish
in this time of new beginnings.
As we move **FORWARD BY FAITH**
help us discern God's will
for our new church.

May our church
be a place of welcome,
a source of healing,
and a house of God
That keeps our **FAITH ALIVE.**

Pick us up when we fall,
show us how to comfort others,
steer us in the direction you lead,
guide us as we walk in your footsteps,
in creating a **LEGACY OF FAITH**
in loving service to You, O Lord.

We ask this in Your Name,
Amen



Legacy of Faith

Campaign Devotional Guide



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May 29, 2011

Acts 9:40

Peter sent them all out of the room, then he got down on his knees and prayed.

Jesus never mentions unanswered prayers; He had the certainty that prayer is always answered. God answers our prayers in the way that is best for us, not sometimes, but every time, although the manifestation of the answer in the manner in which we want it may not always follow.

Do we expect God to answer our prayers? *The true business of your life as a child of God is intercessory prayer.*

May 30, 2011

Acts 20:36

When He said this, He knelt down with all of them and prayed.

God wants us to have fellowship with His children. One way we can do this is through prayer. Even though I am convinced God doesn't care what posture we take when praying. I am thankful personally for that assurance.

Having said that, I think there is much to learn from why the Bible almost always refers to praying as prostrate or kneeling. First, prayer is an act of worship, acknowledging our God who created us. Second, God is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and we are His servants. Lastly, kneeling shows submission to a loving God who knows we struggle with pride. It's hard to be prideful on our knees. *Help me Lord, to be on my knees more often.*

June 24, 2011

II Samuel 24:24

I will not offer to the Lord my God whole offerings that have cost me nothing.

Life is already hard enough for most people. If, every once in a while we want to say thank you to God for the gifts of life, that shouldn't add to the hardship. It should be, according to some, easy to thank God – to respond to His love.

David had a different view of such things. About to make an offering to God, he had the chance to make it free of charge. But David wouldn't have it that way. An offering that doesn't cost the giver isn't an offering at all. We can't get away with offerings that don't cost us anything.

Giving God, help us to help others, to provide for others, as we are able; and in so doing, express your love, made known in Jesus Christ. Amen

June 25, 2011

Mark 12:41-44

“He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, ‘Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.’”

Not Equal Gifts, but Equal Sacrifice. The simple and profound theme that underscores *Legacy of Faith* comes from this Bible reading about proportionate giving and the blessing of sacrifice.

June 22, 2011

Hebrews 11:10

For Abraham was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

In the Middle Ages, Christians erected great cathedrals in order to express God's greatness. They took decades to build. A grandfather might lay the foundation of a cathedral in which his grandson would paint the finishing touches. In the process, the workers would become so consumed with their particular assignment that the slow and meticulous work would dull their enthusiasm for the great house of God they were building.

As we continue the process of building our new Church, let's not forget why we are doing it. The facility is not for us. It's for the glory of God. It's so that adults, youth and children can be better equipped in their faith. It's so that lost people can encounter Christ through outreaches and believers can be swept up in worship.

Then together we can look forward to the city "whose architect and builder is God."

June 23, 2011

Genesis 12:1

The Lord had said to Abraham, "Leave your country, your people, and your father's household and go to the land I will show you."

The Christian life is a faith journey. It is begun by faith and lived by faith. This was certainly the case for Abraham. He walked the path of faith that God now asks us to follow. It wasn't an easy path, but God promised Abraham that if he undertook the difficulties of the journey, the destination would make the trip worthwhile.

St. Mary Church is currently on its own faith journey. Yes, we have built a new church to give us more space and room to grow...but more importantly, we're looking at the spiritual destination God is calling us to.

We want to be a Church where we, like Abraham, can hear the voice of God calling us to a life of faith.

May 31, 2011

Ephesians 6:18

With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To the end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones....

Because God knows our hearts and the Spirit knows God's heart, we should listen and be obedient to His directions. He only wants what is best for us and will direct us that very way through His work, through prayer, through circumstances, and through His Church. We can only know what He wants us to do if we are faithful in our prayers and requests. Let us be attentive to God, as we diligently seek His will for our parish.

If the Son of God required a night of prayer in order to discover the Father's mind, how long might it take us to determine what he wants for us?

June 1, 2011

Jeremiah 18:6

"Can I not do to you, house of Israel, as this potter has done?" says the Lord. Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand.

If God were trying to tell me something, would I know? If God were reassuring me or challenging me, would I notice? I ask for the grace to be free of my own preoccupations and open to what God may be saying to me. Lord, I so wish to prepare well for this time. I so want to make all of me ready and attentive and available to you. Please help me to clarify and purify my intentions. I have so many contradictory desires. I get preoccupied with things that don't really matter or last. I know that if I give you my heart, whatever I do will follow my new heart. In all that I am today, all that I try to do, all my encounters, reflections – even the frustrations and failings and especially in this time of prayer, in all of this may I place my life in your hands. Lord, I am yours. Make of me what you will. Amen.

June 2, 2011

II Corinthians 9:7

Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Are you a selfish giver or a selfless giver? We all give to others whether it is through our time, talents, or resources, but most of us tend to give with an ulterior motive rather than out of sheer love for the other person. In this passage, Paul says that the Lord is pleased when you are eager to bless the lives of others with what He has given you. Though giving requires sacrifice on our part, the eternal rewards for being obedient and placing others' needs above our own far surpass any inconvenience we may experience in the present.

June 3, 2011

Luke 6:38

...Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap.

One of the universal laws of nature is the law of cause and effect. Every cause has a corresponding effect. Thus it is that everything we say and do causes something in the world. Every action, feeling and mood has a corresponding effect. *Therefore, we are responsible for the quality of our lives.* We are producing causes all day long, each and every day, and the world can only produce a corresponding effect. Our attitude determines the quality of our life. Give negativity to the world, and the world will give negativity in return. Lavish positive actions upon the world, and that is what you shall receive in return. *"Give, and it will be given to you."*

June 20, 2011

II Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come.

What difference does "being in Christ" make? It makes a difference in our quality of life. As Paul wrote in Galatians 5:22-24, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

It makes a difference in how we serve one another. Each of us has an inborn tendency to live selfishly. But when we are in Christ, our priorities change.

It makes a difference in how we view our neighbors. They are not just the people who live near us, but they are people that God wants to live near Him.

As the Church, we want to experience the life-changing difference Christ makes and share that with others.

June 21, 2011

Luke 14:28

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?

If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. That's as true in the spiritual life as it is in business. For our plan to be successful, it must consist of three elements.

First, it must be for the glory of God. Too often what we are really interested in is our own plans.

Secondly, our plan must be specific and measurable. We cannot simply plan to develop a closer relationship with God – we must take a certain amount of time each day to pray to Him.

Finally, our plan must be achievable in faith. No one ever intentionally sets themselves up for failure. But a good plan is, with God's help, achievable. Not comfortable, mind you. God's plans involve faith that requires us to stretch beyond our known resources.

June 18, 2011

Hebrews 13:20-21

May the God of peace, who brought you up from the dead, the great shepherd of the sheep by the blood of the eternal covenant, Jesus our Lord, furnish you with all that is good, that you may do His will. May He carry out in you what is pleasing to Him through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever. Amen.

God wants to teach and equip us with all the things we need in order to walk side by side with Him in His work, so that we may also share in His joy. God is always trying to persuade us to surrender ourselves to Him instead of seeking our own directions for our life. He so lovingly and graciously shares with each one of us, all that He has. But it is our choice whether to receive and accept Him and His gifts for His glory and honor.

June 19, 2011

Genesis 17:7

The Lord said, I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

We rarely think about the legacy we inherit or the legacy we leave. It is easy to forget about those who have faithfully labored before us. We believe that the best days for our Church are still in front of us. God calls us as a Church to serve Him today in such a way that our children and their families will be able to serve Him tomorrow.

June 4, 2011

Mark 12:41-44

“He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, ‘Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.’”

We want to work towards living a life rich in the meaning of stewardship, being a living example of Jesus. Are we holding onto excess baggage that is working against us in achieving this goal? Do we weigh ourselves down by longing for more than we need or can afford? Does the desire for “bigger, better, more” crowd out the values of intimacy, communication and the giving of affection?

June 5, 2011

Psalm 37:5-6

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

As we commit ourselves to do things God’s way and not our own way, we draw closer and closer to Him. Also, we will come to realize that our relationship with Him brings more to our lives than anything this world has to offer and that God is our greatest happiness and pleasure.

Consequently we will find ourselves asking for the very things God desires. As we face this huge challenge for our parish, let us recognize God as Almighty, our Provider, and our Comforter. And through this campaign, let us come to know Him in dimensions that we have never known Him before.

June 6, 2011

Hebrews 11:6

...and without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Our Father is always waiting for us to seek Him and to call upon Him for our every need. When we truly believe and have faith that He hears us and is going to answer us, we can look for those answers.

There is a story of a man who walked the tight rope over Niagara Falls while the crowd shouted and cheered for him. He then asked them, "Who believes I can push this wheelbarrow across the rope?" and everyone cheered, so he did. Then he asked, "Who believes I can push the wheelbarrow across with a person in it?" and the crowd yelled and cheered. Then he asked "Who would volunteer to get into the wheelbarrow?" and the crowd became very silent. Is that like us? We say we believe but are we willing to step out on the rope? Is our faith alive? Do we believe that God can and will do mighty things through us?

June 7, 2011

Luke 22:41

He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, not My will, but Yours be done.

In this passage of the Holy Scripture, we see Jesus as He is praying to the Father, asking Him to guide and strengthen Him to do the Father's will. In a way, Jesus is saying, "Father, I don't want what I want, but I want what You want." How many times do we pray not wanting what we want, but what Our Heavenly Father wants? Let us seek God's will as we spend time in prayer before the Lord wanting only what is best for our parish. If you, as an earthly father or mother, want only what is the best for your child, just imagine how much more Our Heavenly Father wants that for us. Let us truly seek what the Father wants for us, as we unite ourselves in serving Him, building our future together.

June 16, 2011

Ephesians 3:20

He is able to accomplish immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to His power that is at work within us.

Anything of any significance that happens in our lives is only possible because of God's activity in us. He is, by far, much more interested in our lives than we could possibly imagine.

As we are about to embark on a new challenge, let us allow the Spirit of God to lead our every thought and action. May He bring us into a loving relationship with God so that we may share in the work of His desire for our church and our lives, and His power will be revealed through us. Let us have such a loving passion for Him and His kingdom that we will share it with everyone in our community and beyond.

June 17, 2011

Romans 12:11-12

Never be lacking zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

Lord, all we need to do is look at Your creation to renew our faith that all things work together for Your glory and our own benefit. Lord, You thought of every detail needed for all things to work in harmony. Let us not lose sight of the fact that You are in control. May we be joyful and hopeful in exalting Your name through continual praise and prayer. May we pray fervently for Your direction in everything we do.

June 14, 2011

Philippians 2:13

For God is the One who, for His good purpose, works in you both to desire and work.

When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, God makes us into a new creation. He wants to continually build new things in our lives as we walk with Him. He is always watching over us and looking for ways to bring good to our lives. He loves us and knows what is best for us in every circumstance, but we can only know what those things are if we truly have a close relationship with Him. We must surrender our wants and desires to His wants and His will. As we spend time in prayer, let us listen to Him with all our hearts. And then, even more importantly, let us be obedient in joining Him in the ways He instructs us.

June 15, 2011

Hebrews 10:36

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.

As Christians, our lives are not merely wishful thinking. We can be confident in what we expect. On the contrary, anyone who is without Christ just wishes things were different and wishes they knew something or someone who could change their situations.

We as Christians are personally related to the Lord of the Universe and He is over every circumstance in our lives. We can be confident that He is always there wanting to work through us and is always faithful to help us through whatever it is, no matter how big or hard it seems to us. Let us spend our time really seeking what He has planned for us and listen to what He wants to do through each one of us, not just today, but each and every day that He gives us here on earth.

June 8, 2011

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord...plans to give you hope and a future with all your heart.

These encouraging verses show us that we need to trust God with all of our life and everything that touches us. We can only see today, but God can see our future. If we ask for guidance and His will for our lives, for our families, and for our parish with all of our heart, He will always steer us toward His good and perfect plan. Lord, help us to always seek You with all our heart.

June 9, 2011

Psalm 80:3

Restore us, God, make your face shine upon us.

In our times of struggles and decisions, we can always turn to You, O Lord. You restore us through Your Word and through the awesome privilege of conversing with You through prayer. Guide us and strengthen us as we seek Your will in the months ahead. We are striving to do what is pleasing to You and to make the best use of the many blessings You continue to bestow upon us. We pray for this, in Your Precious Son's name. Amen.

June 10, 2011

Psalm 4:29

...You shall seek the Lord, your God; and you shall indeed find Him when you search after Him with your whole heart and your whole soul.

As we seek the Lord, may we seek Him with the same kind of love that He has for each of us. We know that God is always thinking about us, wanting to help us, wanting to guide and protect us from any harm. When we are faithful to His love by serving Him and keeping Him first in our lives, he assures us of the abundant life that He wants to give each one of us. Is our relationship with God our first priority? Do we see Him in everything we do? Do we allow Him to guide us in how we spend our time, money, and energy? Let us all love Him and seek Him just like the Son of God loved His Father.

June 11, 2011

II Chronicles 7:14-15

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face...Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.

As we come before the Lord, humbling ourselves, praying that He will guide and direct our every step, let us recognize God's majesty and His power. When we think of the Temple that Solomon built for the Lord, we recall Solomon's faith and vision. To receive the Lord's favor would mean preparing himself and the people so that God would find favor in them. They sang praises and they brought sacrificial gifts to the Lord. Let us prepare ourselves and bring gifts of love to Him, so that He may reveal His presence through us and that through our gifts and acts of love, there will be no doubt in anyone's mind Who is the Provider and the Giver of all.

June 12, 2011

Matthew 6:33-34

But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

While reading this Holy Gospel message, let us spend time in reflection and prayer. Then we must consider our motives in what we do for God every day. Are we selfless and generous in our relationships as well as in our responses to His guidance and inspirations? What great and mighty things God can do through us, if we will just allow Him to keep our focus on Him. As we follow Jesus, may we all spend time with Him, seeking Him, and striving to walk in the center of His divine will.

June 13, 2011

Acts 13:3

So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them...

Before Moses realized that he was called to deliver his people from the slavery of Egypt, he had to be trained and disciplined by the Hand of God because he was not the man that he finally became until he first learned communion with God through fasting and prayer. We, like Moses, must learn sometimes through fasting and prayer (or by whatever means God chooses to reveal to us) that our individual plans are sometimes not what they should be to do His work. Many times we have to give up our personal desires in order to learn what it means to become his instruments of blessings for our community. Psalm 25:9 says: "He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His ways."