

- “*When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?*”
- Today the theme of our readings focuses on prayer...  
communication...with the saints, with the angels, and far above all, with God Himself.
- In prayer we affirm both to God AND to ourselves: “*Yes, I believe*”, and “*Yes, I love God above all else; I believe in his omnipotence and goodness...and His promised adoption of those who follow His Son, Our Savior, Jesus Christ.*”
- In prayer—as in the Psalms—we ask, we complain, we intercede, we praise, and we thank God for all that he has given to us. Even our trials are for our spiritual benefit if we accept them in trust.
- And from prayer God gives us grace for stronger faith, strength in temptation, and endurance in hardships.
  
- In our first reading today, the Israelites began to lose their battle when Moses’ hands were weary and fell from prayer.
- Likewise, we begin to lose our battles with temptation when our hands drop away from prayer.
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- But people often ask: “*Why am I suffering this trial?*” Well...how much time do you spend with Our Lord? Not just “*Lord, I want this; give me that*” when we need something...but rather spending real quality time with Our Father and Our Savior...in church, or at home, or while walking, or wherever and whenever.
- Yes, we will still suffer trials and hardships even when faithful to prayer, but they become much more bearable...and even joyful...if we unite our sufferings with those of Christ...remembering how HE was poor...and hungry...and suffered rejection and loneliness and pain.
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- Sometimes people think that prayer makes them look “weak” or “unmanly”—especially young men. But how ridiculous is that?

- Countless popes and bishops, kings and presidents, generals and admirals, soldiers and scientists...and certainly all saints...have depended upon prayer. Were they weaker than you?
- Can a Christian become a saint without prayer? No; because prayer is devotion to God...and the Mass above all is the ultimate devotion and closeness to Him...because in it we receive God Himself in the Eucharist. We are joined with Him at Calvary.
- Does one become a physicist by avoiding physics, or a mathematician by avoiding mathematics? Then how can we get to know God more fully if we never spend time with Him and His Word?
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- Prayer is the lion tamer of our passions, and of the temptations that Satan gives through our imaginations...because through prayer comes God's grace and the helps of determination and strength to remain with Him in all things. Without prayer, we become almost helpless.
- Prayer is always effective, even if its effects are not immediately apparent—because in prayer you are affirming to God your faith and trust in Him.
- *“But Father...I ask for things all the time, but I don't get them. Why is that?”*
- Well...just as a parent may refuse something to a child because of parental wisdom, so does God at times refuse our requests.
- That is why in the Our Father—the perfect prayer of Jesus—we say: “THY will be done”...because if HIS will is done, all is well...regardless of what we might have to endure.
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- *“But my kids have left the Church and I beg that they return! Wouldn't that be good?”*
- Well, of course...but not by force. He never removes free will to choose Him...or not. Because without free will, there is no love.

Without free will, we become robots which might say “I love you”, but it would only because it is pre-programmed. Pre-recorded.

- Which is better—a world of robots playing a recording “I love you”, or one person who freely loves us through choice.
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- God does provide sufficient grace to all to come to Him, for St. Paul tells us that He wants all to be saved...
- ...but it’s the old “can lead a horse to water, but you can’t make him drink” scenario.
- But, parents...don’t flag in prayer, lest the trough be empty when your colts finally get thirsty enough to drink.
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- The prophet Isaiah: *“Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.” (Is 49:15)*
- *“Ask and you shall receive...”* ...not perhaps what you wanted, but what God knows you need.
- *“Seek and you shall find...”* ...not the easy way which you thought you deserved, but the harder way which would make you more deserving of Heaven.
- *“Knock, and it will be opened for you...”* ...not the door at which you were standing, which would have delayed, or even endangered, your progress...but rather the door down the road, where new courage and grace to continue your faith journey is awaiting.
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- Remembering Joshua’s exhortation to the Israelites as they crossed into the Promised Land, have the courage to say to the world: *“... if you be unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, [whether the false promises of wealth or power, drunkenness or drugs, or popularity with the world at the expense of faith] but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”* (Joshua 24:15 RSV)

- So...when the Lord comes, will He find faith on earth?
- Say to God and to the world: “*Yes! He will find it in me.*”

Reading 1

[Ex 17:8-13](#)

In those days, Amalek came and waged war against Israel.  
Moses, therefore, said to Joshua,  
"Pick out certain men,  
and tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle.  
I will be standing on top of the hill  
with the staff of God in my hand."  
So Joshua did as Moses told him:  
he engaged Amalek in battle  
after Moses had climbed to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur.  
As long as Moses kept his hands raised up,  
Israel had the better of the fight,  
but when he let his hands rest,  
Amalek had the better of the fight.  
Moses' hands, however, grew tired;  
so they put a rock in place for him to sit on.  
Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands,  
one on one side and one on the other,  
so that his hands remained steady till sunset.  
And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people  
with the edge of the sword.

[Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8](#)

Responsorial Psalm

**R. (cf. 2) Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes toward the mountains;  
whence shall help come to me?

My help is from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

**R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

May he not suffer your foot to slip;  
may he slumber not who guards you:  
indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps,  
the guardian of Israel.

**R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The LORD is your guardian; the LORD is your shade;  
he is beside you at your right hand.

The sun shall not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.

**R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

The LORD will guard you from all evil;  
he will guard your life.

The LORD will guard your coming and your going,  
both now and forever.

**R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

[2 Tm 3:14-4:2](#)

Reading 2

Beloved:

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed,  
because you know from whom you learned it,  
and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures,  
which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation  
through faith in Christ Jesus.

All Scripture is inspired by God  
and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction,  
and for training in righteousness,  
so that one who belongs to God may be competent,  
equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,  
who will judge the living and the dead,  
and by his appearing and his kingly power:  
proclaim the word;  
be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient;  
convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

[Lk 18:1-8](#)

Gospel

Jesus told his disciples a parable  
about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.  
He said, "There was a judge in a certain town  
who neither feared God nor respected any human being.  
And a widow in that town used to come to him and say,  
'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.'  
For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought,  
'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being,  
because this widow keeps bothering me  
I shall deliver a just decision for her  
lest she finally come and strike me.'"  
The Lord 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.  
But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"