When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

LUKE 18:8
NEW PARISHIONERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
Call or come to the Parish Center to register.

BAPTISMS: Dates for Baptism will be arranged after attending the Pre-Baptismal Catechesis. Please call Annette in the Parish Office for information.

MARRIAGES: Call Annette in the Parish Office to arrange preparation 6 months in advance.

SICK CALLS: Call Annette in the Parish Office and Ministers of Care will visit the sick or shut-in.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4:20-4:40PM in the Reconciliation Room.

FOOD PANTRY: Our pantry is open Wednesdays from 9AM-12PM. Call 630.393.2400 x 112.

FUNERALS: The Pastoral Staff works with families to plan the Funeral Mass.

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: Call Dwight Sherman at 630.393.3221 or 630.362.1324.

CRISIS PRAYER CHAIN: Contact Deacon Joe Urso at 630.853.2070 at joe.urso@outlook.com.

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Reflecting on God’s Word

My house shares a back yard with four college students. Ryan is one of them. Every morning the first thing Ryan does is go out the back door with a bagful of nuts and feed the squirrels. They hang out in our apple tree the way teenagers hang out around malls. One of the squirrels has become particularly bold and now waits expectantly for Ryan right at the back door. Lately the squirrel won’t go away, no matter the time of day, no matter who’s in the back yard. The squirrel just won’t leave, nuts or no nuts, people or no people. Because it’s become pesky, I now ignore the squirrel most of the time. Though Ryan doesn’t, I do. Nevertheless, the squirrel is slowly getting my attention. Over the course of my lifetime, God is getting my attention, too.

People tend to hear this week’s Gospel parable about the widow who keeps knocking on the judge’s door as a story about God who eventually gives in to the widow. I think it’s more a story about me eventually giving in to God. I hope God’s not offended by being compared to a squirrel, but God is much more like the squirrel (or the widow) than like the judge. God’s the one who does the pleading, it seems to me. While the parable seems to say, “Don’t lose heart; God will eventually hear and answer,” perhaps it’s really saying, “Don’t lose heart; God will not give up knocking on your door.”

—Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis

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LIVING GOD’S WORD:
The good news is that God refuses to lose heart with us, like the widowed woman who refuses to quit knocking. Neither will turn away and go home, not from the judge’s barred and silent door or from ours.

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PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

This workshop is for anyone who ministers to minors at St. Irene Parish.

The next workshop at St. Irene is Thursday, October 24th at 6:30PM in the ACL.

Registration for the classes can be found at www.virtusonline.org. Select Diocese of Joliet - St. Irene and then select the date to register.

Registration is required. If unable to do online, call Pamela at 630.393.2400 x 120.
The Prayer Shawl Ministry

This ministry makes and distributes shawls for people in need of comfort. Many blessings are prayed into each shawl before it is given. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted, affirmed, and their days made brighter by knowing they are being remembered and prayed for.

For more information about receiving a shawl, or to help knit/crochet shawls, contact Paula Peterson at ppeterson1085@gmail.com or 630.393.3989.

Join us at our next meeting on Thursday, October 24th at 7PM in the Parish Center.

Eucharistic Adoration

- Join us on Thursdays anytime between 7:30AM-8PM. Please sign up for a 1/2 hour or a 1 hour segment by calling Cathy Kott at 630.393.9543.

Although the hours of daylight are rapidly dwindling, many people would say that these October days bring the year’s most splendid weather. Americans are riders and joggers, not strollers, and so the pleasures of the season are often lost on us. This is not the case with many Jewish people, who observe an ancient rule in walking to synagogue on the Sabbath. On city streets and suburban sidewalks in many cities, we may notice around sunset the nicely dressed families walking and chatting on Friday afternoon. After a short prayer at dusk, the families stroll home again for a relaxing and festive meal. They return to synagogue in the morning, and then spend an afternoon in family leisure until three stars appear in the night sky and Sabbath ends.

Catholics, on the other hand, pile into the car and drive even a short distance to Mass; some even divide the family to participate at different hours. For Jews, the leisurely walk marks a dividing line between hectic life commitments and a day of abundant joy and enrichment. Before we became an automobile culture, Catholics embraced a similar pace, and in most places walked to church. These lovely days of fall invite us to tap into an old and life-giving tradition. If you live within a mile of your church, walk next week. If you must drive, park at a good distance and walk the rest of the way. Talk about your life, greet strangers, notice the crunch of leaves under your shoes. You may be surprised at how different Sunday Mass feels when it is framed by leisure!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.
Family Faith Formation
(Religious Education)
Classes meet on Tuesday, October 22 (Gr 1-6 in the classroom) 5:30-7PM and Wednesday, October 23 (Gr 7-8 in the ACL) 6:30-8PM. Parents meet their children on Tuesdays at 6:45PM in Church and Wednesdays at 7:45PM in the ACL.

Gospel Weekly Family Discussion:
Gospel of Luke 18:1-8 - Jesus tells a story of a judge who receives a request for a decision on a widow’s case. He initially ignores the request, but concedes when the widow persists in demanding a decision. Jesus assures his disciples that God is attentive to persistent prayers.

Question of the Week:
♦ What do you pray for?

Gospel Questions:
♦ What human rights have you most persistently defended?
♦ What does the persistent widow in Sunday’s Gospel teach us about how to pray?
♦ How do you ask God to help you?

Life Questions:
♦ For what do you most persistently pray?
♦ Who helps you?
♦ What is a question you like to ask?

Family Prayer:
♦ Lord, we will try harder to pray often. Show us how to be patient when we pray. Amen.

K of C “Share Your Soles”
2019 Fall Shoe Drive
Please donate your gently worn shoes to the Share Your Soles® charity from Saturday, October 26th until Sunday, December 1st (the period encompassing All Souls Day) during the Knight’s annual fall shoe drive. We will accept shoes of any type and size, for any type of weather. This includes athletic shoes, sandals, school shoes, boots, dress shoes, work shoes, slippers, etc. Be sure that the shoes are gently worn or new, are clean, and can withstand heavy wear. Please no holes or worn off bottoms. Collection bins will be located at the entryways to the church.

The ongoing drive is being conducted in memory of the late Robert Geary, founder of the Knight’s annual shoe drive. For information, contact Joseph D. Kubal at 630.983.6159 or email: jdrk4715@aol.com.

Reading I: Exodus 17:8-13
♦ God is with us, even when the going is tough.

Background: The Exodus story is part of the wilderness narrative. The Israelites had recently left Egypt and were on the way to Sinai through the desert wilderness. One of the difficulties they encountered was conflict with the Amalekites, a nomadic people who warred against anyone who encroached on their territory. As long as Moses prayed, Israel won the battle. With the help of the community, Moses was able to persevere in prayer.

Reading II: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
♦ Be faithful to what you have learned.

Background: The reading from Paul to Timothy confirms Timothy’s commission to leadership in the Church. The responsibilities are wide-ranging and the author warns Timothy of the difficulties of this job. Timothy’s greatest hardship is dealing with the opponents who are seen as rejecting all law and order in the Church while others seem to be set on binding the Church with rigorous laws and practices.

♦ Pray always and never lose heart.

Background: The point of today’s parable is perseverance in prayer. The story is aimed to bring comfort to the disciples as they await the coming of the Son of Man. The final sentence connects the delay of an answer to prayer to the delay of the coming of the Son of Man. Only those who continue to have faith will be able to persevere to the end.

Theme: Never stop praying. Have faith and never give up!

Question for Adults:
When you pray, what do you ask for most often? How do you know God gives you this request?

Question for Youth:
Jesus tells us that persistence will pay off, if we continue to pray to God. How and when do you pray? How could you grow in the ways that you pray?

Question for Children:
Jesus teaches us to trust God. How does God help you in your daily life?
Hand-Carved Olive Wood Gifts from the Holy Land

Proceeds benefit Catholic schools in the Holy Land

Did you know that 600 Christian families live in Bethlehem and are completely dependent on carving olive wood figurines for their livelihood? The recent clashes in the Middle East have stopped the tourism industry in Bethlehem, causing most of those families serious harm in earning their living and forcing many of them to leave their homeland. Emptying the land of Christ Christians can have tragic consequences on the Holy sites. Issam from “Star of Bethlehem Group” came to the United States with a mission to help those families by selling their beautiful religious handicrafts. The cost of goods goes to benefit the Christian carvers to keep them working in the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, the profit from sales goes directly to the needy Catholic schools and clinics in the Holy Land. Star of Bethlehem has been approved by many bishops and the Diocese of Jerusalem.

Please take a look at those beautiful artifacts October 26th & 27th.

Bridge Needs Volunteers

St. Irene will be adopting our 8th homeless family in November. In the past six years St. Irene has rescued seven homeless families and provided them with the tools to become self-sufficient. We now need a volunteer to join with three other committed parishioners to help guide our 8th family. Information about the mentoring opportunity may be found here: https://www.bridgecommunities.org/What-we-do/Transitional-Housing-Partners/Volunteer-Mentors.html.

Contact the Bridge Committee if you can help or want further information at quinndel@aol.com or 630.291.1393. Thank you.

As many of you know, St. Irene partners with Bridge Communities to support two families transitioning out of homelessness. One of our families needs clothing for the colder weather that is right around the corner. If you have cold weather clothing to donate such as pants, long sleeve shirts and pajamas in a boy's size 3T-4T or a girl's size 14, please contact us at vince1230@comcast.net or 630.393.4463 and ask for Vince.

Thank you in advance!

Join your friends on Saturday, November 9 from 6-9PM in the Activity Center

Have fun and help make Christmas special for some children! All parishioners are invited to help support children in need by enjoying a Pot Luck Dinner (main course provided—bring a dish to pass & BYOB) and “White Elephant” auction. This is a perfect time to REGIFT! Take that thoughtful, but unusual gift you got for your birthday, anniversary, Christmas etc., wrap it (so no one can tell what it is); then bring it to the auction. You then bid on any of the packages. Loads of fun and plenty of laughter.

All profits will go to help purchase Christmas Gifts for children in the WYFS LINK program. This event is being co-hosted by the Council of Catholic Women and the Ladies of Columbus. Questions or RSVP to suegosewehr@gmail.com or cakott1210@att.net.

Happenings Around Town & the Diocese

New Beginnings - New Beginnings is a weekly self-help support group for widowed, divorced, or those going through a divorce as we adjust to our new roles as singles again. We also have speakers to inspire us. Come hear Grammy winner Terry Abrahamson present his interactive Blues Blast on October 29th at 7:30PM at St. Raphael’s Church in Naperville. Join us any time every Tuesday night, 7:30PM (arrive 7PM). Besides having speakers, we have a rotating schedule of discussions. See more details and any schedule changes at http://www.newbeginnings-naperville.com.

Tree of Light Memorial Mass - This special Mass remembers infants lost through stillbirth, miscarriage, other pregnancy losses, and infant or early childhood death. All are welcome to attend this Mass, in remembrance of babies who have died. A special tree blessing ceremony, which precedes the Mass, will give families the opportunity to place a ribbon on a tree and light a candle to have their loss acknowledged and shared through a formal church service. Persons unable to attend who wish to have a baby remembered are asked to call 815.838.5334. Elizabeth Ministers will assist at this event. 2PM Tree-Blessing Ceremony preceding Mass. Reception following. Sunday, November 3rd at the Blanchette Catholic Center.
This Week’s Meetings

**Sunday, October 20**
- 10:10-45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 6:30-9p - High School Youth Group (ACL)

**Monday, October 21**
- 1-2:30p - Adult Education: Come Holy Spirit (ACL)
- 5-6p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
- 6:30-8:30p - Healing Horizons (ACL)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Education: Come Holy Spirit (Chapel)

**Tuesday, October 22**
- 3-5p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
- 5-7p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
- 5:30-7p - Elementary Religious Education (C, S)

**Wednesday, October 23**
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 3-5p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
- 5-6p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
- 6:30-8p - Jr. High Religious Education (S, AC)
- 7-8:30p - Adult Choir (C)

**Thursday, October 24**
- 3:00-4:30p - Volleyball Practice (ACU)
- 6:30-9p - Protecting God’s Children (ACL)
- 7-8p - Prayer Shawl Ministry (Parish Center)

**Friday, October 25**
- 12:15-3:30p - Band (ACL)
- 5:30-6:30p - Wedding Rehearsal (C)

**Saturday, October 26**

**Sunday, October 27**
- 10-10:45a - Children’s Liturgy of the Word (ACL)
- 11a-2p - Priesthood Sunday Luncheon (ACL)

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**All Saints/All Souls Day Celebration**

As part of our All Saints Day celebration we will distribute luminaries for you to decorate with the name of a loved one or a Saint that is special to you. Bring them back to one of the Masses (7AM - 12PM - 7PM) on All Saints Day, Friday, November 1st.

We will again have a special altar to commemorate the faithful departed. Please bring pictures or other special remembrances of your deceased loved ones and place them on the altar located in the narthex.

**Mass of Remembrance**

Please decorate a luminary for your deceased loved one and bring it to 5PM Mass on Saturday, November 2nd. They will be used to light the path to the church entrance. Names of deceased family members will be read during the prayer of the faithful. Luminaries are available in the narthex.

**Month of Remembrance:** The Book of Remembrance will be in the baptistry area throughout the month of November. All are invited to write the names of deceased family and friends in the book.

Friday, November 1st is the Feast of All Saints and a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 7AM, Noon & 7PM.
**Readings for the Week**

**Monday:**  
Rom 4:20-25; Lk 1:69-75;  
Lk 12:13-21

**Tuesday:**  
Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21;  
Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 12:35-38

**Wednesday:**  
Rom 6:12-18; Ps 124:1b-8;  
Lk 12:39-48

**Thursday:**  
Rom 6:19-23; Ps 1:1-4, 6;  
Lk 12:49-53

**Friday:**  
Rom 7:18-25a; Ps 119:66, 68, 76-77, 93-94; Lk 12:54-59

**Saturday:**  
Rom 8:1-11; Ps 24:1b-4ab, 5-6;  
Lk 13:1-9

**Sunday:**  
Sir 35:12-14, 16-18;  
Ps 34:2-3, 17-19, 23;  
2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14

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**Remember our Faithful Departed in your Prayers**

- Mackenzie Walsh
- Francis Walczak
- Larry LaDeur
- Father of Bob LaDeur

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**Liturgical Calendar**

**Monday, October 21**  
Weekday  
7:00AM - Rose Greenbusch/ Cathy Kott

**Tuesday, October 22**  
St. John Paul II  
7:00AM - For a Special Intention

**Wednesday, October 23**  
St. John of Capistrano  
7:00AM - Kazmierz Drewniak/ St. Irene Community

**Thursday, October 24**  
St. Anthony Mary Claret  
7:00AM - St. Irene Faith Community  
7:30AM - Eucharistic Adoration

**Friday, October 25**  
Weekday  
7:00AM - Kazmierz Drewniak/ St. Irene Community  
8:15AM - Jeanne Adler/ St. Irene Community

**Saturday, October 26**  
Vigil: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
2:30PM - Wedding Ceremony  
Kelsey O’Connor & Marc Ostrowski  
5:00PM - Robert Barth/ Joan Barth  
Jack Radicker/ Family

**Sunday, October 27**  
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
8:00AM - Don O’Connor/ Family  
John Martin/ Catherine Martin  
10:00AM - Priesthood Sunday  
John C. Martin/ 1st Anniversary  
Elsie Simon/ Family  
Joann Smith/ Bob & Karen Johanek  
11:30AM - Baptism Ceremony

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