

Pastor's Greetings,

Have you ever experienced difficulties in prayer or in the attempt to pray? I have and everyone I know has. From that perspective I was intrigued to find prayer described as "battle" in the Catechism. To pray is to wage a spiritual battle. The Catechism (Part IV, Ch. 3, Art. 2 [2725-2745]) is so helpful, clear, and important on this point that I am inclined to print it out here in full. But, since that would be impractical, I ask that you, please, find a copy of this text and read it. It answers so many questions people have about prayer. I will, however, offer some extracts, point out some of the striking insights, and summarize the catechism.

While prayer is a gift from God, it is also work on our part. Our inertia of self focus resists movement toward God. Grace makes this movement possible and fruitful, but we must consent and act on it. If prayer is a battle, against whom is it fought? It is waged within ourselves against our self-centeredness and it is waged against the Devil, the tempter that seeks to separate us from God. What do you make of this: "We pray as we live, because we live as we pray [2725]"? "If we do not want to act habitually according to the Spirit of Christ, neither can we pray habitually in his name."

The Catechism cites what it calls *erroneous notions of prayer*: that prayer is a mere psychological activity or technique for achieving some psychological goal (e.g., calming down); that it is a way of meditation or concentration to empty the mind; that it is mere verbal rituals and bodily postures; that it takes too much time; that it is primarily a human activity; that it is irrational and unscientific and thus pointless; that it is unproductive and thus useless; that its value is primarily aesthetic and sensual; that prayer is an escape from the world and activism in it. Prayer is none of these things. It then looks at the experience of disappointment in prayer.

Our battle has to confront what we experience as *failure in prayer*: discouragement during periods of dryness; sadness that, because we have "great possessions," we have not given all to the Lord; disappointment over not being heard according to our own will; wounded pride, stiffened by the indignity that is ours as sinners; our resistance to the idea that prayer is a free and unmerited gift; and so forth. The conclusion is always the same: what good does it do to pray? To overcome these obstacles, we must battle to gain humility, trust, and perseverance [2728].

There follows a reflection on "**humble vigilance**," "**filial trust**," and loving "**perseverance**."

Humble vigilance overcomes distractions, by offering the burdened, jumbled heart to the Lord to be purified, choosing the Lord as the Master whom I will serve. In dryness it clings to Christ crucified in faith's darkness. When faith is tempted and weak or the person inattentive, humility recognizes that apart from Christ, we can do nothing, and asks trustingly for help.

Filial trust is challenged by the concern that its petition is not being heard. No one ever feels that one's prayer of praise or thanksgiving is not heard. But "we demand to see the results of our petitions" as if prayer is placing an order to be filled by God. "Transformation of the praying heart is the first response (of God) to our petition [2739]," praying in Jesus Christ (and he praying in us) for the Father's will, not our own, to be done. It is pride that declares that we know what is best for us and must inform God of it. Faith prays that God's will be done by us, in us, and for us. The heart of Christian petition is for the gift of the Holy Spirit, "who contains all gifts [2741]."

We are to pray without ceasing, persevering in love. To understand this requires a true conversion in our understanding of prayer. "Love opens our hearts to three enlightening and life giving facts of faith about prayer." "*It is always possible to pray*"—giving ourselves each moment into the hands of God. "*Prayer is a vital necessity*"—without the Spirit leading us, we fall back into sin, but welcoming the Spirit and affirming God's will each moment preserves us in life. "Prayer and *Christian life* are *inseparable*"—"for they concern the same love ... the same filial and loving conformity with the Father's plan of love." The prayer that is always possible, giving tone to one's consciousness and subconsciousness, is the intentional assent to the Father's will (known or unknown) in Christ and as sustained by the Holy Spirit. Christian prayer says "yes" to the Lord. In suffering, pain, or loss, it says "Amen." Even while asking for possible deliverance, it prays to serve the Lord under the conditions chosen by God. Christian prayer is conformed willingly to the prayer of Jesus Christ. The Spirit sustains us in the battle undertaken to be so conformed. That battle is won by Christ and is ours if we persevere in faith. This is the prayer of Gethsemane, but it is also the prayer of John 17 offered by Jesus when his "hour" had come at last. Amen. Fr. Richard

Anointing of the Sick will be at all the Masses next weekend, December 19th & 20th

"We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Monday, 12/21 beginning at 5PM. Please come help if possible."

Gospel Lk 3:10-18**Adults**

When have I felt most alive in the presence of God?

Children

When are some times that I felt God was near me? Was I happy

First Reconciliation. The following children celebrated First Reconciliation on December 6th: Camron Adkins, Cody Adkins, Kamyryn Arnold, Alyssa Beyke, Jaden Boarman, Nick Boarman, Joe Cecil, Caroline Clements, Hayden Dant, Andrew Edwards, Clay Clark, Jake Insko, Kendall Johnson, Elizabeth Keller, Emily Mezur, Andrew Payne, Kimberly Peyton, Emily Ramage, Haleigh Scott, Ryan Thomson, Cassidy Towery, and Carrie Weaver. Please remember them in prayer as they prepare for their First Communion on May 2, 2010.

Little Flowers Girls' Club is an organization for young Catholic girls. This club is open to all Catholic girls, from age 5-11 and will provide girls with opportunities to learn what it means to live out the Catholic faith as a young girl. The girls will read, share, and learn about the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Therese, saints of the Catholic Church, women in religious life, and their own mothers.

Blue Knights' Boys Club is a club for young Catholic boys. The program is designed for Catholic boys from age 5-11 and is based on developing in boys a devotion to St. Joseph, patron of the universal Church. The idea of the club is to establish Christian virtues and friendships while learning from the lives of saints, religious men, and their own fathers. The theme of the program is the "Armor of God." Each month, the boys will build a piece of their suit of armor.

BIRTHDAY PARTY for JESUS will be celebrated on Friday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. The party will consist of games, prizes, snacks, birthday cake. Families attending the party should bring a snack and/or 2-liter drink.

DECEMBER FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

December	13	Regular Session
	20	No Session
	27	No Session
January	3	Regular Session

RCIA SCHEDULE

December	16	Liturgy of the Word
	23	No Session
	30	No Session

December Saints/Feast Days

December	14	St. John of the Cross	25	Christmas	Holy Day of Obligation
	27	Holy Family			

2009 Christmas Raffle. Drawing will be held December 15th. Everyone is invited to take extra tickets to sell at work or to family & friends. Note that # 7 is not printed on our tickets due to a timing issue. Please tell the people who are interested to write NYE on their ticket stub. All money will go directly into our Capital Campaign for the Parish Center debt. Tickets will be available at the Parish Office and after each Mass until December 15th.

OCS Christmas Band Concert

Monday – December 14 7 pm at Blessed Mother Hall
Enjoy some Christmas spirit with a concert by the OCS bands.

**ST. PIUS X YOUTH MINISTRY
Youth Ministry Christmas Bash**

December 13th 5:30pm-7:45pm is the Youth Ministry Folksy and Fun Christmas Bash with Special Guest Ben Warrell Director of Gasper River Retreat Center and Catholic Youth Camp. The youth will enjoy food, fun, games, and folk dancing taught by Ben Warrell. We will also be having a Dirty Santa gift exchange. All youth and volunteers attending are asked to bring a \$5-\$10 wrapped gift for the Dirty Santa. There will also be a meal served so come hungry.

J-Mack-December 16th, 6:00pm-8:00pm-St. Pius X Parish Hall

Jeff McIntosh (J-Mack) is a Christian rapper/speaker from Indianapolis, Indiana. He will be at St. Pius X on December 16th 6:00pm-8:00pm. J-Mack uses hip-hop to reach youth and share the life of Christ, some would call him a rapvangelist. J-Mack will be giving a personal testimony on his life, and how he turned over it over to Christ. Did I forget to mention that J-Mack will be performing some of his awesome music. This event is open to the public. Invite your friends from other parishes, schools, & churches.

High School & Middle School Service Night

On **December 20th 5:00pm-7:30pm** both groups will be organizing gifts for the Giving Tree and making blankets for the Benedict Shelter. The people receiving gifts from the Giving Tree will be picking presents up between 6:30pm-7:30pm. When there is dead time there we will be social time till the gifts are gone. So come out and help the needy and have fun at the same time.

St. Benedict Shelter Activities

Mark your calendars for December 19th. I have scheduled both High School and Middle School to clean the St. Benedict Shelter for the homeless. The cleaning would be in the morning **10am-12am** dressed to clean.

Tie Blanket Program

The Youth Ministry is still collecting fleece material until December 13th. They will cut the material and tie it into blankets on December 20th. **For all information for St. Benedict Shelter contact Matt Hunt**

Confirmation 09-2010

The next mini-retreat is **today December 13th 2pm-4pm in the Parish Hall.** The theme of the Mini-Retreat is *Confirmation: Sealed with the Holy Spirit.*

TOB for Teens—Next Meeting is January 7th 6:30pm-8:30pm

Dead Theologians Society—(DTS)

The next DTS meeting will be **December 17th 6:30pm-8:30pm. DTS is for High School youth 9th-12th**
For information on all Youth Ministry events contact Matthew Hunt 270 684-4745 ext 206

"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers by what you say and do, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." I Timothy 4:12

St. Pius Giving Tree

Please return wrapped gifts by noon today, December 13th...remember to attach the ID tag to your gift for sorting purposes. Donations for International Family Support will be collected at all Masses this weekend.. Thank You for your support and generosity.



Mass Intentions - Dec. 14th-20th

14th-Mon.	8am	Mary Hamilton
15th-Tue.	8am	Herbert & Audeline Johnson (Liv. & Dec.)
16th-Wed.	8am	Kenny Farris
17th-Thur.	8am	Catherine Calhoun
18th-Fri	8am	Martha Zoglmann, Birthday
19th-Sat	5pm	Boots Crowe
20th-Sun.	8am	Kenneth Hagan
	11am	Helen Harris
	8pm	Parish Family

Vocation Crucifix-December 19th & 20th

5:00pm	Roger & Mariam Jones
8:00am	Al & Jane Johnson
11:00am	Volunteers

Scrip Schedule- Dec. 19th & 20th

- 5pm**-Randy & Annette Blincoe
Steve & Sharon Clark
- 8am**-Joan Hayden
Madison & Amy Silvert
- 11am**- Gerald & Bonnie Castlen
John & Kim Boarman

God's Housekeepers: -Dec. 14th-19

Gerald & Betty Haynes, Tom & Carol Payne, Mary Morris, Chantay Swaim, Nick & Carolyn Howard

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

There will be a New Year's Eve Dance at our Parish Hall on Thursday, December 31, 2009. **NEW YEAR'S EVE TICKETS ARE GOING FAST --- THERE IS A LIMIT OF 150 TICKETS TO BE SOLD, ONCE THESE ARE GONE THERE WILL NOT BE ANYMORE SOLD. SO PLEASE GET YOUR TICKETS SOON .**

Food and drinks will be supplied. Doors will open @ 7:30PM, Music begins @ 8:30 until 12:30 and the doors will close @ 1:30AM. Must be 21 years of age or older. The price of the tickets are \$45/couple and \$25/single. We hope that everyone will come and join the fun. All proceeds will go towards the Capital Campaign. If you have any questions, you may contact Jeff Jones, Jerry Wells, Gail Ray or Roger & Dottie Kirk, Tracy & Cindy Christian.



- John Morris, Father to Danny Morris
- Hubert Beyke, Father to Barbara Fullenwider &
Grandfather to Jerrod Beyke
- Helen Harris, Grandmother to Dan Harris
- Betty Pedley, Mother to Beverly Estes &
Tim Pedley

Titling's-December 6th, 2009

Goal.....	13,360.00
Actual.....	14,557.79
Parish Relief.....	790.00
Children's Collection.....	2.40
Holyday.....	35.00
St. Vincent de Paul.....	100.00



Capital Campaign

Goal.....	\$3,000.00
Actual.....	4,240.33

Stewardship: Third Sunday of Advent

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

End of Year Contributions: December 27 will be the last Sunday in 2009. For those of you who wish to have contributions posted to 2009 for tax purposes, donations must be received by December 31. Thank you for your continued support to the parish in time, talent and treasure.

Children's Choir Practice will be on Monday's @. 6:30pm in Church. All children in grades K-8 are invited to come & sing. Practice will last 45minutes to 1 hour. Call Mary Lou or Amanda Storm at 264-9640.

"GRACIAS"

Thank you so much to everybody who participated in the Guadalupe Novena and celebration. Particular thanks to all the people who came to pray the novena. Thanks also to all the people who collaborated in the preparation of the events: Liturgy Committee (Carol Schlachter, Charlotte Hedges, Tracy Penrod); Beth Clemens and the Hospitality Committee; Brennan Long; all the guest speakers; Mary Edgell; Matt Hunt and the Youth Group and the benefactors who provided us with refreshments, snacks, the pinata and the flowers. May Christ our Lord, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, grant you abundant blessings.

Precious Blood Catholic Church is presenting a program of Christmas Music with the Church Choir and the Hand Bell Choir on Sunday, December 20 at 6pm at the Church 3306 Fenmore. Please come and join us as we all prepare for Christmas and the Birth of Our Lord. It is Free and Open to the Public

Praying Hands Prayer Chain-Call 929-4914, 281-4729 or 686-8098, dgfas@earthlink.net Becky Howard, Donna & Henry Head, Louise Miles, Richard Horn, Charles Aud, Chann Harris, Mary Coy, Pat Yeckering, Christina Downing, Linda McKinney, Donna Powers, James Martin, Billy Brackett, Mandy Lloyd, Johnnie Muncey, Robin Spinks, Kenneth Wright, Dalton Smiley, Susan Sweat, Barbara Alvey, Cody Cox, Mike Murphy, Tony Hamilton, Debra Morse, Billie Quisiberry, Dale Greenwell, Wendy Phelps, Laura Donahue, Aline Garrett, Pam Kehr, Mary Collins, Ann & James Wood, Roger Warren, Barbara Stites, Terrence Miller, Joseph Boehman, Morgan Young, Lukas Hall, Robert Massie, Shelia Phillips, Robert Newton, Nancy Bickett, David Baker, Scott Carter, Sharon Clary, Marsha Bradley, Edward Dowdy, Marvin Morris, Brigit Jones, Allen Payne, Brian King, Carol & Gerald Head, Glenn Grigsley, Louis Payne, James Cummins, Ethel Larossa, Becky Cook, Anna Clements, Becky Smith, Sue Willet, Kim Burcham, Deanna Wright, Tracy Blair, Norbert Smith, Jr., Larry Elliott, Paul M. Smith, Jo Ann Kimmel, Jane Smith, Dicki Konkright, Eleanor Richey, Theresa Wilkerson, Mary Hoover, Larry & Martha Stites, Preston Chappell, Dylan Evans, Janet Shartung, Jason Chambers, Lori Stanley, Eugenia Shultz, Gina Board, Easton Pedley, Christine Mulligan, Ray Riley, Mike Marsh, Jerry Clark, Anthony Clark, Laura Zapytowski, Bernice Bertke, James Barnett, Emily Storm, Harlan Best, Cayden Browning, Carol Atwell, Tom Franey, Deborah Watts, Joseph Roach, Mary Jo Jones, Kristi Rehrauer, Lauren Girten, Pamala Chapman, Mrs. Estella Ubelor, Sharri Browning, David Leach, Todd Melton, Helen McCarty, Blake Midkiffs, Kathleen Kirk, Amy Cox, Barbara Coomes, Barbara Carrico, Vicki Troutman, Joe McCrystal, Brooklyn Kessenger, Debby Stallings, Christina Booth, Brian Martin, Herbert Johnson, Tara Phelps, David Vanover, Rhonda Williams, Tim & Zoila Davis, Frank Jones, Jr. Jan Mulligan, Kathleen Wettstain, Erika Vandiver, Ron Thomas, Neil Devine, Lisa Russellburg, Kelly Hedges, Judy Byrer, Earl Cecil, Shane Isbill, Agnes Powers, Megan Boarman, Ryan Wahnsiedler, J.C & Jeanette Mayfield, Margaret Fischer, Joe Raley, Mary Ellen Clark, Morgan Nave, Don Nonweiler, Vince Millay, Sue Leeper, Nichole Gowen, Terra Stone, Melissa Manning.

Military Prayer List: 1 SG. David Bernosky, Ft. Dix, New Jersey, L/CPL Jimmy Wolter, Afghanistan, Airman David M. Smith, T. Sgt. Kevin Payne, SGT John R. Zarembo, Veterans Hospital-Richmond, Virginia, LTC Jason Jones, SGT Jesse Turner, Afghanistan, Sgt. Robert Timothy Wells-Afghanistan, Airman Kaleb Hedden—Iraq.

December 19th

5:00pm

Euch. Carol Schlachter/B-1, Father/B-2, Jim Fleischmann/B-3, Kathy Clary /B-4, Wilsie Ward/Bal-B,
Gifts Dennis & Donna Zoglmann
Lectors Karen Wells, Steve Hollman
Greeters Beverly Aud/D-1, Jane Strehl/D-2, Ron & Debbie Payne/D-3,& 4
Servers Emily Storm, Brian Storm
Ushers Steve Hollman, Tom Fogle Randy Blincoe, Jeff Fulkerson

December 20th 8:00am

Euch. Linda Calhoun/Capt.B-1, Father/B-2, David Fleischmann/B-3, Charlie Moore/B-4, Paula Annin/Bal-B,
Gifts Joe & Jeff Rhinerson
Lectors Tom Conrey, Russell Payne
Greeters Cathy & Andrea Williams/D-1&2, Dan & Barbara Durbin/D-3 & 4
Servers Nathan Mills, David Hayden
Ushers Danny Morris, Joe Rhinerson Jerry Wells, David Goetz

December 20th 11:00am

Euch Kathy Edge/Capt.B-1, Father/B-2, Lydia Stallings/B-3, Karen Payne/B-4, Suzann Millay/Bal-B,
Gifts Bill & Martha Zoglmann
Lectors Mark & Donna Howard
Greeters David & Pat Jones/D-1&2, Jeff & Michelle Jones Family/D-3,& 4
Servers Colton & Kelby & Kennedy Roberts
Ushers Wayne Zoglmann, David Zoglmann Joe Knott, Dale Murphy

Musician's Schedule—Dec. 19th & 20th

5:00pm Tracie & Becky
 8:00am Paula & Sarah
 11:00am Tracie

Advent Penance Services

Sun. Dec. 13 St. Mary of the Woods, Whitesville 3pm
 Mon. Dec. 14 Sts. Joe and Paul 6:00
Tues. Dec. 15 St. Pius X 6:00
 Wed. Dec. 16 St. William, Knottsville 6:00
 Sun. Dec. 20 Blessed Mother, Owensboro 2:00
 Mon. Dec. 21 St. Lawrence, Knottsville 6:00

Readings for the Week—Dec. 14th– 20th, 2009

Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; (Ps) Is 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7;
Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2,9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8,18,21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2,8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3,15-16,18-19;
Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Principal

Christ the King School, located in Madisonville, KY is seeking a Principal. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic, have Master's Degree, have Principal's Certification, or be eligible for Principal's Certification for the 2010-2011 school year. Position requires a minimum of four years teaching experience. Successful candidate will assume Principal position at beginning of 2010 school year. Salary and Benefits based on Diocese of Western Kentucky guidelines. Send resume to henning825@newwavecomm.net by April 1, 2010.

2009 Christmas Outreach to the Daviess County

Detention Center—Plans are underway to prepare 750 small white paper sacks of candy, fruit, Christmas cards, and holy cards for delivery to inmates and staff at the detention center. Donations of wrapped candies (NO GUM) will be gladly accepted. Volunteers are needed and welcome to assist with assembling the bags and with their delivery to the jail Saturday, December 19th, 9:00am, in the SPX parish hall. We had a tremendous turnout last year for a truly blessed event. The Christmas cards are being prepared by children at OCS K-3, 4-6, and Middle School. Would you like to help?

Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are now living more like roommates. Retrouvaille teaches couples how to survive times like these in their marriages. This program has helped couples experiencing any level of difficulty from disillusionment to deep misery. For confidential information or to register for the January program on Jan.15-17 call 270-683-1545 or email: sherryvincent@insightbb.com or www.retrouvaille.org.

Be among the first to know when a new bishop is named for the Diocese of Owensboro. Visit the diocesan website www.rcdok and sign up to receive an email notification.