

The Attitude and Faith of Humble Servants

What's the difference between a believer and an atheist? What separates one who is indifferent to religion from a fervently religious person? Faith! To believe is no small thing and a tremendous gift. "Father, you are lucky you have faith!" an atheist friend once said to me.

"I have tried often, but I just can't bring myself to believe."

We are indeed lucky, because having faith in Jesus opens us to heaven, to life after death, to finding hope and sense in suffering. Faith allows us to trust something bigger than ourselves and to be at peace even when all around us is crazy. Faith and acceptance is the difference between deep, interior harmony and a radical frustration.

We have received everything from God, which is why Jesus invites us to have the attitude of humble servants. He uses an example that's clear to his listeners: a servant works hard all day, comes home, and prepares and serves dinner. In so doing, he is merely performing his job. Jesus isn't endorsing the insensitive nature of the master but offering a model in the humble service of the domestic helper

who faithfully fulfills his position. Since he receives everything from the master, he can only be grateful for the chance to work. Such is our position before God. We have no place being proud or demanding before God since all we have is from him: life, family, health, our talents.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Picture: *The Water of Life Discourse*, 1600s-1700s
Artist: Angelika Kauffmann
Source: Wikipedia

For Reflection

Am I humble enough to recognize my position before God, as his beloved child, but also his servant?

How can I live with greater faith in him and charity toward those who offer me their service?

[Jesus said,] "Is [the master] grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you."

Luke 17:9-10

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

The months of October is the transition time between Summer and Autumn, the weather will change a bit between hot and warm then cold and colder...In the Catholic Church, we name October is the month of "OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY". We promote this month in a very special way to honor our Mother Mary.

I would like to borrow the ideas from the words of Fr. Zozo Zovko from Medugorje to strive capturing the meaning of the month of Rosary: "

Jesus says: " Blessed are those lips and those streets where the "Hail Mary" is pronounced. You must not refuse this act of reverential love for the perfect Mother we have in Heaven. "Hail Mary". It is a greeting which cleanses the lips and the heart. It is like approaching a fount of angelical light and an oasis of lilies in bloom. Hail, the Angels's word which it is granted to you to say to greet the One whom The Three Eternal persons greet with love, the saving invocation. Keep it on your lips constantly. But not as a machine-like movement from which the soul is excluded, but as a movement of the spirit, who bows before Mary's royalty and reaches towards her heart as a Mother.

Remember, everything is possible for the Mercy of God and the power of Mary, but why risk eternal life by waiting to obtain the good will of repentance at the hour of our death? Wouldn't it be good – since you don't know when your being called to my gates will occur – to be true friends of Mary throughout life and thus have a guarantee of salvation."

Mary says: "At each "Hail Mary" which a loving soul says with love and faith, I let a grace fall. Where? Everywhere: upon the just, to make them juster; upon sinners, to bring them to repentance. How many! How many graces rain down through the "Hail Mary" of the Rosary! A Rosary prayed properly is: a shower of Roses upon the world. All of the Roses are powerful in graces through the merits of my Jesus. For they are His infinite merits, which give value to all prayer. I stew them, but He confirms them! I carry out only the gesture of giving, but He, He alone, is the inexhaustible fount of all graces!"

As Azariah says: "Hail, Mary, Mother God-Bearer, bearing the Eternal First-Born, merciful Mother of Mankind, washed in your tears and in the Blood which is your blood. Hail, Mary, Pearl of Heaven, Starlight, gentle Beauty, Peace of God. Hail, Mary, Women blessed among all women, living love, made by Love, spouse to Love, Mother of Love. Heaven is delirious with love in contemplating Mary. Its song increases to the point of incomparable notes. No mortal, no matter how holy, can understand what Mary is for all Heaven.

All things have been made for the Word, But all the greatest works have also been done by Eternal Love in Mary and for Mary. For He who is powerful loved and loves Her limitlessly. And the Power of God remains in her hands of most pure Lily so as to be strewn over those who recourse to Her."

My brothers and sisters, I would like to invite you all to pray Rosary during this month. May our Mother Mary take us to her Son Jesus to whom we always find hope, joy, peace and holiness.

With the love of Mary, we stand,
Fr. Thuong Hoai Nguyen

Mass for the Intentions *for the Week*

	Intention	Requested by
Saturday, Oct. 5	5 p.m. Victoria Tannady-Thanksgiving	Victoria Tannady
Sunday, Oct. 6	8 a.m. Renaldo and Diane Marin †	Marin Family
	9:30 a.m. Ryan Price-Safe Assignment	Cherrie Marija
	11:30 a.m. Kee Tong Fok †	Tony & Anna Wong
	6 p.m. St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish
Monday, Oct. 7	8 a.m. Thanksgiving of Ana Prindle and Children for Blessings of Good Health	Ana Prindle and Children
Tuesday, Oct. 8	8 a.m. Josefina Co †	Hampton Family
Wednesday, Oct. 9	8 a.m. Betty Cooper †	Keller Family
Thursday, Oct. 10	8 a.m. Al Gabriel †	Engalla Family
Friday, Oct. 11	8 a.m. Judy Colunga-Birthday	Maria Lozano
Saturday, Oct. 12	8 a.m. St. John Parishioners	St. John Parish

Stewardship

Plate Collection, Sep. 29
 Envelopes \$ 1,783.00
 EFT, Weekly \$ 210.00
 Loose Collection \$ 2,060.06
 Parish Charities \$ 1,179.00, EFT \$272.00
 Next week's Second Collection is for Parish and School Development

Thank you for your generosity.

Senior Center, 6500 Gladys Ave

Oct. 8: Everyone's Welcome. Free Art and Crafts Classes. 12:30pm Lunch (\$5). Tracy (707) 400-8526.

Volunteers Needed

St John needs to build up its corps of Eucharistic Ministers - at Mass, Call Sharon Ewen, 510-412-9761. Or taking Communion to a home-bound family member, friend or fellow parishioner, Call Larry Mundy, 510-301-5027. Neither ministry is time-consuming and will bring you closer to the Lord in amazing ways.

St. John Class of '68 Reunion, Oct 26

Contact Laurie Gaeta. gaetalaurie1968@gmail.com

Prayers for Healing

Rodolfo Abesamis, Virginia Alday, Niani Barber Pearl & Patrick Batiste, Irene Blair, Robert Britto Dominador Caballero Gustavo Caceres and Friends Evelyn Canepa, Al Carlson, Brenna Clark, Jennette Cleadenger, Linda Crittendon, Cora Dongon, Mary Dong, Tami Duncan Juanita Estrellas, Eric Ewen Frank Gardner, Filomena Giese
 Mike Giovannini
 Joseph Golinveau, Victoria Gregorio, Andy Gutierrez, James Gutierrez, Ruben Gutierrez
 Maydelle Halligan, Joanne, Marvin & Maurice Haynes, Sherry Highlander, Tamaya Hunt Ann Jones, Avelina Juat, Tom Kennedy, Marija Limon, Bernice Lockett Marian & Michael Luoma, Mary Agnes, Nancy McVey, Cecilia Mendiola, Francis Mondragon, Judith Padilla, Theresa Parella, Angelina Patacsil, Pam Paun, Victoria Payless, Marlen Pineda and Friends, Wayne Price, Rose Anne, Fely Sabares, Bernadette Samson, Jovita Santos, Linda Schneider, Teresa Sevidal, Dimitri Smith, Salvador Tejero, Rose Texara, Pat Tilley, Isaac Tiongson, Joseph Vidal, Sarah Vidal, Evodio Walle Winston Williams, Jan Williamson



2019 Festival Raffle Prize Winners

Congratulations to Simaima Sekona, winner of the grand prize cash of \$1,500. Gift cards and package winners were: Vernon Harrell, Dante Sales, Richard Mank, Richard Keller, and Praxy Calbes.

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary (C)

When will I have given enough-of my income, of my time, of my talents? Today's Gospel suggests that only total stewardship will do: "When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say, 'We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty.'"

This Week's Service Schedule

Sunday Readings: Hb 1:2-3, 2:2-4.
2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14. Lk 17:5-10
Monday Readings: Jon 1:1-2:2, 11. Lk 10:25-37.
Tuesday Readings: Jon 3:1-10. Lk 10:38-42.
Wednesday Readings: Jon 4:1-11. Lk 11:1-4
Thursday Readings: Mal 3:13-20b. Lk 11:5-13.
Friday Readings: Jl 1:13-15, 2:1-2. Lk 11:15-26.
Saturday Readings: Jl 4:12-21. Lk 11:27-28

Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Mon.-Sat., 8:30am. Fri., 9am at Church. Daily, 3pm, 9pm, and 10pm (Spanish) and Wed., 7:30pm (Spanish) at Chapel.

24-Hour Eucharistic Adoration.

Daily at the Chapel.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena.

Weds, 8:30am at Church and 6pm at the Chapel.

Liturgy of the Hours. Mon.- Fri., 7:40am.

Confessions. Sat., 4pm. Or call 9am-3pm, Mon.-Fri.

Holy Infant of Prague Novena.

Thu. at 8:30am at Church.

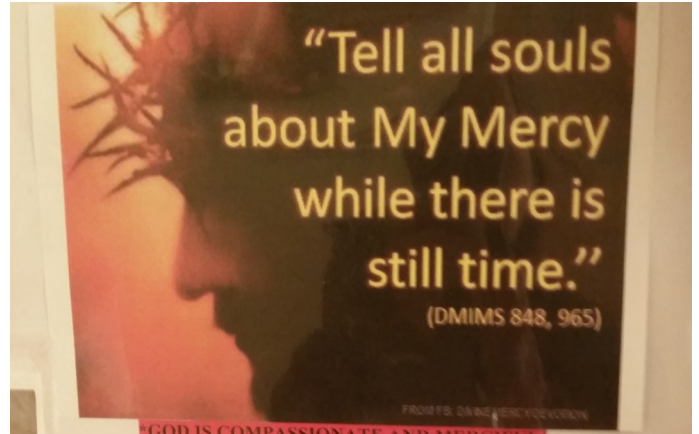
Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Fri., 6pm at the Chapel.

Mass and Procession of Our Lady of Fatima.

Sat., 6:30pm.

Public Rosary. Sat., 12noon



The Annual Bishop's Appeal

Rebuild the Church. Make a pledge or donation to support the diverse programs of our diocese.

Safe Environment

Every volunteer and worker is required to register at virtusonline.org and complete the training on Protecting God's Children.

Divine Mercy Chapel

Oct. 5, Sat., 3pm. Prayer "Passion of the Church."
Oct. 12, Sat., 12pm. Public Rosary in front of Chapel door. Lunch will be served.

Oct. 12, Sat., 6:30pm. Last procession of Our Lady of Fatima (with fresh roses and Mass in St. John Church).

All are Welcome.

YOUTH MINISTRY & CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN

If you are someone between the grades of 8th & 11th seeking the Sacrament for the Rite of Confirmation, registration is still open for our 2 year confirmation program. There is still time to register. Youth Ministry & Confirmation Classes are held every other Wednesday, starting Wednesday, October 9th, 7:00-8:30pm at the Community Center. Registration forms are available at the exits of the church as well as in the Rectory. Please contact Gina DeLaTorre, Youth Ministry/Confirmation Program Coordinator, her contact information is in the church bulletin.

Baptism Classes

For Parents and godparents every 1st and 2nd Sunday of the Month at 9:30am. Dcn. Loch, 510-837-1052.

Calls for Help & Hope

The Contra Costa Crisis Center has provided a lifeline of help and hope for 56 years.
Call 1-800-833-2900

October the Month of The Holy Rosary

You are invited to learn more about The Holy Rosary during the month of October. The priests will share the benefits of praying it as individuals, groups, and families during the homily. Each Sunday we will pray a different set of the mysteries using a series of videos with different visuals to help us focus on the mystery which is being prayed that week. Please bring your rosary to Mass and plan to spend about 20 minutes after Mass so we can pray the rosary as a parish. The first Sunday in October we will give a free inexpensive rosary to everyone whom ever participates all 4 weeks, will get a **free rosary case** at the end of the Masses, October 27 weekend.



The parish website has a lot of resources to help you pray the rosary as an individual and as a family.

Look at StJohnElCerrito.org/rosary.

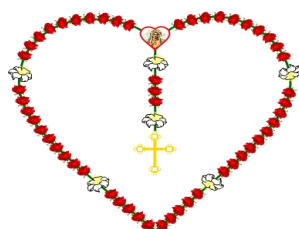
How to pray the rosary

October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. During this month all our homilies will focus on how and why we should all pray the rosary. We have put a lot of rosary related resource on the parish website. Just go to stjohnelcerrito.org/rosary and you can find them. This page is also on the menu under "Faith Formation."

This week at all our Masses we will focus on how someone prays the rosary. We are using a video to do this since it is impossible for someone to standup in a church full of people and try to show them how to pray it. On the parish website, this video and several additional videos explaining how to pray the rosary are available. If you look at all of them you will notice that different people use the beads differently and sometime use different prayers at the end. The important thing is to find your style and pray it often.



In addition to the videos there are several printable sheets that you can download to your own device or print off to take with you. They are there in multiple languages. Print one off if you need it.



We have also included links to audio files of people praying the rosary. These can be used online. They can even be downloaded to your music player so you can take the rosary with you when you are on the go. On this page we have include the rosary on the radio so you can pray it while driving or in the comfort of your home.

During the month, we will be adding additional pages to the website to support the homilies.