

Dear Padre,

Where does the tradition of praying with your hands together originate? I pray with my fingers intertwined. Is that acceptable?

According to the *Caeremoniale Episcoporum* (The Ceremonial of Bishops, 1985), “palms extended and joined together in the front of the breast, with the right thumb over the left in the form of a cross” (CE 107, n. 80) is the correct Catholic hand posture at Mass and prayer.

The origin of praying with hands folded is not known, but there’s mention of it in the Jewish Talmud. Historians have also asserted that it’s modeled on the practice of citizens in ancient Rome who joined their hands in the presence of rulers to communicate loyalty and submission to that higher authority.

Gestures and postures should allow our whole body to pray, as well as our heart and mind. Moreover, they are expressions of our faith. For example,

like the early Christians, we stand during prayer and worship to express our readiness for Christ’s return, and as a sign of reverence to hear the gospels. Kneeling and striking the breast are expressions of penitence, humility, and our lowliness before God.

Likewise, at Mass the priest assumes the ancient posture of outstretched arms and hands, slightly elevated, to symbolize surrender in a gesture that reverences Christ’s outstretched arms on the cross. When we join hands together in prayer, it’s a gesture of supplication and a symbol of total submission to God, our supreme authority.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



AFRICA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Today let us look at our hands, so often empty of love, and let us try to think of some free gift that we can give without expecting anything in return. That will please the Lord. And let us ask him: “Lord, let me rediscover the joy of giving.”

—EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018

Calendar

Monday
SEPTEMBER 28
Weekday
Jb 1:6–22
Lk 9:46–50

Tuesday
SEPTEMBER 29
Sts. Michael, Gabriel,
and Raphael,
Archangels
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14
or Rv 12:7–12a
Jn 1:47–51

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 30
St. Jerome,
Priest and
Doctor of the Church
Jb 9:1–12, 14–16
Lk 9:57–62

Thursday
OCTOBER 1
St. Thérèse of the
Child Jesus, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church
Jb 19:21–27
Lk 10:1–12

Friday
OCTOBER 2
Holy Guardian Angels
Jb 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5
Mt 18:1–5, 10

Saturday
OCTOBER 3
Weekday
Jb 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17
Lk 10:17–24

Sunday
OCTOBER 4
Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Is 5:1–7
Phil 4:6–9
Mt 21:33–43

Our Parish COMMUNITY

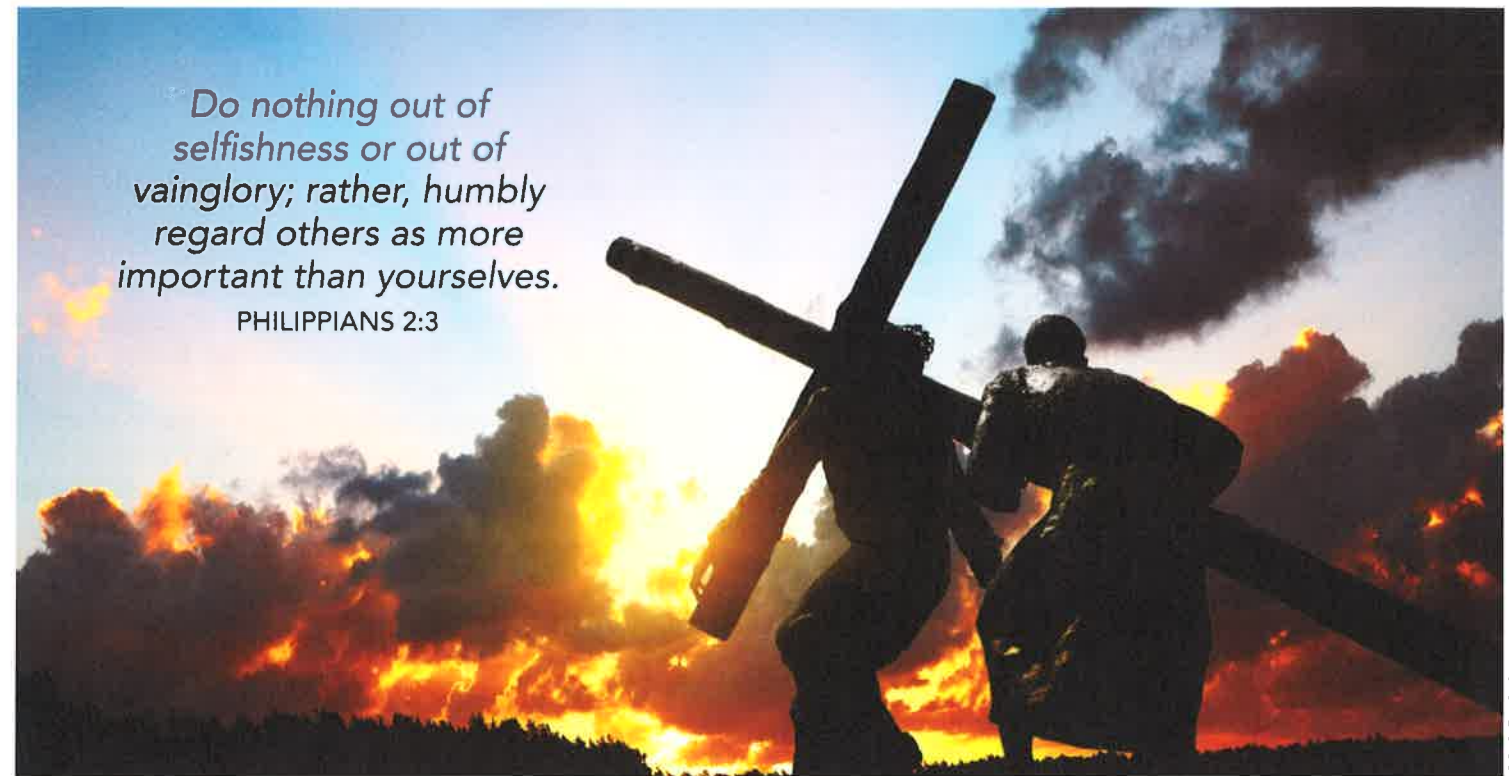
September 27, 2020

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ez 18:25–28

Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5

Mt 21:28–32



SHUTTERSTOCK

He Emptied Himself

In the Gospels, Jesus seldom teaches doctrine. Rather, the stories themselves provide examples of how we are to model our lives after him. He was a man for others, a compassionate healer, an understanding friend. As clear as such stories might be, because we can be selfish people, the example they offer us is difficult to follow. If it is hard to follow a man who lived a human life with others, how are we to follow the example sketched by Paul in today’s second reading?

Paul declares in Philippians: “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus” (2:5). What attitude is he talking about? Jesus emptied himself of the preeminence that was rightly his as possessing “equality with God” (2:6). He did not demand that they treat him with the reverence and veneration that was due him. Rather, “he emptied himself...he humbled himself” (2:7, 8).

Why does Paul insist on this? It seems the Philippians were having internal problems that were threatening their unity. Various forms of arrogance were tearing them apart: *Don’t you know who I am? I am a celebrity. I have more money. I know the right people. And who are you? Who do you know? What can you do?* These attitudes of arrogance infect our communities even today. To this Paul proclaims: If Jesus, who “though he was in the form of God” (2:6) could empty himself of such dignity for the sake of others, you certainly should be able to put aside your trivial vainglory and be “united in heart” (2:2).

Can we?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ In what circumstances does your arrogance raise its ugly head? What do you do about that?
- ✦ What might you do to strengthen the bonds of unity in your family? Your workplace? Your parish?



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smassh Catholics.org

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

Today's Scripture passages warn us that it is our final decision for or against God, that is, our choosing to obey Him gracefully by doing His will or our choosing to go against His will, which will decide our eternal reward or punishment. As free beings, we are the ones who choose our eternal destiny.

In the first reading, the Lord God, through His prophet, Ezekiel, corrects the Jewish beliefs that children inherit the guilt of their ancestors and are punished for their sins, and that God is more strict than merciful. God explains that His mercy overrules strict justice and that He will punish us only for our sins, not for the sins of our ancestors. Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 25) appeals to God's compassion and mercy, begging Him to wipe away our sins and extend mercy to us. The second reading, Paul's Letter to the Philippians, also affirms the truth that the final choice for God, made by perfect obedience to Him, will be rewarded. Paul emphasizes the fact that it is because of Christ's obedience to God's will in *emptying himself, taking human form* and humbling himself by accepting *even death on a cross* that God the Father *exalted Christ, bestowed on him the Name above every other name*, and made Jesus the recipient of universal adoration. In the parable in today's Gospel, a man with two sons tells both to go out to work in the vineyard. The first son says he won't go, but later regrets it and works. The second son says he will go but does not. In each case, it is the final decision that is more important. Jesus teaches through this short parable that repentant tax-collectors and prostitutes, represented by the first son who initially refused to go, will make their way into the Kingdom of God before the chief priests and the elders, represented by the second son in the parable. By their pride and their refusal to obey God's call to repentance, the scribes and the Pharisees are excluding themselves, while the tax-collectors and sinners whom they despised are repenting of their sins and will be accepted into God's Kingdom.

We need to do God's will every day: Each one of us is responsible to God for every one of our actions, and the just God will punish or reward each individual according to that person's actions. Since we are not sure about the moment of our death, our only guarantee of dying in God's friendship is to live in that friendship always, saying "Yes," to God by doing His will. It is never too late for us to repent, be converted, and allow the Holy Spirit to renew our life: If we have been disobedient to God in our past life, we need to knock at the door of God's mercy. God can, and will, do for us what, in his mercy, He, did for the repentant tax-collectors and harlots in the parable and in real life.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese

Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
09/28	Monday	No Mass Today		
09/29	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Ted Panas
09/30	Wednesday	6.30 PM	Religious Education (CCD) classes	
10/01	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	Marvin Pelster
10/02	Friday	11.00 AM	Bayard	Eucharistic Adoration & Mass
10/03	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Ted Panas
10/04	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Scott & Amy
10/04	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Ted Panas

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER:

MASS TIME

Tuesday — 6:00 PM

Sunday — 10.30 AM

Next Sunday: Half hour Eucharistic Adoration at 10.30 AM, followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$250.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$25.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 275.00
MASS STIPEND	\$10.00
TOTAL	\$ 285.00
BUILDING FUND	
HEAT/AC	\$50.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

We have started TMIY on September 10th. For now, we are meeting in person at the parish hall on every Thursday at 6 am. All safety precautions are employed. All men are welcome.

SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER:

MASS TIME

Friday — 6:00 PM

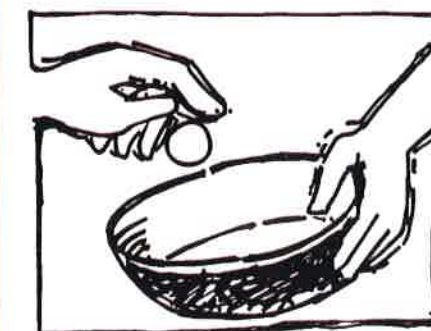
Sunday — 8.00 AM

Next Sunday: Half hour Eucharistic Adoration at 8.00 AM, followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$645.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	
SUBTOTAL	\$645.00
MASS STIPEND	\$30.00
TOTAL	\$ 675.00
BUILDING FUND	

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER:

MASS TIME

Thursday — 6:00 PM

Saturday — 5.30 PM

Next Saturday: Half hour Eucharistic Adoration at 5.30 PM, followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$865.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$16.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 881.00
MASS STIPEND	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$ 906.00
BUILDING FUND	
MISSION DONATION	\$686.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.

