

Dear Padre,

I recently had a spirited discussion with a Protestant friend regarding Romans 8:26. He believes his “perfected prayer of being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues” is addressed in that verse. What does the Church say about this verse?

Romans 8:26 says, “In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.”

I’d be careful not to interpret this passage too narrowly and limit its application only to the gift of speaking in tongues. In fact, its application is much broader and actually can be applied to all Christian prayer.

When it comes to praying effectively, all of us can use some extra help. We get that help from the Holy Spirit. Scripture scholar Joseph A. Fitzmayer, SJ, maintains that the Holy Spirit actually plays an active and dynamic role in helping Christians pray effectively by interceding on his or her behalf. In effect, the Holy Spirit expresses for us the inaudible prayers and groaning of our hearts, for which we have no words. So, when we pray, the Holy Spirit is actually present to us and makes up for what we are lacking in our prayer due to our own human weakness.

Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.

A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Let us try asking ourselves: Am I open to the action of the Holy Spirit?...This is a prayer we must pray every day: “Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.”

GENERAL AUDIENCE, MAY 15, 2013



Calendar

Monday
AUGUST 30
Weekday
1 Thes 4:13–18
Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday
AUGUST 31
Weekday
1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11
Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 1
Weekday
Col 1:1–8
Lk 4:38–44

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 2
Weekday
Col 1:9–14
Lk 5:1–11

Friday
SEPTEMBER 3
St. Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor
of the Church
Col 1:15–20
Lk 5:33–39

Saturday
SEPTEMBER 4
Weekday
Col 1:21–23
Lk 6:1–5

Sunday
SEPTEMBER 5
Twenty-third Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Is 35:4–7a
Jas 2:1–5
Mk 7:31–37

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 29, 2021

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Dt 4:1–2, 6–8

Jas 1:17–18, 21b–22, 27

Mk 7:1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Law Versus Values

That is a very difficult choice to place before people. Why can’t we choose both? Actually, that is the ideal.

Law is a legislated way that a group lives out a value. We value safe highways, and so we legislate traffic regulations, speed limits, and so forth. We value communal prayer, and so we devise liturgical calendars and worship ceremonies. Usually, the way we live out a value changes more frequently than the value itself. However, it often happens that people become so attached to a custom or law, though unfamiliar with the underlying value it embodies, that a change of custom becomes very disruptive. This certainly happened in the Church after the Second Vatican Council, which took place in the 1960s.

This seems to be the source of tension in today’s Gospel scene. Washing hands before eating was a ritual custom here, not just a hygienic one. It probably originated with priests who bloodied their hands while sacrificing animals. Eventually, ritual washing became one of the 613 customs that Pharisees expected every Jewish man to observe. Referred to as “a hedge around the law,” such customs served to ensure the law itself was protected and would not be broken. Jesus’ disciples did not observe this ritual, and so they were criticized.

Jesus immediately came to their defense. He did not disparage the value of appropriate ritual behavior. Rather, he accused his opponents of clinging to out-of-date practices while disregarding underlying values. Practices are external; values are internal. Laws and customs can change; fundamental principles and standards endure.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

★ Do you have a favorite religious practice? The rosary? Communal singing? What religious value does it reflect?

[Jesus said,]
“Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.”

MARK 7:15



SHUTTERSTOCK



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor:
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That Which is Within

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." [Mark 7:14-15](#)

Jesus speaks this passage after calling the Pharisees "hypocrites." He rebukes them for being obsessively concerned about the externals and failing to be attentive to the internals. Jesus makes it clear that evil comes from within and that the heart should be our true concern.

The thing that sparked Jesus' strong rebuke of the Pharisees was the fact that they criticized the disciples for not washing their hands and, thus, they ate their meal with "unclean hands." What's sad is that the Pharisees seem to make a huge deal about this fact. What this reveals is that the Pharisees seemed to think that holiness is something that you obtain by scrupulous external observance of the laws and customs of the times. But they failed to see the importance of what was within.

St. Teresa of Ávila has a couple of beautiful quotes that speak of the importance of that which is within. "Within you dwells your God. Enter within, look at Him, talk to Him, listen to Him and stay with Him in your heart." And, "Indeed, we have heaven within ourselves for the Lord of Heaven is there."

Jesus also points out the types of evil that come from within. "From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile" [Mark 7: 21-23](#).

So what's in your heart? When you spend time alone and quietly look at your life, what do you see? What is it that makes up your interior life?

Reflect, today, upon that which is within. Know that any sin in your heart must be acknowledged, confessed and purged. Only when that is done can you meet God who dwells within. Only then can you allow God to transform your exterior from His presence in your soul.

Lord, please do come into my heart. Set my heart on fire with love for You. Purge my heart of all sin and allow Your divine presence to shine forth for all to see. Jesus, I trust in You.

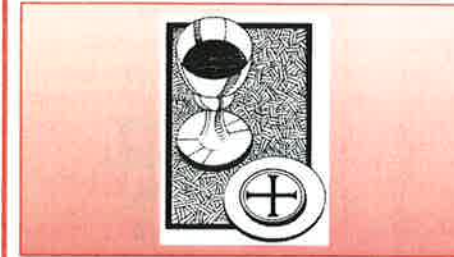
Reflections from "My Catholic Life"

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
8/30	Monday	No Mass Today		
8/31	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Bridgeport	Don Loxterkamp
9/1	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
9/2	Thursday	6:00 PM	Dalton	Wellbeing of Grandkids of RJ & Kate
9/3	Friday	12:00 Noon	Bayard	Ann & Ed
9/4	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Shane Ernest
9/5	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Ellen
9/5	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	For People of the Parish

ALL SOULS 617 P STREET BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MASS TIME
Tuesday – 6:00 PM
Sunday – 10:30 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$340.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$123.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 463.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 463.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3,815.00
BALANCE	\$2,231.00

- 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.
- Registration for religious education classes will be Sept. 15 at 6:30 for all grades, followed by their first class. A schedule will be given out that night. Contact Bev Sestak with questions.

SACRED HEART 1003 AVE B BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME
Friday – 12:00 NOON
Sunday – 8:00 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

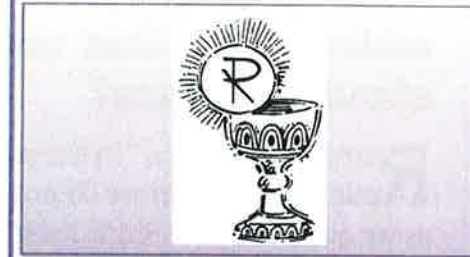
ADULTS	\$383.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$26.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 409.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 409.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$3,165.00
BALANCE	\$1,742.00

- 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

MASS TIME
Thursday – 6:00 PM
Saturday – 5:30 PM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$510.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$15.15
SUBTOTAL	\$ 525.15
MASS STIPEND	
FLOWERS	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$ 625.15
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$6,439.00
BALANCE	(\$303.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

