

14th Sunday of Ordinary Time Sunday, July 5, 2020 Gospel Reflection

The Gospel has two sections. In the *first*, Jesus has been speaking earlier of John the Baptist who is in prison. After speaking to John's disciples about Jesus' own person and mission, Jesus turns to those who consider themselves wise and learned namely the teachers and the Pharisees.

We hear a prayer or direct address from Jesus to his Father. It has the tone of gratitude for the mysterious ways God has been revealing true wisdom to these simple yet open hearts. They have not relied on logic, signs, or execution of laws to gain freedom of soul. They have been experiencing Jesus and his ways and the call to the ways of the Kingdom.

The *second section* is a heart-felt direct address to the followers of Jesus to keep learning his ways. The "yoke" which is the heaviness of the Law and especially the interpretations of the Pharisees, is being replaced by the gentleness and personal relationship offered by Jesus. This "yoke" of Jesus is personal as well as cultic or institutional. He was calling them and us to community (church) because love labors to us together. He calls to our need to be at peace and to let go of our inner-personal war-makings. He is telling us to be as gentle with our personal struggling selves as he himself is with us. He implies that if we learn of his gentleness and buy into that way of relating, then we will be more likely to call off the dogs, drop our defenses and regain our unity as members of His kingdom.

~ Fr. Larry Gillick, SJ ~

Loving Our Neighbor

Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus' name, he is present with us. So it may be a bit harder for us to handle the "social distancing" happening in many communities.

Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in our neighborhood community. How do we literally love our neighbor? How can we be witnesses on our streets?

One way is to regularly check in on your neighbors who may be vulnerable and isolated. Offer to deliver groceries or other items for them or to run other errands so they won't have to risk infection by leaving their home.

Be a positive, calming influence in any online neighborhood communities. Don't spread rumors or hysteria, but find ways to support each other through the crisis.

A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.

We place before you the disease present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Amen.

— *The author of this prayer is unknown, except to the Lord.*

To request a Mass Intention, please call the Parish Office at 415-664-8481 or email Jessica Montgomery at jessica_montgomery@stcecilia.com and provide the following information:

1. Name of person the Mass Intention is for and whether the person is living or deceased.
2. Your name or the name of the person offering the Mass Intention.
3. Your phone number.
4. Suggested \$10 offering per Mass Intention or \$5 offering for an unannounced Mass Intention. Checks are to be made payable to St. Cecilia Church.

If you would like a Mass card, please indicate if you want it mailed to you (by providing your address) or if you will be picking it up at the Parish Office. We will contact you when the Mass card is available for you to pick up. The Parish Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. We are close for lunch from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM.

Please send or drop of your donation to:

St. Cecilia Church

Attn: Jessica Montgomery

2555 17th Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94116

Thank You and God Bless!

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Andrew Pira** who has recently gone before us and offer our sympathy to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

This Week's Mass Intentions

Monday, July 6

Ida Gamba

James & Elizabeth Naughton

Andrew K. Kolchack, Living

Tuesday, July 7

Bob Von Esmarch

Luz & Edward Family

Justin & Brea Rosario, Living

Wednesday, July 8

Eileen Dickson

William A. Grange

Courtney King - Llamas

Thursday, July 9

Margaret Casey

Eileen Dickson

Archie & Julie Dean

Friday, July 10

Kathleen & Jack Fitzgerald

Larry Kavanagh

James & John O'Neill

Saturday, July 11

Ben Casey

Dan Walsh

Maria L.D. Medoza

Sunday, July 12

Wai Chun Lau

Dr. Edward & Anthony Erigero