“If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

(Luke 11:13)

What a wonderful promise! We don’t have to face life’s difficulties by ourselves. When we are confused, the Holy Spirit leads us with his guidance. When we are weak, the Holy Spirit upholds us with divine strength. These are all signs of God’s compassionate presence with us.

We’re not in control of our lives as much as we might like to be. Things don’t always turn out as we hope. We fail in some areas where we try so hard to succeed. These are painful situations that don’t sit well with our egos. And yet, there is a great blessing here. If we were always successful by ourselves, we wouldn’t be open to the joy of our partnership with God. It’s our weakness that opens us up to God’s power and love.

Thank you, Lord, for making use even of my weaknesses and failures.

Fr. Kenneth Grabner, C.S.C.
Living Faith, July, August, September 2016
Used with Permission
Liturgical Ministry Schedule—July 30-31, 2016

This schedule can also be accessed at St. John’s website—http://stjohns.creighton.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday 5:00 p.m.</th>
<th>Sunday 8:00 a.m.</th>
<th>Sunday 10:30 a.m.</th>
<th>Sunday 4:30 p.m.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRESIDER</td>
<td>Fr. Hamm, S.J.</td>
<td>Fr. Amidon, S.J.</td>
<td>Fr. O’Meara, S.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LITURGICAL ASSISTANT</td>
<td>Laraine Conway</td>
<td>Dick Cleary</td>
<td>Ann Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALTAR SERVER</td>
<td></td>
<td>Julie Nubel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LECTORS</td>
<td>Susan Recker</td>
<td>Dick Cleary</td>
<td>Craig Nigrelli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Gould</td>
<td>Sam Crowley</td>
<td>Anna Nubel</td>
<td>No Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRAYERS</td>
<td>Jane O’Brien</td>
<td>Sam Crowley</td>
<td>Jerry Stender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</td>
<td>R. Townley</td>
<td>D. Cleary</td>
<td>R. Grimit J. Stender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. A. Howick</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>J. &amp; F. Berg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Hansen</td>
<td>B. Austria</td>
<td>J. Chiacchere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Daly A. Gould</td>
<td></td>
<td>C. Nigrelli</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. A. Greene-Walsh</td>
<td></td>
<td>A. Lesiak</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. O’Brien</td>
<td></td>
<td>A. Nubel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Readings for the week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>7/24 Sunday</th>
<th>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</th>
<th>Gn 18:20-32</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/25 Monday</td>
<td>2 Cor 4:7-15</td>
<td>Mt 20:20-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/26 Tuesday</td>
<td>Jer 14:17-22</td>
<td>Mt 13:36-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/27 Wednesday</td>
<td>Jer 15:10, 16-21</td>
<td>Mt 13:44-46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/28 Thursday</td>
<td>Jer 18:1-6</td>
<td>Mt 13:47-53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/29 Friday</td>
<td>Jer 26:1-9</td>
<td>Jn 11:19-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/30 Saturday</td>
<td>Jer 26:11-16, 24</td>
<td>Mt 14:1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/31 Sunday</td>
<td>Solemnity of St. Ignatius</td>
<td>Jer 20:7-11a, 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


7:00 AM (Main Church)
- Monday: No Mass, Summer Break
- Tuesday: No Mass, Summer Break
- Wednesday: No Mass, Summer Break
- Thursday: No Mass, Summer Break
- Friday: No Mass, Summer Break
- Saturday: No Mass, Summer Break

12:00 Noon (Main Church)
- Monday: Elizabeth & Howard Schutz—deceased
- Tuesday: Daryl Nagel—deceased
- Wednesday: Fred Lorenz—deceased
- Thursday: Arlene Godek—deceased
- Friday: Katie McCarville—intention

5:00 PM (Fr. Halley Chapel, LSJ’s)
- Monday: Deceased members of the Thomassen Family
- Tuesday: Maria Louisa Sanchez Gaston—1 month anniversary of death
- Thursday: Friday

Weekly Offering Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Budget Goal</th>
<th>7,067.31</th>
<th>Annual Budget Goal</th>
<th>367,500.12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekend 7/16-17/2016</td>
<td>5,034.95</td>
<td>Fiscal Year-to-Date Goal</td>
<td>21,201.93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Above (below) weekly goal</td>
<td>(2032.36)</td>
<td>Amount Collected YTD</td>
<td>17,584.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above (Below) YTD Goal</td>
<td>(3,617.49)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A tradition of St. John’s Parish is to celebrate the Feast of St. Ignatius, patron saint of the Jesuits, with a parish picnic on the Saturday that falls closest to St. Ignatius Day, July 31. This year the picnic will be held on **Saturday, July 30**, in the Jesuit Gardens.

This invitation is extended to the entire St. John’s community and begins immediately following the Saturday 5:00 pm Mass. Hope to see you there!

In order to make sure the picnic is successful we need a full effort from the parish. The parish provides the hamburgers, sausages, hot dogs and drinks for the meal. Parishioners are asked to bring side dishes and desserts to share.

Sign-up sheets are available at the church entrances for those who are willing to help out. Questions may be directed to Mary Alice Howick 402-616-2877, or mary.howick@ops.org.

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**Update on Church Sound System**

Submitted by the Administration Commission

Fr. Snow, S.J., Kathleen Denne, and several members of the sound system sub-committee recently met with Midwest Sound & Lighting (MSL) to determine immediate and long-term solutions to the problems many congregants experience with St. John’s audio system, especially as they relate to the spoken portion of the Mass.

Sub-committee members at the meeting were Suzanne Braddock, Helen Wanken, Bill Jackson and Kelly McDonald.

After MSL shared background information on the current system and we discussed options for improvement, the following actions were approved:

- The consultants from MSL will review the current system settings to determine if there are any software upgrades or other system tweaks to help enhance the sound quality as we work together on long-term improvements.
- Fr. Snow, S.J. has approved replacing eight of the existing assisted listening devices and they are on order. Once they’ve arrived, we will move the new devices to the west entrance by the elevator for easier access.
- MSL will provide an estimate for three high-quality microphones: one each for the ambo, a portable headset for the celebrant, and a handheld mic for a concelebrant or other use. Assuming the estimate is approved, they will order the replacement microphones with planned implementation by late August/early September.
- MSL will also provide up to three estimates for a new sound system. The estimates will be evaluated by the Administration Commission and our recommendation will then be submitted to the Parish Council and Finance Committee for approval. Estimated timing for the estimate review and submission to Parish Council is September 2016.

Kelly McDonald

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**This Week at St. John’s Parish**

**Sunday, July 24:** 11:30 a.m. presentation, *Journey of Hope*, LSJ’s

**Thursday, July 28:** 6:00 p.m. Social Justice Committee meeting, LSJ’s

**Saturday, July 30:** After 5:00 p.m. Mass, St. John’s Parish Picnic

Our Summer Mass Schedule has begun. There will not be 7:00 a.m. Mass Monday—Saturday. Weekday Masses will be held at noon in the Main Church and at 5:00 p.m. in Fr. Halley Chapel, Lower St. John’s.

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**A Message from St. John’s Social Justice Committee**

In May 2015, the Nebraska legislature, with a bi-partisan super-majority, voted to end Nebraska’s death penalty. However, this November, Nebraska voters will decide in a referendum whether or not we retain this law. The death penalty is a difficult topic to discuss and we recognize the need for accountability, especially for grave crimes. At the same time, our criminal justice system must recognize the dignity of every person, and not close off hope and the possibility for redemption. Modern societies do not need the death penalty to keep the public safe and when we resort to killing, we are denying offenders the chance for reconciliation. As people of faith, we are called to embrace alternatives to the death penalty.

Please join us on July 24th, 11:30AM, in Lower St John’s to hear the powerful stories of Journey of Hope and learn more about the November referendum on the death penalty. **Opportunity for Voter Registration will be available.**

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**Temporary Closure of Con Agra Parking**

**Thursday, July 21**

**Friday, July 22**

**Monday—Friday, July 25—29**

If you are coming to daily mass on the above listed days and need Handicapped access to St. John’s please park in the visitors lot on 24th and Cass. Call Public Safety at 402-280-2104 and they will provide a ride for you to St. John’s Church.

If approaching the visitors lot and the gate arm is down, please proceed forward as there will be a person in the booth at the entrance to open the gate.

If there is any further closure of this lot, we will keep you posted. Thank you for your patience and understanding.
Last week’s First Reading was the story of three appearing to Abraham and eventually promising to Sarah that she, in her advanced age, would have a son. The story continues in today’s First Reading. After eating and visiting, Abraham accompanies them toward the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Two of the three well-fed visitors go ahead of Abraham who remains with the Third, Who turns out to be the Lord. God has been wondering whether Abraham should be told what God has in mind about the sinful condition of these two great, but terrible cities.

What we hear in these verses today is a little bit of bargaining between the two. God has decided to wipe out all the sinful citizens, even though not all have sinned. At that time of the history of Israel, there was such a sense of national identity and unity, that if one person sinned, then the whole people had sinned. This does change even in the Hebrew scriptures. Cf Jeremiah 5, 1

Abraham’s requests for mercy upon the people become a revelation of God’s mercy. For the sake of the possibility that there were “ten” righteous men, God walks away from divine wrath and Abraham returns home to begin his being the Father of Faith and of many nations. Would that we could successfully bargain with God and still be people of faith. It is very important to remember that in Genesis, God is being revealed slowly and still mysteriously. Many questions remained in the minds and hearts of the people of God about just Who God is and how do we relate with this being called, “The Lord”. Would we say that Abraham won God over by verbal seduction? Would we say that God is moved by our human condition or is God moving toward the human condition from within Divine eternal love?

Our Gospel text centers our reflection upon three letters, “A”, “S”, “K”: Asking, Seeking, and Knocking. The first asking is done by the apostles who would like Jesus to teach them to pray as John was teaching his followers. So Jesus gives them a five-part prayer in which there is imbedded some forms of asking. They and we are taught to acknowledge the holiness of God and then request something called “daily bread”. Now what do you believe he meant by that? Then we are to ask for our being forgiving and then freedom from the “final test” which, like any final exam, might make us worried.

Other than the opening recognition of God’s holiness, the whole prayer seems pretty centered on personal greed, self-centered peace-fulness and life-long security. The remainder of our reading are some homey examples which Jesus uses to explain how we should keep asking, seeking, and knocking and we will eventually receive, find, and have doors of God and life opened.

The last verse is mysterious, yet so important to our understanding of this asking prayer. For all that we request, what we will receive, find, and have revealed to us is the result of the Holy Spirit’s working out our salvation history. What exactly are we going to receive? What will we find? What is inside the doors which will be opened to our knocking?

The spirit of parental love gives, shares, and offers to the children of their hearts, what they believe is for the best good of that child. Jesus refers to this near the end of the reading. The loving Spirit of the God Who is more than father, offers through our lives, not what we desire at any one time. Here’s the hard part. God created us, we believe that. The work of the Holy Spirit is to give us experiences of contingency. Oh, we don’t like that very much. The word literally means, “Holding on together”. We Ask, Seek, and Knock because we want things for ourselves and others. Often what we ask for is something that would make God a bit less necessary and ourselves a bit more independent. The real gift from God is the deepening awareness of our being creatures, from which fact, we want to deny, flee, and lock out.

When we do receive, or find, or have things opened up and clarified, the always-accompanying gift has to be that within those very received things, will be the embedded need for even more. This built-in lack or longing is the real gift of the Holy Spirit which is always given. For this gift, most often, we would rather not Ask, Seek, or Knock.

We definitely love some aspects of our being creatures, but not all. This ever-present contingency is such a human feature. So for all the gratitude we can feel for God’s gifts as our response, there is an invitation to trust God’s parental love in what is not given, found, and or opened. The real asking in Christ’s way of praying is to receive more giftedly and gratefully our human creatureliness.

“O bless the Lord, my soul, and never forget all his benefits.”

Fr. Larry Gillick, S.J. 2013

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