



JUST A GUY IN THE PEW
THE NARROW ROAD.

JULY 2021 | PATIENCE

*In loving memory of Bill Platten.
A leader, a mentor, a friend.*



THE NARROW ROAD

THE EVERYDAY GUIDE FOR THE EVERYDAY GUY



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRACE

DAY	MORNING PRAYER	THE NARROW ROAD	DAILY MASS	CONFESSION	ADORATION	TIME WITH WIFE	TIME WITH KIDS	NIGHT PRAYER/ EXAMEN	SUNDAY MASS
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									

DAY	MORNING PRAYER	THE NARROW ROAD	DAILY MASS	CONFESSION	ADORATION	TIME WITH WIFE	TIME WITH KIDS	NIGHT PRAYER/ EXAMEN	SUNDAY MASS
16									
17									
18									
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31									


THE VIRTUE OF PATIENCE

Patience is a virtue. Everyone of us has heard this phrase at least a thousand times in our lives. The number of times we have heard it doesn't make it any less true, though. Patience is a virtue, and it is one that most men—including myself—often lack.

As men, we are doers. It is written in our DNA. We are meant to till the soil. We are meant to work. We want to skip the instructions and get to building. We want our wives to skip the long drawn-out story and get to the point. We want our food fast and our television without commercials. We want to shoot first and ask questions later. We have bought into the whole mentality of "got to stay busy every second of the day," and by doing so have allowed ourselves to succumb to the go-go-go culture of the world while forgetting how to slow down and enjoy life. Just think about it. How many times, while you are in the middle of doing something, are you already thinking about the 18 other things you have to do after you are done? How many times are you rushing through things in your life so you can move on to the rest of the items on your never-ending to-do list? The funny thing is, we rush through life thinking we will be able to fit more in when, in actuality, we receive less. Less time to grow in our spiritual lives. Less time with our wives. Less time with our kids. We wind up with fewer memories of the good things in life than we should have. Our days become one never-ending, crazy sprint that leads to life turning into one big, hazy blur.

When living this way, our lives become full of the worry, stress, and anxiety that comes from never slowing down. Those feelings are the fuel behind our impatience. We want to blow through everything so we can clear our plates and get out from under those feelings. It causes us to be short-tempered, worn out, and exhausted. When we feel those things, our patience wears thin. It wears thin with God when He doesn't answer our prayers quick enough for us. It wears thin with our wives because they can't make us feel better about all of it. It wears thin with our kids because we are so stressed out with our self-inflicted pace that all we hear is noise instead of the joyful sounds of children. We lose our patience with our neighbors because we simply don't have time for them. Waiting on anything becomes a never-ending trigger for our impatient minds. So, what do we do about it?

We take time to learn what patience truly is and what it should look like. We admit we are in need of the virtue of patience. That's where we start. That's the start of every solution. We have to admit there is a problem. Once we do that, we can see where impatience manifests in our lives, and we can begin to combat it with the virtue of patience. We can stop, pray, and ask God to help us grow in patience. We can look to see what Scripture and the saints who have gone before us have to say about it. St. Monica waited patiently for years for her son St. Augustine to return to the



faith. There are so many examples of patience to learn from. We can make becoming patient a priority in our lives. The only way to get rid of our impatience is by actively seeking to become patient. We need to spend time every day this month looking for opportunities to exercise patience. This is one of the greatest gifts we can allow ourselves to receive from God. When we start to practice patience, things slow down. Relationships begin to be nurtured again. We start to grow in our relationship with the Lord because we are now actively making time for Him. We find ourselves being more charitable with our time and words with our wives. We slow down enough to actually enjoy moments with our children. We begin to love our neighbors in the way that Christ has asked of us.

Guys, we have been on the merry-go-round long enough. The reign of our impatience is over. It's time to get off and smell the perennial roses. I'm not going to pretend it's going to be easy, but I can guarantee you it is going to be worth it.

**In Christ,
John**

VIRTUE PLAN FOR THE MONTH

VIRTUE: PATIENCE

MOTTO:

"Better is the end of a thing than its beginning; better is a patient spirit than a lofty one" (**Ecclesiastes 7:8**)

ROOT SIN:

Impatience/Pride

WHERE DO I SEE THIS SIN IN MY LIFE?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

PLAN TO FORM PATIENCE

WEEK 1: Patience with God

WEEK 2: Patience with My Wife

WEEK 3: Patience with My Children

WEEK 4: Patience with My Neighbor

LITANY OF PATIENCE

From the desire to control my life...

R: Deliver me, O Jesus.

From rash judgment and haste...

From impulsive decision making...

From the desire to act when I need to be still...

From the desire to speak when I need to stay silent...

From the delusion that my own ideas and plans are what would be best...

From impatience with the sins and idiosyncrasies of others...
From impatience with my own sins and slow growth in virtue...
From impatience with Your plan for my life...
From the desire to live on my own timeline...
From the fear of running out of time...
From the fear of aging and death...
From the temptation to act out of sorrow, discouragement, anxiety, or fear...
Lord, teach me to trust your love so entirely:
That I may wait upon your Word before making important decisions.
That I may not get ahead of or behind your Spirit.
That I may maintain an eternal perspective in all that I do.
That I may accept and surrender to your will for me daily.
That I may truly believe that ALL things work for the good of those who love you.
That I may radiate to others Your peace and joy which surpass all understanding.
Amen.

WEEK 1 REFLECTION:

PATIENCE WITH GOD

Have you ever lost your patience with God? I'll be honest. I have, and more than once. That's the funny thing about not having patience. Impatience doesn't limit itself to just our family or with the people we know. It affects our relationship with God, as well. Impatience knows no bounds. Once we open the door to it, it starts to work its way into every place in our lives.

I'll give you an example...

It was just a few days before Christmas 2019. I was preparing to take my father in for knee replacement surgery. Things were going well, and I was enjoying working in ministry for Cardinal Studios. Then, out of the blue, I received a call from them telling me they would no longer be able to continue in the direction they were going and that they would have to let me go. I was devastated. I had left a 23-year job to go into ministry, and I couldn't understand why God hadn't rewarded that trust. I couldn't understand why I suddenly was out of ministry, and I had no idea what I was going to do to support my family. My wife was home that day, and I told her the bad news. She immediately told me that maybe God was allowing me space to start the nonprofit I had been talking about. I was scared to death. I had no idea how to run a business and, scariest of all, I had no money or support. I prayed about it, made some calls, and scraped together the money to get it off the ground. After about a month, I started to get anxious. I had no money coming in. I had no idea how to fund-raise, and all I could think about was Angela working to provide for the family while I sat around trying to figure out how to build a ministry with no experience. I remember sitting on the floor of my bedroom each day asking God for answers and diving into Scripture looking for clues. So many days I came up empty. It wasn't long before the feelings of inadequacy started to set in. All I could think about was that I was failing as a father and a husband because I was chasing a dream instead of doing whatever it took to provide for my family. Day after day I sat there asking God to help me. Day after day I sat there looking to Him for directions. One day, I had enough. It had been several months since I lost my job, and I had no money coming in to support my family. I was sitting on the floor reading the Bible when I finally lost my patience. I remember looking up at the ceiling with tears in my eyes asking God to help me. I remember asking Him why He ever let me go into ministry in the first place if this was what it led to. I asked him why He had put me in the place I was in and why He wouldn't help me. Every one of my questions was met with the silence I had grown so tired of. I wanted answers and I wanted them now. As usual, though, they didn't come. I remember saying to God, "Ok, that's it. I gave you my life. I quit my job for You. I've done everything You have asked of me even when I was scared to death. What's it got me? So many people in this world don't care about You. Why do I? That's it. I'm done." With that, I threw the Bible on my bed and walked out of the room.

About four days later, I was packing for a men's conference where I was speaking. It was the last event I had on the calendar that had not been canceled due to COVID. It was the only paycheck I had on the horizon. While packing, I received a text from

the group saying they had to cancel. Again, I was devastated. The only chance I had to contribute to my family's income went up in smoke. I was at my wits end. My thoughts turned to the fact I was going to have to give up ministry and head back into sales in the secular world. It was then I received a phone call from a friend in the ministry. All his events had been canceled as well, and he wanted to build something called a virtual conference. I had no idea what that meant, but he said he could do it. His only problem was he didn't really know any speakers. That's where I came in. I had relationships with tons of speakers. At that moment we both said yes to the Holy Spirit and two weeks later we had 65 speakers and an online conference that had 65,000 people from around the world go through it. I still can't believe it to this day. That conference was the start of Virtual Catholic Conference, LLC. VCC is what I now make my living off of as a partner. It allows me to be home with my family, and it has allowed me the freedom to build up Pew Ministries.

Guys, the point to that story is this: I got impatient with God. I began to question Him and His plan. I began to question His trustworthiness and His goodness. I did it all because I wasn't patient enough. God does things on His time. What may seem like a lifetime to us is mere seconds to Him. Just because our prayers aren't answered in the time frame we would like doesn't mean that God isn't looking out for us. It doesn't mean that He has forgotten us or that He doesn't care. That's what impatience makes us think. It makes us think that God isn't who he says He is because He hasn't granted us everything we want when we want it. It makes us forget who is the Creator and who is the created. Our impatience leads us to question the one person we have no right to question.

God has told us so many times through the Scriptures that He is taking care of us. He tells us in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jesus doubles down on this sentiment in Luke 12:22-32 by saying things like, "Do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat, nor about your body and what you shall put on. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither store-house nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!" God always has our welfare in mind. Sometimes that means not answering some of our prayers. Sometimes He refrains from answering them because He what we need better than we do. We just have to be patient enough to understand that.

The bottom line is this: God deserves our patience. He has been so patient with us. Think of how many times we have walked away from Him or disappointed Him. Think how many times we have been undeserving of His love and forgiveness, yet He is right there waiting to give it to us every single time. We owe Him our patience and our trust. If you are in a place right now where you feel impatience with God, then start asking Him for the grace to learn the virtue of patience. To be patient and trust in God is one of the greatest lessons we can learn in the spiritual life. He has proven Himself time and time again to be a loving Father in my life. If you are patient enough to give Him a shot, I know you will find Him the same in yours.

WEEK 1: PATIENCE WITH GOD

JULY 1, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Patience is adjusting your time to God's time." —**Mother Angelica**

 **SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE**

GOSPEL

MT 9:1-8

And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PATIENCE WITH GOD

JULY 2, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Let nothing disturb you; Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Nothing is wanting to him who possesses God. God alone suffices.” —**St. Teresa of Jesus**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 9:9-13

As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PATIENCE WITH GOD

JULY 3, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

You can't give God deadlines." —St. Padre Pio



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

JN 20:24-29

FEAST OF ST. THOMAS, APOSTLE

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PATIENCE WITH GOD

JULY 4, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“The happiest man in the world is he who abandons himself to the will of God and receives all things, whether prosperous or adverse, as from His hands.”
—**St. Alphonsus Liguori**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MK 6:1-6

He went away from there and came to his own country; and his disciples followed him. And on the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue; and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get all this? What is the wisdom given to him? What mighty works are wrought by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.” And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands upon a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PATIENCE WITH GOD

JULY 5, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"If you seek patience, you will find no better example than the Cross. Great patience occurs in two ways: either when one patiently suffers much, or when one suffers things that one is able to avoid and yet does not avoid. Christ endured much on the Cross, and did so patiently..." —**St. Thomas Aquinas**

SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 9:18-26

While he was thus speaking to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. And behold, a woman who had suffered from a hemorrhage for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment; for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I shall be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. And when Jesus came to the ruler's house, and saw the flute players, and the crowd making a tumult, he said, "Depart; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. And the report of this went through all that district.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PATIENCE WITH GOD

JULY 6, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Do not worry over things that generate preoccupation and anxiety. One thing only is necessary: to lift up your spirit and love God.” —**St. Padre Pio**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 9:32-38

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, “Never was anything like this seen in Israel.” But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the prince of demons.” And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 1: PATIENCE WITH GOD

JULY 7, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Let nothing trouble you, let nothing make you afraid. All things pass away. God never changes. Patience obtains everything. God alone is enough...”

—St. Teresa of Avila



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 10:1-7

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zeb'edee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE TO GOD TODAY?

WEEK 2 REFLECTION:

PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE

**If you are not married and do not have children, use this week to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.*

My brothers, I have discovered a truth: No matter what virtue we are going through on any given month, there is a pretty good chance my wife models it already. I am not bragging on her. It's just the truth. She is so much more patient than I am. She is more patient with the kids. She is more patient with others. She is most definitely more patient with me than I am with her. Patience with my wife is often something I fail at, and it's something I am hoping to start getting better at this month.

By now, we all know that we are called to love our wives as Christ loved the Church. We have talked about that in previous months and on multiple podcasts. What though, does it actually mean to love our wives like Christ loved the Church? St. Paul tells us what that should look like in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. He says, "Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." What is the first thing he mentions about love in that passage? He says love is patient. Man, that one hurts. If that is the first thing St. Paul chooses to describe love with, then I have failed to love my life well a lot of times over the years.

If we are not patient with our wives, love cannot grow. I can remember so many times in my previous sales career coming home feeling spent from a grinding day on the job. So many days I was completely worn out from solving customer problems and listening to customer complaints. Most nights, I was exhausted by the time I got home. I had given all I had at work. The last thing I wanted to do was solve any more problems or listen to any more complaints. That simply isn't possible though. With a family, there are always problems to figure out. There are always issues. A lot of nights I remember coming home and Angela would meet me in the kitchen and start immediately telling me something was broken or that one of the kids had done something at school. I can remember her standing there, going through detail after detail, while I tuned her out. We have all been there. We have all just nodded and mindlessly said "uh-huh" over and over again. The thing is, our wives notice it. We convince ourselves we are masters of disguise, but our wives know when we are hurrying them through a story or completely ignoring their concerns. This isn't fair. Our wives are supposed to be the most important people in our lives, and so often the way we treat them doesn't reflect that. More often than not, they get the bare minimum. They get what's left over. We cannot let things like this stand.

Our wives have been so patient with us. Many of them have waited patiently for us to grow out of our selfish, immature ways. Many of them have waited for us to mature into the husbands and fathers they expected us to be. Heck, most of them have waited patiently for the day we would take our spiritual lives as seriously as they do theirs. We cannot disappoint here, fellas. We have to say no to the things of work and of the world that exhaust us and drain us of our patience. Our wives deserve our very best and nothing less. They were God's greatest gift to us, and we have to treat them that way. Make the decision right now to never again let your wife feel ignored, unheard, or less than important. Look back at how many times

they have sat down and looked you in the eyes when you needed to get something off your chest. Remember how many times they listened patiently to your endless stories. Remember, we are here not to be served, but to serve. There is no better way to serve your wife than by learning the virtue of patience. Till death do us part isn't a maybe. It's forever. If you're going to have a shot at getting it right, you better be intentional about being a more patient man with your wife.

WEEK 2: PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE

JULY 8, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Without patience, we will learn less in life. We will see less. We will feel less. We will hear less. Ironically, rush and more usually mean less.” —**St. Teresa of Calcutta**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 10:7-15

And preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay. Take no gold, nor silver, nor copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor a staff; for the laborer deserves his food. And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it, and stay with him until you depart. As you enter the house, salute it. And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. And if any one will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomor’rah than for that town.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE

JULY 9, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“The reward of patience is patience.” —**St. Augustine of Hippo**

 SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 10:16-23

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel, before the Son of man comes.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE

JULY 10, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"All comes at the proper time to him who knows how to wait." —**St. Vincent de Paul**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 10:24-33

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master; it is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Be-el'zebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE

JULY 11, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.”

—**St. Francis de Sales**

SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MK 6:7-13

And he called to him the twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, “Where you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. And if any place will not receive you and they refuse to hear you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet for a testimony against them.” So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE

JULY 12, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Resist your impatience faithfully, practicing, not only with reason, but even against reason, holy courtesy and sweetness to all, but especially to those who weary you most.” —**St. Francis de Sales**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 10:34-11:1

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s foes will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it. “He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me. He who receives a prophet because he is a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward, and he who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he shall not lose his reward.” And when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in their cities.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE

JULY 13, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Patience is necessary for the servant of God, and we must not be distressed at trouble, but wait for consolation.” —**St. Philip Neri**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 11:20-24

Then he began to upbraid the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Chora'zin! woe to you, Beth-sa'ida! for if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Caper'na-um, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 2: PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE
JULY 14, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"The ill-tempered stir up strife, but the patient settle disputes." —**Proverbs 15:18**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 11:25-27 MEMORIAL OF SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA, VIRGIN

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank thee, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yea, Father, for such was thy gracious will. All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE
HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY WIFE TODAY?

WEEK 3 REFLECTION:

PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN

**If you are not married and do not have children, use this week to continue to grow your relationship with God and your neighbor while praying for your future spouse and children.*

Our children. This is where the rubber meets the road with patience. Some of you may have little ones running around right now, and you are thinking about the rapid fire questions, the constant needs, and even the tantrums they throw when their needs aren't met immediately. Some of you may have teenagers or young adults who are testing your limits and pushing theirs. No matter what age our children are, fatherhood requires patience. The family is a saint-making machine. It's the battlefield of virtue. Nothing is more rewarding than raising children, and nothing is more difficult at times. That is why patience is such a key virtue for a father.

One of my favorite lines about the lens through which we can see our kids is found in a country music song by Darius Rucker. The song is called "Half Full Dixie Cup," and in it Darius talks about the way we can choose to look at things in life. When it comes to children he says, "Kids chasing around that old dog, being loud and dragging out toys. But you're missing out on a sweet sound if all you hear is noise." Man, isn't that the truth? I can't tell you how many times I lost my patience with my children for simply just being kids. Honestly, it didn't have anything to do with them. It was always due to some other issue or circumstance in my life. I was usually stressed out about some work thing or some other issue we had going on in life. My lack of patience had nothing to do with them or what they were doing. I always feel guilty about that. There is no telling how many sweet memories I robbed myself of with them because of my lack of patience.

Children are one of the greatest joys of our lives. God gave them to us as a gift. It is a tremendous honor to be entrusted with them by our Father. No one means more to God than children. Jesus shows us this in Mark 10:13-16. People around Jesus were trying to bring children to him so that he could touch them. The passage tells us the disciples rebuked them for trying to do so. Jesus responded to the disciples' actions by saying, "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Jesus wasn't annoyed by the children. He embraced them. He looked at them and their innocence as a gift and one that made Him very happy. That's the way we should look at our kids. And it's the way God sees us. Just think about that. We have a God who sees us as His little children. Think of all the things we do each and every day that must annoy Him, disappoint Him, and try His patience. Yet, He is forever patient with us. He is giving us the example of what we must be as a Father. God doesn't allow outside influences and the problems of the world to affect His patience with us. He is steadfast and is able to separate one thing from another. He is providing us all an example and showing us the way we must be with our children.

Like I said in the beginning, you may be a guy with kids who are teenagers, young adults, or kids who are grown with families of their own. In your eyes, they might be making mistakes or heading down a path that seems to lead to bad choices or bad decisions. Maybe they have made a decision to leave the faith. This is where so many

men lose patience with their older children. We want to rush in and fix things. We want to tell them to stop doing something and expect them to listen and heed that call. We have to realize that our kids are growing up, and they have to make their own choices, good or bad. We have to realize we can't fix everything for them. I'm pretty sure when we were their age we made bad decisions. All of that is part of learning and growing. As much as we may want to continue to steer them and hold their hand through life's toughest decisions, there comes a point where we have to just pray and exercise patience. That is what St. Monica did for her son, St. Augustine. Augustine was nowhere near God or the faith for many years. He had a son out of wedlock. He was living the way he wanted to and was ignoring everything else. His mother continued to pray and be there for him. Then, one day he converted and went on to become a Doctor of the Church. This is why the best thing we can do for our older children is to pray for them, be patient, and lead by example.

Men, with all of the virtues we practice, there has to be a decision to choose them. There has to be more than a realization and a desire to be better. There has to be action. There has to be commitment. If this reflection stings or reflects your past or present situation with your children, don't stagnate in guilt. Recognize how this has been affecting your relationship with your children and make the firm decision to change it. Your time with your children is limited. You only get to make so many memories. Start practicing the virtue of patience with your kids and watch how your relationship grows and how your time spent together changes for the better.

WEEK 3: PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN

JULY 15, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them—every day begin the task anew.” —**St. Francis de Sales**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 11:28-30 MEMORIAL OF SAINT BONAVENTURE, BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN

JULY 16, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Dear parents, have great patience, and forgive from the depths of your heart.”

—Pope Francis

SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 12:1-8

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath.” He said to them, “Have you not read what David did, when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? Or have you not read in the law how on the sabbath the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of man is lord of the sabbath.”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN

JULY 17, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“If I did not simply live from one moment to another, it would be impossible for me to be patient, but I only look at the present, I forget the past, and I take good care not to forestall the future.” —**St. Therese of Lisieux**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 12:14-21

But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him, how to destroy him. Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all, and ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will any one hear his voice in the streets; he will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick, till he brings justice to victory; and in his name will the Gentiles hope.”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN

JULY 18, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“In order to bear our afflictions with patience, it is very useful to read the lives and legends of the saints who endured great torments for Jesus Christ.”

—**St. Teresa of Jesus**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MK 6:30-34

The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a lonely place by themselves. Now many saw them going, and knew them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns, and got there ahead of them. As he went ashore he saw a great throng, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN

JULY 19, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"The patient and humble endurance of the cross—whatever nature it may be—is the highest work we have to do." —**St. Katharine Drexel**

 SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 12:38-42

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign; but no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nin'evah will arise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will arise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN

JULY 20, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Let nothing trouble you, let nothing make you afraid. All things pass away. God never changes. Patience obtains everything. God alone is enough.” —**St. Teresa of Avila**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 12:46-50

While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 3: PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN

JULY 21, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Patience is the companion of wisdom." —**St Augustine of Hippo**

 **SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE**

GOSPEL

MT 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat there; and the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away. Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY CHILDREN TODAY?

WEEK 4 REFLECTION:

PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

Learning to practice patience with our neighbor can often be a very difficult task. If we are being honest, it probably has a lot to do with the fact we have spent the majority of our reserves of patience on those closest to us. I mean, those are the people we HAVE to love and have patience with, right? Everybody else just gets what's left, correct? No, that's not correct. It is nowhere near correct. Jesus left us two commandments. He told us to love God above all and to love our neighbor as ourselves. In our reflection from last week, we learned 'patient' was the first word St. Paul used to describe love. So, if we are to love our neighbor the way Christ asks us to, we have to be patient with them.

No one is saying it will be easy. Let's face it. We have tons of opportunities each and every day to practice patience with strangers, and a lot of the times we fail. We grow angry with other drivers on the road who aren't going fast enough or the ones who cut us off. We grow impatient with the person in front of us in the grocery store checkout line who has the cart that looks like it's about to burst at the seams. We get irritated with the one person who still uses cash instead of a card and has to wait for change. Basically, anyone who holds us up for a second we haven't planned for runs the risk of being on the receiving end of our ire.

Oftentimes, we make the mistake of looking at opportunities to practice patience with our neighbors as a problem instead of a gift. God knows we will never truly earn a virtue without plenty of chances to practice it. The problem isn't the situation we find ourselves in. It's how we choose to look at it. Think about that. What if in all those circumstances I mentioned above we flipped the script? What if we started to realize all those annoying situations don't exist to try our patience, but, instead, are opportunities to exercise it? They are opportunities God placed in front of us so we can learn to love our neighbor better through becoming a more patient person. Wouldn't that change the way we receive even the most difficult person in our lives? Wouldn't it be amazing if we simply stopped focusing on how we feel about a certain person and a certain situation and realized we were in the midst of an amazing opportunity to gain virtue and thus grow closer to holiness? The answer to these questions is yes, it would be. So, how do we accomplish this?

We start by making a decision to change the behavior. A virtue is a firm and habitual disposition to do the good. We have to decide we are going to receive everyone in our lives more patiently. Once we have committed to that, we need to ask God for the grace to be more patient. We need to ask Him for the grace to remember to have patience in the moment. Then, we have to live it. The more we can do these things, the more we will grow in patience. You have tons of opportunities each and everyday to practice patience with your neighbor. The question is now, what are you gonna do about it? Brothers, let's get to it.

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 22, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Patience, prayer, and silence--these are what give strength to the soul."

—St. Faustina Kowalska

SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

JN 20:1-2, 11-18 FEAST OF SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

Now on the first day of the week Mary Mag'dalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rab-bo'ni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Mag'dalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 23, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"We should take as a maxim never to be surprised at current difficulties, no more than at a passing breeze, because with a little patience we shall see them disappear. Time changes everything." —**St. Vincent de Paul**

 SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 13:18-23

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When any one hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart; this is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the delight in riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the word and understands it; he indeed bears fruit, and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 24, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Be patient, because the weaknesses of the body are given to us in this world by God for the salvation of the soul. So they are of great merit when they are borne patiently.” —**St. Francis of Assisi**

 SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 13:24-30

Another parable he put before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the householder came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then has it weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No; lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 25, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"Beware of becoming vexed or impatient at the faults of others; for it would be folly, when you see a man falling into a ditch, to throw yourself into another for no purpose." —**St. Bonaventure**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

JN 6:1-15

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a multitude followed him, because they saw the signs which he did on those who were diseased. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a multitude was coming to him, Jesus said to Philip, "How are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" This he said to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what are they among so many?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place; so the men sat down, in number about five thousand. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign which he had done, they said, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 26, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Hope is practiced through the virtue of patience, which continues to do good even in the face of apparent failure, ... transforming our impatience and our doubts into the sure hope that God holds the world in His hands...in spite of all darkness He triumphs in glory.” —**Pope Benedict XVI**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 13:31-35 MEMORIAL OF SAINTS JOACHIM & ANNE, PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Another parable he put before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.” All this Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 27, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“And so let us be glad and bear with patience everything the world throws at us, secure in the knowledge that it is then that we are most in the mind of God.”

—**St. Basil the Great**

SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 13:36-43

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “He who sows the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world, and the good seed means the sons of the kingdom; the weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. The Son of man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and throw them into the furnace of fire; there men will weep and gnash their teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 28, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“O Lord, increase my sufferings and my patience.” —**Pope St. Pius V**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 13:44-46

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 29, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

“Sufferings are a kind of paradise to him who suffers them with patience, while they are a hell to him who has no patience.” —**St. Philip Neri**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

JN 11:19-27 MEMORIAL OF SAINTS MARTHA, MARY, & LAZARUS

And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world.”

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 30, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"The best penance is to have patience with the sorrows God permits. A very good penance is to dedicate oneself to fulfill the duties of everyday with exactitude and to study and work with all our strength." —**St. Peter Damian**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 13:54-58

And coming to his own country he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?" And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

WEEK 4: PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR

JULY 31, 2021

THOUGHTS FROM THE CHURCH

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry." —**Psalm 40:1**



SAY THE LITANY OF PATIENCE

GOSPEL

MT 14:1-12 MEMORIAL OF SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus; and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist, he has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in him." For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison, for the sake of Hero'di-as, his brother Philip's wife; because John said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Hero'di-as danced before the company, and pleased Herod, so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." And the king was sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison, and his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came and took the body and buried it; and they went and told Jesus.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO ME IN THIS GOSPEL?

ACTS OF PATIENCE

HOW HAVE I SHOWN PATIENCE WITH MY NEIGHBOR TODAY?

LITANY OF HUMILITY

O Jesus! meek and humble of heart,
Hear me.

From the desire of being esteemed,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being loved,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being extolled,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being honored ,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being praised,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being preferred
to others,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being consulted,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the desire of being approved,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being humiliated,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being despised,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of suffering rebukes,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being calumniated,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being forgotten,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being ridiculed,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being wronged,
Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being suspected,
Deliver me, Jesus.

That others may be loved more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be esteemed more than I,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That, in the opinion of the world, others
may increase and I may decrease,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be chosen and I set aside,
Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be praised and
I unnoticed,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may be preferred to me
in everything,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

That others may become holier than I,
provided that I may become as holy as
I should,

Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it.

THE LITANY OF TRUST

From the belief that I have to earn
Your love,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear that I am unlovable,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the false security that I have what
it takes,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear that trusting You will leave
me more destitute,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From all suspicion of Your words
and promises,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the rebellion against childlike
dependency on You,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From refusals and reluctances in
accepting Your will,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From anxiety about the future,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From resentment or excessive
preoccupation with the past,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From restless self-seeking
in the present moment,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From disbelief in Your love and presence,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of being asked to give
more than I have,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the belief that my life has no
meaning or worth,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From the fear of what love demands,

Deliver me, Jesus.

From discouragement,

Deliver me, Jesus.

That You are continually holding me
sustaining me, loving me,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That Your love goes deeper than my sins
and failings, and transforms me,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That not knowing what tomorrow brings is
an invitation to lean on You,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That you are with me in my suffering,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That my suffering, united to Your own, will
bear fruit in this life and the next,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You will not leave me orphan, that You
are present in Your Church,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That Your plan is better than anything else,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You always hear me and in Your
goodness always respond to me,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You give me the grace to accept
forgiveness and to forgive others,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You give me all the strength I need for
what is asked,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That my life is a gift,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You will teach me to trust You,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That You are my Lord and my God,

Jesus, I trust in you.

That I am Your beloved one,

Jesus, I trust in you.

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

A photograph of two men sitting at a wooden table in a cafe, engaged in conversation. The man on the left is wearing a blue plaid shirt and holding a red mug. The man on the right is wearing a grey sweater and gesturing with his hands. In the background, there are shelves with books, a sign that says "LOCAL", and a window with a view of the street. The image has a blue and yellow curved graphic overlay at the bottom left.

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