

Ministry *Praise*

Rhythms of the Season

(Adapted from "Summer Meditations" by John Bartunek, LLC, STHD)

As humans, we are meant to unfold our lives in harmony with the natural world. The seasons, the processes of nature, the rhythms of this world — our world — were created out of love and given to us as a home. They have something to tell us about our deeper identity, the purpose of our life, the way to fully live life.



SUMMER

Summer has two contradictory personalities. It's meant for hard work ... ask a farmer or rancher ... and also for relaxation times to enjoy vacations and rest. This is the WISDOM of summer: taking advantage of the opportunities life presents us. The WISE person recognizes that there is a time to work hard and a time to relax, a time to do something and a time to let things be.

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Summer lends itself to many opportunities for HOSPITALITY. True hospitality welcomes another person — sometimes with words — sometimes in other ways by saying, "You really matter and I'm glad you're here."

Even the Bible links love — the very meaning of hospitality — with this virtue. "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels." (Hebrews 13:1-2) Let's find ways to practice this ancient, human virtue, even when all we have to offer is a smile.

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Summer storms are healthy for crops. They provide for nourishment unavailable from any other source. Summer storms are one of nature’s creative ways to foster hardy and fruitful growth. This natural process should give us hope.

Life in this fallen world brings plenty of storms. Suffering is unavoidable in life and we should accept it without giving up.

“Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces PERSEVERANCE.”

(James 1:2-3)

Summer is a gentle season. It is KIND. The warm sun caresses your skin and makes you smile. The balmy breeze gives you hugs. To be treated with respect and affection meets our fundamental need to engage in relationships.

KINDNESS is contagious. When people treat us kindly we tend to be more kindly to others. Kindness matters. St. Paul writes: “Love is patient, love is kind.” Let us make kindness a personal goal as we bring summer’s warmth and brightness to people’s souls.

*Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth
Who sustains and governs us.*

— St. Francis of Assisi

Stay tuned for “Rhythms of Autumn” coming next month.

Our Needs, Worries and Concerns

We come to Jesus through Mother Mary,
offering our prayers:

† That the Church will be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel, we pray: *Jesus hear us.*

† That those who hold public office will imitate the goodness of the Lord who secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed, we pray: *Jesus hear us.*

† For senior citizens, that God will help them in their needs and be always close to them in His love, we pray: *Jesus hear us.*

† For the liberation of those who are victims of war, human trafficking, drug running or slave labor, we pray: *Jesus hear us.*



† For all newly ordained priests, and especially Father Scott Perry as he begins his ministerial duties at St. John parish, we pray: *Jesus hear us.*

† That farmers will experience a successful growing season and harvest, we pray: *Jesus hear us.*

† For the blessings received at Vacation Bible School and Church Camp. May all the children profit spiritually from the experience, we pray: *Jesus hear us.*

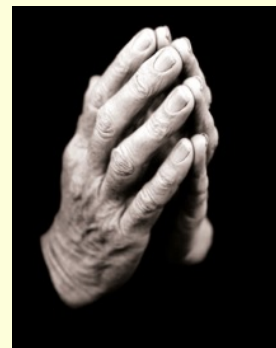
† For the faithful departed, we pray: *Jesus hear us.*

Loving Father, help us to face the challenges of daily life.



Words by Pope Francis:

“The great challenge facing us today is to learn once again how to talk to one another, not simply how to generate and consume information.”



Those Who Recently Found Eternal Rest:

- Eugene Warnecke
- Betty Birkmeier
- Roger Wilhelm
- Anna Ruen
- Amy Bardall

REMEMBERING OUR PRAYERS

The prayers we learned in childhood don't have to be left there.

Many of us learned how to pray from our parents and grandparents. We learned traditional Catholic prayers that have remained in our memories to this day. These are not "old" prayers but they simply help us lift our minds and hearts to God, traditional prayers that could be a lifeline between heaven and earth during times of injury or illness. These prayers link us to all the saints and to all the people in our parishes throughout the world who are saying them in different languages. These are considered to be "traditional" Catholic prayers.

May we be assured that younger people today carry on our traditional prayers. Let us pray now that parents, grandparents and parishes make it happen.

DO YOU REMEMBER?



*Angel of God, my
guardian dear
To whom God's
love commits me
here;
Ever this day be
at my side,
To light,
to guard,
to rule and
guide
Amen.*

*Spend some time recalling prayers which you learned at an early age.
They are precious treasures. Pray them often.*

Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

August 15 marks the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This Solemnity celebrates the end of Mary's earthly life and beginning of her heavenly life, in keeping with the Catholic dogma that Mary was assumed, body and soul into heaven. Though belief in the Assumption dates back to the early days of the Church, it was not declared dogma until 1950.

The Assumption is the greatest of all the feasts the Church celebrates in her honor. It is the beginning of her true greatness and glory, and the crowning of all the virtues of her whole life.



THE MAGNIFICAT

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For He has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lonely. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and to his children forever.”

3 Ways to Honor Mary

Pray the Rosary to honor her and to grow closer to Jesus.

Restore a statue of Mary, one of your own, or the parish statue, with the pastor's permission.

Learn more about Mary — Read books, articles, watch videos.

Litany of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Pray for our dear country.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Sanctify our clergy.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Make our Catholics more fervent.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
*Guide and inspire those
who govern us.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Cure the sick who confide in thee.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
*Console the sorrowful
who trust in thee.*

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Help those who invoke thine aid.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Deliver us from all dangers.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Help us to resist temptation.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Obtain for us all we ask of thee.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Make our family life holy.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Help those dear to us.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Bring back our erring brothers.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Give us back our ancient fervor.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Obtain for us pardon for our sins.

Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Obtain peace for the world.



*Lord Jesus, fill our hearts
with a great confidence
in our most Holy Mother.*