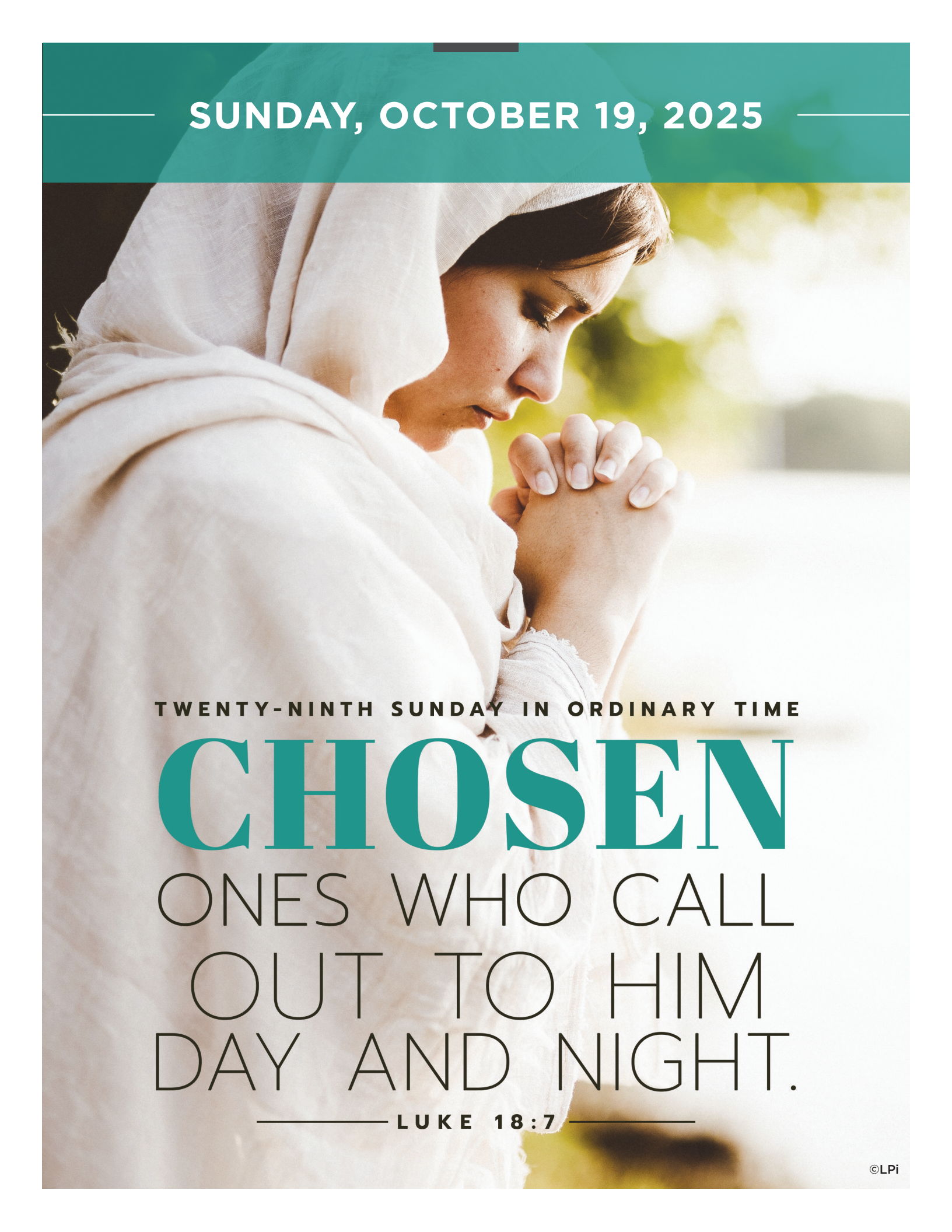




SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CHOSEN

ONES WHO CALL
OUT TO HIM
DAY AND NIGHT.

LUKE 18:7

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

As long as Moses kept his hands raised up,
Israel had the better of the fight,
but when he let his hands rest,
Amalek had the better of the fight. (Ex 17:11)

Psalm:

Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. (Ps 121)

Second Reading:

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed,
because you know from whom you learned it,
and that from infancy you have known
the sacred Scriptures,
which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tm 3:14)

Gospel:

"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones
who call out to him day and night?
Will he be slow to answer them?
I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done
for them speedily." (Lk 18:7)

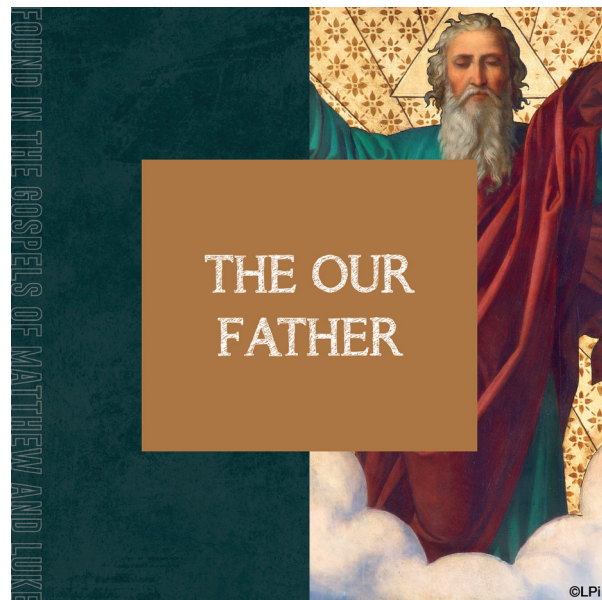
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We are all the widow in Luke's Gospel. We are vulnerable. We feel small in the estimation of the world. We feel ignored. But Jesus is telling us to be bold in prayer, to bring our needs before the judge who will always hear our case.

Observances for the week of October 19, 2025

- Sunday:** 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Mission Sunday
- Monday:** St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
- Wednesday:** St. John Paul II, Pope
- Thursday:** St. John of Capistrano, Priest
- Friday:** St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
- Next Sunday:** 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

The Our Father, also known as The Lord's Prayer, is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Universally beloved in most traditions of Christianity, its words are those of Jesus Christ himself as he answers his disciples' queries on how best to pray.

Prayer for Life of Mission

Dear God,
You are the one who finds a way in
the darkness, and clears the path for
those You love. Help us to trust in
Your call, and to answer generously to
the unknowns we face,
knowing You will never leave us alone.
Amen.

Readings for the week of October 19, 2025

Sunday:

Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2)/2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8

Monday:

Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/
Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday:

Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday:

Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/
Lk 12:39-48

Thursday:

Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 12:49-53

Friday:

Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/Lk 12:54-59

Saturday:

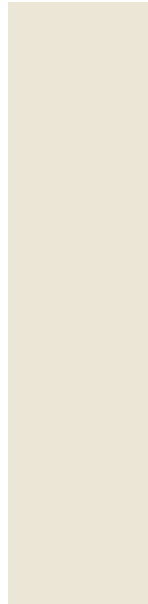
Rom 8:1-11/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 13:1-9

Next Sunday:

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 (7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A woman in my parish has an adult son who has rejected his faith. She prays for him every day. She lights candles, says rosaries, and asks God again and again to bring him back. But nothing changes. Is God listening? Is He delaying? She told me once that she feels like the widow in Jesus' strange parable — crying out for justice, but hearing only silence. And yet, she said, she is at peace. I asked why. She responded, "God is *already* answering. I just can't see it yet."

She embodies something of the mystery in Jesus' parable this week in Luke 18. A powerless widow demands justice from a corrupt judge. This isn't about wearing God down until He gives in. It's about faith in the justice that is already coming. The widow isn't just persistent; she believes that justice is inevitable. And when Jesus points to the judge's words — his fear of being "struck" — He hints at something deeper: God's justice does not creep in gradually. It strikes. It comes like lightning.

Blessed Mary is, of course, the ultimate widow demanding justice. At the foot of the cross she stands before what looks like the ultimate injustice — the brutal execution of her son. But she did not despair. She did not beg for a last-minute rescue. She knew that justice was not delayed. In fact, it was happening. The power of the cross was already unleashing justice upon the world — suddenly, decisively, like a blow that would topple every corrupt power, making even the most corrupt fear her strike.

This parable asks us: will the Son of Man find faith on earth? Or will we mistake God's silence for absence? The cross proves that justice is not slow. It is only hidden. The lightning has already struck. In the cross, justice is speedily being done.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: In the same way that a judge cannot go looking for conflicts to mediate, God will not force His way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God?

The Prayers We Don't Say

It has always confused me: why a judge?

Jesus could have compared prayer to the subject who requests a gift of his king. He could have compared it to the child who asks a favor of a parent. But in the parable of the widow and the judge, Jesus compares prayer — specifically constant, unwearying prayer — with the marginalized person who doggedly pursues her claim through an unforgiving legal system.

It's not a rosy or reassuring picture. So what is he trying to tell us?

Unlike a king or a parent, a judge has strictly drawn lines which he cannot, under any circumstances, cross. He can only help people who bring their case to court. Even good, earnest judges cannot render justice if charges are not brought.

God is all-powerful. But that doesn't make Him a meddler. He will not force His way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God, in every instance — adoration, gratitude, need?

Today, I sat down and made a list of problems I don't pray about. When I was done, I looked at the list and asked myself: why not? Why don't I pray about these things? Some are huge issues over which I have absolutely no control, and prayer feels futile. Some are small grievances I never even considered mentioning to God.

If I prayed about them all, my life would be totally consumed by prayer. Constant, unwearying prayer. The kind of prayer Jesus calls me to in the parable of the widow and the judge: continual surrender of myself to the mysterious, limitless power of God.

Praying that way could make me tired. The widow was tired, too — but she kept bringing her charges. She got justice. And her judge wasn't even a nice guy.

So say the prayer. Bring the charges. Our judge is one who wants to help, but He won't overstep His bounds.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I volunteer every once in a while. How can I incorporate serving the poor in my everyday life?

Answer:

In the Gospels, Jesus is very clear about emphasizing outreach to vulnerable persons on the margins of society. These may be the materially poor, the disabled, the lonely, or any others whose circumstances drive them from mainstream society. We can all respond to Christ's call to love by incorporating direct service into our regular life routine. Here are some ideas to find your niche:

Consider your life. Before you look for direct service opportunities, consider your schedule, commitment levels, and personal gifts. When can you help out and how regularly? Where have you volunteered in the past that has felt like a good fit? Do you have any particular skills or personality traits that lend you to particular work?

Do some research. There are a lot of structured ways you can get involved in your community. Your parish might have a social concerns outreach program. If not, ask friends and family. A simple online search for local nonprofits can also expose you to new opportunities.

Be open to God's invitation. The chance to serve may be closer than you think. Befriending an elderly neighbor, widowed and far from children, is an act of serving the poor. Keep your eyes and heart open!

“Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”
- Lk 18:7-8

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Moses needed to rely on his brother (Aaron) and his friend (Hur) to assist him in defeating the Amalekites. Can you think of a time when you really needed the support of your family or friends?

Second Reading:

Paul instructs Timothy to be persistent in relying on what Sacred Scripture teaches us. How do you use Scripture as a guide for your life?

Gospel:

With the parable of the persistent widow, Jesus teaches the disciples about the importance of praying often to God. When do you find yourself praying?



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"A widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" - Lk 18:3-4b, 5

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Prayer

Lord, hear my prayer and please answer me.

Mission for the Week

I will ask for just the things I need.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus told his disciples that they should never stop praying. He said that you should never give up. If your cause is worthy and good, keep asking for it. Keep asking God for help for your good things. The noisy wheel gets the most grease. When you keep asking God for help, he will know you are sincere. Can you give 10 good reasons why you are asking God for what you need?

Now color
the picture!



Circle the picture that is **different**.
Then color in all the pictures.

