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2025

#96 Our Lady of Sierra, Oakhurst

Our Lady of the Sierra Parish

Our Lady of the Sierra Church | St Dominic Mission | St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, July 27, 2025, Vol. 229

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Gen 18.20-32; Col 2.12-14;
Luke 11.1-13: The Lord's Prayer

Focus: The Lord's Prayer and Perseverance in Prayer

The readings this week remind us of the importance of prayer. The first reading tells us about how Abraham prayed to God for the sake of Sodom and Gomorrah because God was going to destroy the city for their sins. Abraham bargained with God, asking him to spare the cities if God would find even just ten holy people there. Abraham was able to speak to God in such an intimate and sincere fashion because Abraham had a relationship with God. Abraham was aware of the awesome power that God had, but like friends speaking to each other, Abraham was able to ask the Lord for mercy on the people.

The Lord wants us to persevere in prayer as Abraham persevered when asking the Lord for mercy on the people. Jesus teaches us this lesson through the story he presents in the Gospel. When the first friend in the story approaches the second in the middle of the night for food, the second listens because of the relationship that they have and because of the persistence of the first. When Jesus teaches

the disciples the "Our Father", he's showing us that God is not a distant God, but he is close to us for he is a Father and loves us like one. Like any good father, God in his love will give to his children all that they ask for if it is for their well-being and salvation.

Do we see God as our Father? Do we go to him with all our problems and needs? Are we persistent in prayer like Abraham was? When we see ourselves as beloved children of God and learn to rely on God for our every need, our lives become transformed. This is the core of stewardship, to love and give to others out of gratitude for the love and gifts God has given us. If we struggle with our identity as beloved children of God, let us take some time this week to reflect on this identity, and how as children of God, we are called to serve the Church in turn out of love for God and his people.

SUMMARY

God is our Father, and like any good father, he wants us to come to him with every need we have. When we truly build a relationship with God and see ourselves as beloved children, we will have the courage to be persistent in prayer and not give up when we pray to God for our needs and the needs of others. This is the core of stewardship, to love and give to others the same way that God our Father loves us and gives us many gifts and blessings.

SELF-EXAMINATION

What prayers have gone unanswered in your life? How do you maintain trust in God when God's work seems mysterious or distant?

LIVING LIKE THE SAINTS

"Prayer gives the armor of patience to those who suffer, who feel pain, who are distressed." + Tertullian, priest (160-225 A.D.)

Vision Statement: Journeying together in our quest for holiness.

Mission Statement: To become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ, nurtured by the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Patron, and accompanied by the shepherds, coordinators and people of our Church

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WHAT IS INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP?

Intentional discipleship means deliberately choosing to follow Jesus Christ every day—with conviction, faith, and love. It is not simply being Catholic by habit or family tradition. It is a conscious, personal response to the One who calls us: “Follow me.”

In baptism, each of us was united to Christ and called to holiness. But many Catholics may go through the motions of faith without truly embracing the mission of discipleship. Intentional discipleship challenges us to move from being consumers of faith to committed followers of Christ.

It means:

- Developing a real relationship with Jesus through daily prayer
- Growing in understanding of Scripture and Church teaching
- Receiving the sacraments with faith and reverence
- Serving others through acts of charity and justice
- Living our faith openly and joyfully in the world



Discipleship is not a private journey. It is lived within the Church, especially in the parish. Every intentional disciple is also a missionary disciple—called not only to grow in holiness, but to help others do the same. Pope Francis reminds us:

“Each of us is a mission on this earth... I am a mission, always: you are a mission.” (Evangeli Gaudium, 273)

Intentional discipleship transforms parishes. It moves us from maintenance to mission, from obligation to joy, from programs to people. It renews our identity as the Body of Christ: active, prayerful, generous, and united.

So let us ask: Have I truly chosen to follow Christ? Am I growing, serving, and witnessing intentionally?

The journey of intentional discipleship begins with a “yes” to Jesus. And every day is a new chance to say it again—with our hearts, our choices, and our lives.

MASS INTENTIONS

29 Tue	SI -Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham	02 Sat 4 PM	RM—Diane Moore By Marlene Ybarra
30 Wed	SI—Steven Graham By Deborah Graham	03 Sun 8 AM	Pro Populo
31 Thu	SI—Steven Graham By Deborah Graham	9:30 AM	SI—Steven Graham By Deborah Graham
01 Fri	SI—Steven Graham By Deborah Graham	11:30 AM	RM—Jorge Gonzales By Rosa Gonzales

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Friday, August 15th
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Devotion & Mass Times
Morning: 8:30 Rosary | 9:00 Mass
Evening: 5:30 Rosary
6:00 Bilingual Mass



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CALENDAR AND SCHEDULES

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

28 Mon Office Closed
29 Tue 8:00 AM Rosary & Mass
9:00 **Mother of Perpetual Help**
30 Wed 8:00 AM Rosary & Mass
9:00 **Devotion to St. Joseph**
31 Thu 8:00AM Divine Mercy & Mass
9:00 **Devotion to Padre Pio**
01 Fri 8:00AM Rosary & Mass
9:00 to 12 Noon Sacred Heart
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
02 Sat 8:00 AM BVM, Our Lady of Saturday
3:00 PM Confessions
4:00 PM Mass
03 Sun 8:00 AM Mass-St Joseph
9:30 AM Mass-St Dominic
11:30 AM Mass-OLS

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

28 Mon Monday, 17th Week in OT
Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Mt 13:31-35
29 Tue (M) Sts. Marth, Mary & Lazarus
Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28 /Jn 11:19-27
30 Wed Wednesday, 17th Week in OT
(m) Saint Peter Chrysologus)
Ex 34:29-35/Mt 13:44-46
31 Thu M) St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Mt 13:47-53
01 Fri (M) St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor. Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Mt 13:54-58
02 Sat Saturday, 17th Week in OT
(m) [Saint Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Priest, Lv 25:1, 8-17/Mt 14:1-12
03 Sun 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Eccl 1:2;2:21-23/Col 3:1-11/Lk 12:13-21

SECOND COLLECTIONS JULY/AUG

27-July Maintenance Fund (P)
03-Aug Religious Education (P)
17-Aug Cathedral Maintenance (D)
24-Aug Maintenance Fund (P)

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July 27, 2025

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