

Pastor's Letter

September 20, 2026 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

The last couple of weeks we have heard some challenging messages from Scripture about living the Christian life. Two weeks ago, we heard that we are responsible for each other and need to be ready to correct each other when we get off track. Last week we were challenged to be merciful and forgive others just as God has forgiven us. These are hard things to do. How do we live up to this high calling? It feels like this is beyond our abilities. If this is how you feel, you're right. It is beyond the natural abilities of human beings to fully live out the Christian life. But our natural abilities are not the only tools we have. God also offers us supernatural gifts to help us become the people we are called to be.

How do we tap into those supernatural gifts? By prayer and participation in the sacraments. The prophet Isaiah tells us in our first reading, "Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near." Prayer has the power to change us and through us to change the world. When we take the time and make the effort to get in touch with God, not just superficially but at a deep level of personal sharing of ourselves, God also shares himself with us in a way that reshapes our hearts and minds. Just talk to God about what is really important to you, honestly and openly. And listen carefully and patiently for his answers. Don't rush, be persistent. Prayer might feel strange at first and it takes time to train our spiritual ears to hear God's responses, but he is near and he will answer.

We also need to be serious in our approach to the sacraments. We need to be aware of what we are doing and the great gifts we are receiving if we want to experience the full effects of their power. We should come to the sacraments with awe and reverence because what we receive is nothing less than the life that upholds the universe. The more we understand that and the more we express it in the way we come especially to the Eucharist, the more the sacraments will empower us to live as Christians, not just in name, but in truth.

As our Gospel reading reminds us, God only knows one way to give, and that is completely. But we have to choose if we are going to accept everything that God wants to give us. If we open ourselves up completely to him, then we can say with St. Paul, "For to me life is Christ, and death is gain." Whatever our circumstances, whatever happens to us, the supernatural gifts of God will carry us through.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott