

PRAY: 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Week #3 Sunday Homily Helps

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 18:1-8)—October 18th and 19th

- **“Pray always without becoming weary” (Lk 18:1):**
Jesus tells the parable of the persistent widow, whose continual plea for justice moved even an unjust judge. If such persistence can touch the heart of one indifferent, how much more will God hear the cries of His chosen ones—especially the elderly, the sick, and the dying.
- **The widow’s cry = the cry of the vulnerable (Lk 18:3):**
In Scripture, widows symbolize the voiceless and forgotten. Today, their cry echoes in the lonely elder, the abandoned sick, the terminally ill. The Gospel calls us to hear and respond with compassion, not indifference. As Pope Francis warns, we must resist a “throwaway culture” that discards those “no longer needed” (*Fratelli Tutti* 18).
- **Persistence in prayer, persistence in care (Lk 18:5–7):**
Prayer is not passive; it strengthens us to act with faithful perseverance. To pray always is to refuse to give up on those who suffer. Like the widow, we keep knocking—through visits, advocacy, and presence. As St. John Paul II reminds us: “True compassion leads to sharing another’s pain; it does not kill the person whose suffering we cannot bear” (*Evangelium Vitae* 66).
- **Faith revealed in how we treat the weak (Lk 18:8):**
Jesus ends with a haunting question: “When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” Faith is shown not by words alone but in concrete acts of mercy. Benedict XVI teaches: “It is not by sidestepping or fleeing from suffering that we are healed, but by our capacity for accepting it... through union with Christ” (*Spe Salvi* 37).

Possible Preaching Hooks

- Share the story of someone who persevered in caring for a sick or dying loved one—an everyday “widow’s persistence” that witnessed to God’s justice.
- Invite parishioners to see prayer for the elderly and sick not as an afterthought but as fuel for concrete action—visits, advocacy, accompaniment.
- Stress that Week Three of Respect Life Month reminds us: respecting life at its end is not optional—it is part of our Catholic identity to honor every person until natural death.

PRAY: Week #3

Sample Petitions for Prayers of the Faithful

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Luke 17:5–10)—October 18th and 19th

For those nearing the end of life: may they receive care that respects their dignity as they prepare in hope to share eternal life with Christ; *let us pray to the Lord:*

For all who suffer: that the Lord will provide them with the comfort of family and friends and interior peace in prayer, that they will have hope in eternal life; *We pray to the Lord:*

For all who are forgotten or thrown away, and especially for the poor, the sick and the aged: that God might change our hearts and move us to love them as the image of Christ; *We pray to the Lord:*

That the elderly may cherish each moment of their lives, and in their sunset years, experience the love and attention they need; *We pray to the Lord:*

That the sick may find strength and courage in the cross of Christ and discover the redemptive value of their suffering; *We pray to the Lord:*

For all who live in nursing homes, and especially for those who are alone or in pain: that we might cherish the gift of their wisdom, and the perduring example of their faith; *We pray to the Lord:*