



ALL SAINTS'

CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY July 17 & BEYOND



As we imagine Martha bustling around the house, waiting on Jesus and her other guests, while her sister Mary sits at his feet, we might be reminded of the old expression that someone is “so heavenly-minded that they’re no earthly-good.” It’s vital that we understand why that’s not the case because this is a sentiment that is rapidly spreading through our culture. There’s evidence of this all over, and it’s been especially obvious in the aftermath of mass shootings. Inevitably a public official will say that they’re praying for the victims and their families, to which a growing number will furiously respond that

they need to stop “praying” and do something – and they’re both right.

Something the Bible makes very clear is that while prayer is a good and proper response to life, it cannot be our only response. James writes explicitly that faith without any action is dead (see James 2:14-26), and we instinctively sense that that’s true because that’s how relationships work – you have to love in both word and action. Throughout all of Scripture, no one leaves an encounter with God unchanged. Their lives always take on new meaning and purpose, because whenever God blesses someone, it’s so that they themselves can be a blessing.

How then do we make sense of the fact that in this gospel passage, it’s Mary that Jesus points to as the example to follow? James helps us again, saying that we can’t receive anything from God without faith, because we’re “like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind” (see 1:6-7). That’s exactly what we see in Martha, who is “worried and distracted by many things.” She’s doing a lot of good things, but without faith; so instead of accomplishing God’s purposes, she’s being consumed by her own. Mary’s chosen the better part because, having encountered Jesus, she’s found the one thing out of which all the other good things will flow.

The reality is that the more “heavenly-minded” we become, the more driven and effective we’ll be in doing “earthly-good.” That’s a challenge first to those who jump in without praying, and do lots of good things, but not necessarily the best thing. However, I think the bigger challenge is to those who pray without jumping

in at all. If you're not being led to act out of love, not only are you missing out on something Jesus is trying to give, but it supports the misconception that prayer is empty. The answer for both is to draw near to Jesus like Mary (and eventually Martha too), so that when we offer our lives and purposes to him, instead of bringing things like worry and distraction, the one thing necessary can work through us to produce peace, joy, and all other good things. love one another as I have loved you.' (John 13:34). It is an awesome challenge that arises from the amazing love of Jesus.

Fr. McQueen

Readings for this Sunday

Genesis 8:1-14 Psalm 15 Colossians 1:21-29, Luke 10:38-42

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
 10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
 9:30a MASS (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)