



Worker

Saints to Call Upon

By Maria Brockmeier

In the Wedding of Cana story, Mary taps Jesus on the shoulder and asks him to help out her friends at the wedding by getting more wine. We often ask saints and the Blessed Mother to tap Jesus on the shoulder for our requests for help. It is not that God does not listen to us if we talk to Him directly—it is just another way to continue our prayers for help. This is called intercession. We ask the Saints to intercede for us on our behalf.

There are many patron saints—one for almost every profession or need that you could think of. There are patron saints for lawyers, plumbers, firefighters, architects, CCD teachers. There are patron saints for the blind, for the hung-over, for the weary. Here are some you might call upon:

When you have lost something:

pray to

St. Anthony

There is a chant that many recite:

*"Tony, Tony, come around,
something's lost and can't be found."*

Many people have thanked him for their keys or earrings, etc. showing up when they thought they were gone for good.

When you can't sell your house:

pray to

St. Joseph

and bury a statue of him upside down in your yard.

This tradition comes because St. Joseph is the patron saint of home and family and a quick sale will get you to your new home. Many people accredit their successful sale to this tradition.

When you are in a crisis pregnancy:

pray to

The Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mary appeared to the Aztec Indian Juan Diego in Mexico as a pregnant teenager. This image is used in the Respect Life Movement as the "Protectress of the Unborn." The words Mary says to Saint Juan Diego can be a comfort and life-line to any woman in a crisis pregnancy:

"Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that frightens you, the thing that afflicts you, is nothing: do not let it disturb you! Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need something more? Let nothing else worry you or disturb you."

When you need help in "the little way":

pray to

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

She loved the image of the little child approaching a parent with open arms and profound trust. She said we should seek holiness in the ordinary and everyday things of life. The Little Way was a way to express love to God through small, daily acts of love toward others. She purposely sat next to the nun who annoyingly rattled her rosary beads and changed her thoughts from one of annoyance to "bearing with one of my sisters", and then thought of the noise as music and offered it to her Heavenly Father.

Many people find that they see roses or detect the smell of roses (her favorite flower) in unexpected places after praying to her. The Catholic singer Steve Angrisano, who recently performed at our church for the GIFT program told a story of

Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

that happening to him. He and his wife were not sure whether to go ahead with an adoption (there was a possibility the child would have special needs due to a mother who had taken drugs) and prayed to St. Therese and asked for a sign of roses. The next day they received an envelope from a convent where they had donated money. When they opened the letter, out dropped many rose petals. The nuns had written a letter to thank them, and to say they had been praying for them, and that they had a relic of St. Thérèse and the roses had been at the site of the relic... Steve said his wife dropped to her knees in shock and thanksgiving.

When you need some joy or silliness:

pray to

St. Philip Neri

He had an experience where he felt a burning in his chest and then an overwhelming joy that actually enlarged his heart. He spread his joy to others by using unconventional methods to teach people about the love of God. He would wear his clothes inside-out or shave off half of his beard. He played practical jokes on his fellow priests. It has been said, "if you worry that you can't be holy and have fun in this life, ask Saint Philip Neri, God's joker, to pray with you."

When it seems like a hopeless cause:

pray to

St. Jude

My own grandmother prayed to him when my father was an infant and almost fatally ill. My father miraculously got better and he prays to him when it looks like impossible tasks are before him.

When you want to be a better person:

pray to

St. Augustine

Saint Augustine was a "party animal" until his mother's (Saint Monica) constant prayers probably brought about his conversion. If you are not sure if you are 100% ready to become a better person you could use his prayer:

"God, make me good...but not just yet!"

When you don't know which one to pray for or there is so much to ask for:

offer the last petition from the Litany of Saints:

"All holy men and women, pray for us!"

**God, heavenly Father,
look upon me and hear my prayer
during this holy Season of Lent.
By the good works You inspire,
help me to discipline my body
and to be renewed in spirit.**

**Without You I can do nothing.
By Your Spirit help me to know what is right
and to be eager in doing Your will.
Teach me to find new life through penance.
Keep me from sin, and help me live
by Your commandment of love.
God of love, bring me back to You.
Send Your Spirit to make me strong
in faith and active in good works.
May my acts of penance bring me Your
forgiveness,
open my heart to Your love,
and prepare me for the coming feast
of the Resurrection of Jesus.**

**Lord, during this Lenten Season,
nourish me with Your Word of life
and make me one
with You in love and prayer.**

**Fill my heart with Your love
and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ.
Give me the grace to rise above my human
weakness.
Give me new life by Your Sacraments,
especially the Mass.**

**Father, our source of life,
I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand;
let me walk more readily in Your ways.
Guide me in Your gentle mercy,
for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.**

**Father of love, source of all blessings,
help me to pass from my old life of sin
to the new life of grace.
Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom.
I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your
Son,
Who lives and reigns with
You
and the Holy Spirit, one
God, forever.**

Amen.



ST. PETER'S LENDING LIBRARY

By Eleanor Grybowski



"What are you doing for Lent?"

We remember that question going back to our childhood! Please consider reading the books in our parish library as part of your Lenten journey. On the library table you will see an 8 X 10 card which lists the categories represented by the various tape colors. The books are organized on the shelves according to tape colors.

Here are books specifically for Lent:

"Good Friday People" By Sheila Cassidy **Green**

"The Cry of Jesus Crucified" By Chiara Lubich **ORANGE**

"To Love and be Loved by Jesus" By G. McBride **LAVENDER**

"Death on a Friday Afternoon" By Richard Neuhaus **LAVENDER**

"Cross of Death, Tree of Life" By Jerome Mecher **LAVENDER**

"Journey to the Center" By Thomas Keating **RED**

Please don't limit yourself to the books for Lent. The newest section in our library is on **Healing (Pink Tape)** and **Social Action (Blue/Green.)** These books can be found on the bookshelves straight ahead of you as you enter the library.

You may enjoy spending a little time going through the books in our library. Have you ever read any books by Fr. James Martin, a Jesuit priest from New York? Besides his spirituality, he is a very funny man. One of his books will take you off-Broadway and you will meet famous actors. Read as many books as you can of his. You can find his books in the green tape area or the yellow tape area.

Have you ever read any books by the Rev. Henri Nouwen? He will be a friend forever after reading his books. You can find his books in the lavender and yellow tape areas.

Another author you would enjoy reading is Joyce Rupp. You will find her works with the books with the lavender tape. Her books make popular gifts.

happy
reading!

The Library is open on Sunday after the
8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses and
Tuesday through Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
You will have to do your own signing-out of books on the weekday.
There should be someone there to assist you on Sunday.

THE HAND OF GOD IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

I received an email from one of our parishioners, Sandy, asking me if I could let her into St. Peter's food pantry. It was my day off, so I called her and let her know I would meet her up at St. Peter's. She did not arrive at our appointed time, and texted me that she was delayed, so I responded that I would go to the food pantry for her. While in the food pantry, I remembered that my friend Mary had a frozen turkey she put in the freezer, so I texted Sandy to ask if she would like the turkey (which she did), then simultaneously, I received a reminder text from Mary about the turkey!! Hmm... was that a coincidence?

As I walked to the freezer to retrieve the turkey, Sandy called me. I asked her if there was anything she specifically wanted from the pantry (often people need just some regular household items like paper towels or a sponge). She told me that she and her daughter were recovering from being sick and she really needed toothpaste and new toothbrushes. Just as she said this, I walked past the blue bin which is where parishioners at St. Peter's leave donations for the food pantry. And sitting on TOP (I did not have to dig or move ANYTHING), were 2 tubes of toothpaste and 2 toothbrushes!!

It is the blessings we receive when doing God's work, and seeing the hand of God in the ordinary, that I find myself rejoicing as a disciple of Christ!



God is good!

Eileen Hanrahan



From the Editor

Have you seen the Hand of God at work
in your everyday life?

Share your story with us in this new feature -
tell us how a coincidence of a moment of grace
helped you see God in your daily life.

Submissions can be anonymous if you wish.
Your story will strengthen all who read it.

Email: pambill22@verizon.net,
or send by post to Pam Lobley
c/o the Rectory at St. Peter's.

THE NET WORKER

The Newsletter of
St. Peter
the Apostle Parish,
River Edge,
New Jersey

EDITOR
Pam Lobley

DESIGN & LAYOUT
Ana DiBisceglie

STAFF:
Steve Citarella

**CONTACT
INFORMATION:**
pambill22@verizon.net

