

Gospel — John 17:11B-19

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying:
“Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one just as we are one.
When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me,
and I guarded them, and none of them was lost
except the son of destruction,
in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled.
But now I am coming to you.
I speak this in the world
so that they may share my joy completely.
I gave them your word, and the world hated them,
because they do not belong to the world
any more than I belong to the world.
I do not ask that you take them out of the world
but that you keep them from the evil one.
They do not belong to the world
any more than I belong to the world.
Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.
As you sent me into the world,
so I sent them into the world.
And I consecrate myself for them,
so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

Gospel Study — *Life is Fragile*

Unedited Gospel Study

The most common thing I'm asked to pray for are the sick or suffering in our community-- although I remember one person who articulated that at mass once they said, "Let us pray for those sick of this parish..." The second most common intention I'm asked to pray for our those who are no longer coming to church. That is, those friends and family who, for whatever reason, no longer come to church and are struggling in their lives. I imagine that touches close to your home and your heart because all of us can quickly think of some of our own children or grandchildren or godchildren or friends and family and coworkers who are good people but no longer come to church for whatever reason.

This is certainly a burden that is on my heart and I imagine on many of your hearts. It's that which leads us to pray for them. It's this kind of prayer for people that I imagine Jesus feels and that leads him into prayer for his apostles in this Gospel. I invite us to imagine Jesus praying with us for our family. Imagine Jesus praying with us right here and now. This prayer is called the priestly prayer of Jesus because it is for his disciples and we are his disciples. In fact we know this prayer takes up the entire chapter, 17 of John's Gospel.

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For the sake of our study we can divide it into three parts. Those three parts are spread out over three years in the Lectionary cycle but each year on the seventh Sunday after Easter we have a portion of this chapter read. The first part is when Jesus prays for himself. For those who feel hesitant to pray for themselves, I always say, "Hey, Jesus prayed for himself. There is nothing wrong with praying for yourself. It just shouldn't stop there." For Jesus, it leads him into prayer for his disciples; those with him around the last supper table and those with him through the ages, his disciples for ages to come.

It reminds me how we ought to be praying not just for ourselves but for those of our family and friends and the wider circle of the community beyond us. Our prayer should be like a ripple effect, reaching out further and wider to more and more people. That's the prayer Jesus. As we focus particularly on this middle section in this year's cycle and reading, we are privileged to listen in to this prayer of Jesus. You can tell a lot about a person when you listen to their prayer, have you noticed?

another priest always told me listen carefully to the prayers of your people really will share their hurts and was close to the hearts through the true is especially true with Jesus invited to listen in to Jesus prayer were invited into the heart of our Lord like John at the Last Supper the context of this is the Last Supper you know you almost invited to leave our ear on the heart of the Lord to pick up what he did leased vehicles for them and for us in fact we should be reminded that these are the last words that Jesus will actually speak to his disciples following this chapter he's led immediately into his passion into his death and through his passion he's virtually silent except for a few key remarks from the cross but his disciples are not there to cheer him so isn't it interesting that Jesus was last words are a final blessing to his disciples dispatching to move the food that the Lord is so depraved for us as the way of us the best of him which is his spirit as he prays for that spirit to be with us so now imagine Jesus praying with us and for us as we open ourselves to his prayer he looks up to heaven interesting I like that very phrase because he's focused his prayer looks up to heaven and praise father most holy like paths right there at the opening phrase to say that since so much about how Jesus praying again very focus but remember how he calls on God is how he sees God and his contemporaries remember do not feel they could ever use God's name Yahweh God gave to Moses at the burning bush in the desert I am who am an Hebrew job way use different euphemisms such as adult I mean border el Shaddai God of the mountain or as a way of speaking about God descriptives and Jesus prays as he taught his disciples to pray call God our Baja father the most tender most endearing title as it does suggest the greatest intimacy with the Lord so this is how Jesus prays in the most intimate way do well to reflect on how we pray and had we began our prayer how do you place yourself in the presence of the Lord the Saints tell us all right I've read about ways to pray they all seem to agree the most important thing is the first step to place ourselves in the presence of the Lord that is not easy to do I tried to develop the habit of taking a least one minute the place myself in the presence of the Lord by actually kneeling in and managing God right before me that's hard when my mind is somewhere else beyond already into my day and not in the moment so it takes at least a good minute and some discipline to place yourself in the presence of God and ask to and we pray for each comes to your mind surfaces ordinarily I feel called to pray to Jesus because Jesus is missing Paul tells us the visible image of the invisible God so I can see more clearly who God is by Jesus but he came to me once when I was just beginning my prayer this image of walking into the pastors office to Cathedral and I imagine Jesus sitting behind the desk as my pastor does and

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I tell them what's on my mind the things I have going on and what I would like to suggest and I imagine Jesus sitting there quietly as a pastor does drops what he doesn't listen but he's an introvert so that usually responded first for summaries I just imagine Jesus as an introvert because I guess I don't wait for his response I go in and I present my case and I am certain is also what I hear the pastor say I'll get back to you back the... About the bag are qualitatively one-day newsletters show visa we committed to the pastors over some behind his beautiful desk and I imagine Jesus doesn't want any distance between us and I imagine Jesus getting up coming around the desk and saying like we say when we create a friend it's good to see you can imagine Jesus saying this to you when you go to pray every day it's good to see you, once a last question suggest I should to pray better is is worth first begin by realizing how happy and excited God is to see you in the pray with you on how that turned it around and it was in the – the only obstacle the barrier is doing prayer this is all part the opening scene that is setting the stage for real intimate dialogue to happen so I tried to do that now imagine Jesus coming greeting me sitting out comes to me focus and completely insane when I'm not missing something to give them a chance I find God's not the intro I need to become more retrospective introspective reflective person that Jesus teaches us our father they were reminded of course of the our father he taught his disciples our father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name was one way one starts the God scene was Howard because Howard will also produce Freudian slip from his childhood brainiac father said forgive us our trespasses and give it to those a trespass against us that there is sometimes my prayer to Jesus continues in his beautiful spirit. We ought to pray as Jesus but we almost ought to ask Jesus to lead us in the prayer who surely would lead us closer to the heart of God that source of law and the Lord like us to the beloved disciple who this gospel is the heart of the Lord and then this prayer comes up in us it isn't a manufactured or fabricated it doesn't take a lot of effort because it just comes up in us and whatever comes up comes up in Jesus is this great prayer of protection for his disciples father ProTect them with your name you have given me this will be repeated almost like a theme through the prayer father God damn him again we will hear these words guide them from the evil one I want to say to myself what is and Jesus is seen that his disciples don't see if we will how much evil is around us surrounds us I think we would pray a whole lot more don't you and I know our parents see that more children and that's why they pray for us much you how often do you pray God's protection for your children protect them specially from the one any harm of any kind physical world spiritual emotional any kind of harm this prayer Jesus is the prayer of every parents surely a prayer of every friend for that matter this prayer protectionist Jesus is conscious of these disciples are ready to graduate so to speak and go out into the hard-core world where they will meet directly the opposition and how great the opposition is how great the temptation and how often they will suffer deceit Jesus says is that the world will hate them for what he is taught them he seems that instantly praise God father protect them I'm reminded of one of the most beautiful prayer is that I try to pray is the prayer often referred to as the breastplate of Saint Patrick and what I have learned about this prayer is when I was in Ireland is it's called Lori, Lori, is actually a type of prayer back in the early century when soldiers would go out to battle they put on protective armor was called Lori cut and rude prayed that God would protect them from the evil forces out there so in the legacy of spirituality Saint Patrick we pray that the Lord would protect us shield us from all those evil forces and the prayer that Patrick offers us a thing is wonderful and I quoted Christ be before me Christ be behind me Christ be Christ be a botany Christ be at my right crispy on my left crispy at my foot Christ be all about me that you love it I just think this is the prayer we are to pray every day don't you think was prayed morning that day will be meeting with a lot of things and I pray God's me because I

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don't know what's gonna hit today I know something something always happens you have to rework when you go something's going to broadside you better have a protection this is where how we pray it's how Jesus pray it's just a conscious awareness of all of the temptations encounter forces that are out there and so he prays protection this is what Jesus is right and in the process father gave me one in us as you are me and I am in you that is the perfect person for unity the best prayer we could ever pray is God be with us that we be with God go with God and goodwill go with you for God is the source of all goodness were reminded of previous weeks message of the vine and branches when were with God like the branches remain part of the vine then we will bear fruit then we will be productive then we would be effective but cut apart from that divine we can do nothing to me would be one with God that should be our prayer I've often thought of this in our prayer list everyone has a prayer the social unconsciously if not consciously used on a prayer list should be I believe this prayer Jesus that we would be wanting God because of her wanting God everything else falls right so would we pray that and not just for ourselves for family for friends for the church for the whole world God make us one new and that again is a said Jesus continues father guard them with your name I kept careful watch Jesus sounds a little worried you're doesn't hope that I kept careful watch over none of them was lost yet except one the one that was destined to be lost course you recognize this one refers to Judah us he says that in fulfillment of Scriptures that's written in retrospect is obviously Judas had a free will and that choice was Judas his choice were all given a free will but I'm sure Jesus prayed for Judas that you think you could just see him praying form even as he's leaving the last supper meal the Jesus prayer takes the twisties worry about them but if you the emotion in his heart and the passion of his prayer is his father I pray that they may have my joy completely and I think there's ever a prayer that I been blessed to shear a parents it's that all I pray God is that my children be happy residence in Echo Jesus prayer I want Lord is at my kids would be happy is nice to think Jesus wants us to be happy because I don't know I grew up with the thinking that we should suffer and I don't I got that idea in my own words thinking or what but Jesus wants us to be joyful but as I spoke about last week that joyful does mean we will need to suffer some because joy is a byproduct of living a loving life which means laying your life down but the substantive Jesus once is happy in fact when especial was in campus ministry I heard many young men and young women come to me and share on father just want to find the right person life but may be good I guess God doesn't want it I know is that your heart's deepest desire said yes I know I said if that's your heart's deepest desire and that's God's desire because he desires the fulfillment of your heart doesn't make sense and is now maybe it is and finding Mr. right so much as in right Zion because of the right dispose themselves to be very attractive because I haven't developed the capacity for intimacy in her life you know so that the answer isn't quite as simple as we imagine it to be but I never forget I was struggling when I made my final decision right before my ordination should I should night... I don't know is is to show what you want and just came to me real clear of course it's what I want because I put that desire in you to want this to where you think that desire came from et al. I called you I was so thrilled to think that he would want my happiness in my happiness is to do his will which I think you right sitting are hearts for society to get in touch with that us part of our very being so that's what I see the Lord praying for here he goes on to pray father I know the world to hate them why she seems because it's the world's Haiti temp world in a sense you have to be careful because world is used in different ways in John's Gospel and beginning the gospel told God so loved the world he gave us his only son now were saying the world appears to be in opposition to the Savior of the world so the world refers to those forces that go against Christ and Christ teaching and Christ knows how

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the world has rejected him if he rejected him he knows is going to reject his disciples and I don't know that yet he does just like parents know your kids are going to have to go through the school of hard knocks you want them to know that I have to you hated but they got a go through it and so you just pray for them you pray for them and that's where Jesus is prayer is taking him father I do not ask you to take them out of the world but the guard them from the evil one when you dear dear mother at St. Joseph's parish whose children are out in the world in a couple of them are out on the streets and by streets I mean facing gangs and drugs and all the worse that's out there and I was listening to her carry-on about her great concern and some tears and she ended her college for so father I just pray everyday Jesus there your children guard them guide them that's the prayer Jesus knowing he's going to leave his disciples they will be on their own father there your children guard them guide them goes on to say in this prayer for them consecrate them consecrate them but does that mean consecrate to make holy rollcall to move a life of holiness so how does this make ourselves consecrate ourselves only God can consecrate us first of but how does God do it's right here in the sentence maybe recall the line consecrate them how is a truth what your truth your words is true I can understand this praying with it this week is that when we come together to study God's word in this gospel hopefully we are being made holy that is more like Christ I slowly and surely this consecration to the Lord is not as easy as a simple prayer once it covers four times the come forever and ever amen but rather this week consecration is growing into the word that's one of the primary ways that we grow in God is to grow in his word and the gospel was think that's a what would hearings being discipled being prepared to do the work he has given us to do what's going

suggests that then he says this is what I consider the climax of this prayer is his father Jesus is praying as you sent to the world so I send them into the world this sending out his mission and send out Jesus called his disciples to do the most incredible thing which is to do everything he has done and that is almost too much that we could continue to do what Jesus has done the week of the other Christ that is what were called today but that doesn't happen usually only happens when work made holy Jesus says I consecrate myself imagine this last supper meal now imagine were at the point of consecration and was immediately consecrate the bread and wine I was consecrated will recall how Jesus consecrated himself on Calvary in other words to consecrate to make holy means to sacrifice sanctifying and for sacrificing our one and the same sour mood holy leftover consecrated by sacrificing ourselves Jesus sacrificed himself on the cross in his last thing he did on the cross in John's Gospel was he brie his last but the word bread means spirit he handed over his spirit John tells us and that's to be read in a symbolic way to understanding the Pentecostal is about to happen when the apostles consecrate kids in giving the Holy Spirit to continue the work of the Lord so we unite ourselves with Jesus in the mass the pray that we be consecrated would sacrifice ourselves to do God's will and that's how we are ultimately made holy holy other sly Christ question and we want to ask ourselves reflect on the gospel was how do we pray is our prayer one with the Lord do we pray for our family and our friends do we have a prayer list one of the best tips we had to give each other this prayer isn't don't be shy giving this gift were asked to pray every day Wednesday disciples to and remember when you pray in the same upper room where they prayed last with Jesus at the Last Supper prayed he taught them to stay and pray that without him they can do nothing with and they can do everything that so we could always have hope for our families crystal operator the spirit can make up for whatever lacking. Amen.