

## Prayer (Part I) By Mark Shea (catholicexchange.com)

I once knew four women with a gift for musical harmony who made a recording. When they played the tape back they could hear a beautiful fifth voice joining them when their voices blended just so. They knew, of course, that there was nothing supernatural here—the phenomenon is known as “overtone” and is often used to great effect in music composition. But they still joked that an angel had joined them.

Prayer is a sort of music. However, many of us feel we have tin ears. Indeed, even **St. Paul’s first insight into prayer is that we do not know how to do it** (Rom 8:26).

If you have ever felt the same way, join the club! So have all the saints. Such doubt about our worthiness and ability to discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit is a sign of both our sickness (since partial deafness to the Spirit is a consequence of original sin) and our health (since awareness of that deafness is a safeguard against pride.) Indeed, so accustomed are we to our estrangement from God that some actually seem to think deafness to the Spirit’s voice is supposed to be normal and vaguely virtuous.

Nonetheless, we find Christ and His Apostles answering this notion by taking up the ceaseless refrain of the prophets: “Listen to me, my people, and live!” Christ doesn’t say, “Don’t get uppity and start imagining you can hear from God.” He says, “Him who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Scripture repeatedly urges us to discern the voice of God. Indeed, Our Lord, Our Lady, the Apostles, Scripture and Sacred Tradition all talk as if **ordinary men, women and children can and should discern and obey God’s will**. And indeed, throughout the history of the Church we find this has in fact been done. Thus, the question is not whether, but how, modern Christians can tap into that reality.

Discerning God’s voice takes practice. My four friends did not spontaneously invent the song, harmonies and all, as they were recording it—they learned the song and their separate parts in it by reading and listening. In the same way, we do not, by ourselves, know either the will of God or our part in it without the Father’s revelation. Therefore, when we pray, we also must begin, not by talking, but by listening.

Someone might say, “Uh-oh, I’m no mystic. What does he mean by ‘listen’?” Don’t worry. You don’t have to be Padre Pio or St. Teresa of Avila. “Listening” simply means we must start by making the same request of Jesus His disciples did: “Lord, teach us to pray.” This is an exciting opportunity since it allows us to enter in a living way into the ongoing work of Christ in the earth. It is also a bit scary since it puts us in the position of really needing God to do something to us and through us rather than leave us comfortably chugging through the paces of some abstract religious duty. **To listen is to open ourselves to the fact that a very real supernatural world surrounds us.** And uncanny as it seems, God will show us how to pray—teach us His song and our part in that song—just as He did the disciples.

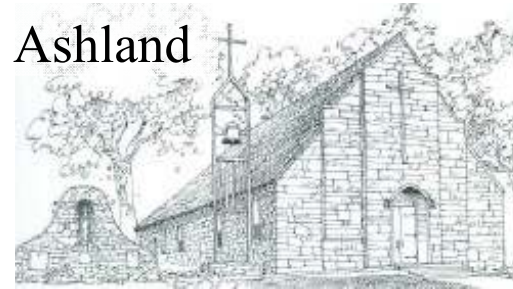
How? First, of course, through the primary avenues He has made available for centuries. That is, through the revelation Jesus Christ made to us through the Mass, through Scripture and through the teaching, traditions and sacraments of the Church. But He also frequently speaks in concert with these primary avenues in myriad ways—through a chance comment, a gift of the Holy Spirit, a natural event, angels, coincidence, our conscience, etc. In short, **He comes to us in the daily occurrences of life.** The Spirit leads us in peace even when He calls us to difficult things. That is why St. Paul tells the Colossians, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.”

Jesus has more to say about prayer. Let’s consider it further next week.

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# St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Churches

## Ashland



**1625 Adams Street, Ashland NE 68003**  
**Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM**  
**Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM**

## Greenwood



**7 Oak Street, Greenwood**  
**Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM**

Pastor: Father Gary Coulter

Rectory & Fax: 944-3554, CCD/Hall: 944-7509

View the weekly bulletin & monthly calendar Cell: 202-3782, stmaryashland@windstream.net  
at our **website: home.windstream.net/stmaryashland**

**Welcome to new parishioners,**  
please call the rectory to register  
or for information on any of our parish  
activities and organizations.

**Confessions** a half hour before Masses  
Saturday 4:00-4:50 PM St. Mary  
Sunday 8:00-8:20 AM St. Mary  
10:00-10:20 AM St. Joseph  
Any time by calling the rectory.

| Mass Schedule for this week |         |          |             |                      |  |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------|-------------|----------------------|--|
| Sat.                        | Aug. 14 | 5:00 PM  | Ashland     | + Raymond Svoboda Jr |  |
| Sun.                        | Aug. 15 | 8:30 AM  | Ashland     | + Walt Yunker        |  |
|                             |         | 10:30 AM | Greenwood   | For the People       |  |
| Mon.                        | Aug. 16 | 9:00 AM  | Ashland     | + Gerhard Groenjes   |  |
| Tues.                       | Aug. 17 | 9:00 AM  | Ashland     | Special intention    |  |
| Wed.                        | Aug. 18 | 9:15 AM  | Care Center | + Eric Lewis         |  |
| Thurs.                      | Aug. 19 | 9:00 AM  | Ashland     | + Raymond Svoboda Jr |  |
|                             |         | 6:30 PM  | Greenwood   |                      |  |
| Fri.                        | Aug. 20 | 9:00 AM  | Ashland     | + Charles Nickel     |  |
| Sat.                        | Aug. 21 | 9:00 AM  | Ashland     | Poor Souls           |  |
|                             |         | 5:00 PM  | Ashland     | + Jerry Campbell     |  |
| Sun.                        | Aug. 22 | 8:30 AM  | Ashland     | For the People       |  |
|                             |         | 10:30 AM | Greenwood   |                      |  |

August 15, 2010

Assumption of Mary

Ministries for Next Weekend

Sat. Aug. 21 - 5:00 PM
Servers: Craven, Isaacson
Acolyte: Tim Kirkpatrick
Lector: Joanna Torpy
Sun. Aug. 22 - 8:30 AM
Servers: McGinley, Vavaks
Acolyte: Gene Kresak
Lector: Mace McGinley
Sun. Aug. 22 - 10:30 AM
Lector: Kevin Fuller
Offertory: Franks

Our Return to the Lord, Aug. 7-8

Table with 3 columns: Category, St. Mary, St. Joseph. Rows include Adult, Plate, Children, Weekly Budget, and Masses.

Readings and Celebrations this week:

August
16 Mon Ez 24:15-24 / Mt 19:16-22 [Saint Stephen of Hungary]
17 Tue Ez 28:1-10 / Mt 19:23-30
18 Wed Ez 34:1-11 / Mt 20:1-16
19 Thu Ez 36:23-28 / Mt 22:1-14 [Saint John Eudes, priest]
20 Fri Ez 37:1-14 / Mt 22:34-40 St Bernard, abbot and doctor of the Church
21 Sat Ez 43:1-7b / Mt 23:1-12 Saint Pius X, pope
21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Is 66:18-21 / Heb 12:5-13 / Lk 13:22-30

Stewardship Thought

After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship... She was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as 'handmaid' in terms of service and fidelity.

Congratulations

Anniversaries this week:
40 Years!!! Norm & Karen Weverka
20 Years!! Rod & Cheryl Reisen
Rob & Mary Jo Allington
Birthdays this week:
Susan Thomas
Sharon Wilson
Darcy Weston
Mark Sobota
Luke Sobota
Tom Deleski
Summer Lewin
Bill Osborn
Chuck Reisen
Jaime Bustamante

Calendar for this Week

Sun. Aug. 15, 6 PM Summer Catechism Class
7:30 PM St Mary Parish Council
Wed. Aug. 18, 9:15 AM Mass at Care Center
Thurs. Aug. 19, 6:30 PM Mass at Greenwood
Sat. Aug. 21, 6:00-10:00 AM Pancake Breakfast at Greenwood
Sun. Aug. 22, 6 PM Summer Catechism Class

Plan ahead: CCD Parent Meeting and Registration will be Wed. Aug. 25, 7:00 PM.

Parish Announcements

St. Joseph Greenwood annual Pancake Breakfast is this Sat. August 21st, 6:00-10:00 AM. All you can eat, free will donation.

Look for more info in next's week bulletin about St. Mary opening a Catholic Preschool in our Education Center.

Members of our Youth Group are going to World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid Spain! They have been working hard at fundraising but need your help. They are available to do yard work, cleaning, babysitting, etc. Contact: Scott Ginley 944-3339, Pierce Isaacson 944-6097, Chaz Rosenbaum 944-7341, Dennis Stille 944-7851, Jake Vavak 944-7300.

St. Mary's parish Prayer Chain is available to pray for anyone who is seriously sick or for grave needs only. Call Marie Groenjes (944-7458) or Pat Estey (944-2790) with intentions.

Fr. Coulter has an extra ticket to hear Fr. John Corapi speak on "The Battle Between Good and Evil" Sat. Sept 11 at the Omaha Quest Center: www.fathercorapiomaha.com

Mass Intentions: Having Mass said for anyone - living or deceased, Catholic or non-catholic - is an important work of mercy and one of the greatest gifts we can give. Mass cards are also available for free from Fr. Coulter.

Communion Announcements

Sock Hope - St. Joseph is joining the other Greenwood Churches throughout August in collecting new socks to donate to the People's City Mission. Men/Women/Children's socks needed.

Diocesan Announcements

Natural Family Planning (NFP) Creighton Model Introductory Session Tues. Aug 24. For location and pre-registration call: 488-2040.

Holy Trinity, Brainard Chicken Dinner & Bazaar is Sun. Aug. 15, 11AM-3 PM, \$7; after 10 AM Mass. Bake sale, Games, Raffle, Polka.

Thursday Night Forum Aug. 26, 8 PM at Omaha Gloria Deo, 13065 W Center. Fr. Paul Hoelsing will speak on "Seminarians for the New Millenium". Free Lecture, Q&A, Refreshments.

Waverly Retreat House, weekend retreats Aug. 27-29 Women, Sept. 10-11 Men & Women. Contact 786-2705 www.goodcounselretreat.com

Pope Paul VI Institute, to honor its 25th Anniversary, will hold a Celebration of Life and Love - a free Family Fun Day Sat. Sept 4, 9 AM-4 PM at the Omaha Quest Center. Rides, games, entertainment, concessions, speakers and more. www.PopePaulVI.com

Outdoor Family Fun at Camp Kateri, just south of York, NE. Sept 25-26. Cost, \$99.00 per cabin for group of six. Create family memories and build family ties with an outdoor adventure in nature: fishing, canoeing, hiking, and camp fire tales. Call Fr. Tom Kuffel (402-266-5581) for registration and information.

A Benedictine Oblate Orientation for new members will be held Sun. Aug. 22 or Mon. Aug 23 (attend either) at 7 PM, at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln. Oblates are Christian men and women of all faiths, learning Lectio Divina (holy reading, meditation, prayer & contemplation) and the Liturgy of the Hours. There is no cost except for occasional books. See sites.google.com/site/nebraskabenedictineoblates or call Sr. Phyllis Hunhoff, OSB, at 488-6731 or email phunhoff74@windstream.net.

Two day Catholic Charismatic Conference Sept 3-4 at New World Inn, Columbus. Features James 'Butch' Murphy of www.veracruzcm.com \$15 if registered by 8/25. To register or for more info call 246-9219 or email sothoth@aol.com.

Please Pray this week for our Religious Sisters In 1st Vows preparing to become School Sisters of Christ the King: Sr. Mary Gabriel, Sr. Regina Marie.