

## From the Pastor's Desk

*"[God] answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.'" (Gen 18:32b)*

Following God's life is a challenge. We are all tempted to pursue the false goods of our material world and our own self-regard ahead of God's glory.

This Sunday's first reading makes clear humanity's willingness to set aside God's glory to pursue its own, self-serving ends.

Prior to annihilating the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham seeks God's mercy on those people in the cities who have been faithful and righteous to God, asking Him to spare the cities to protect these righteous people.

Beginning with the possibility of fifty righteous people in the cities who deserve God's protection, Abraham reduces the possible number of righteous people by five or ten, until he finally arrives at ten righteous people. At each amount, God agrees to spare the city for the sake of these righteous people.

Since God annihilated Sodom and Gomorrah, we understand that there were no righteous and faithful people living in these cities, or, at least, no more than ten.

As a lesson from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Jewish wisdom infers that there are always at least ten righteous people who completely follow God's life, enabling the world to continue.

In contrast, Christian teaching tells us that, except for Jesus Christ and his mother, no living person has or will ever be fully righteous and faithful to God's life and glory, at least not over the full course of their lives.

In this Sunday's gospel reading, Jesus provides us with the central prayer of our faith: the Lord's Prayer, or Our Father. In the middle of this prayer we seek God's forgiveness, and we express our intention to forgive others.

It is through God's gift to us of his perfect Son, Jesus Christ, that we have hope for God's mercy and our everlasting salvation.

Jesus directs us today to remain steadfast in our hope. We are to persevere, through our weakness, in building and maintaining our right relationship with God.

Jesus encourages us to persist in our relationship with God, confident that God, especially in

the person of His Son (who always mediates and intercedes for us with his Father), hears and responds to our sincere and salutary petitions.

Let us face the challenges of our faith life with hope in God's goodness and mercy. He is here for us and ready to come to the aid of all who seek Him.

- Fr. Brian Kean

## Parish Council Cookout



*Parillada del Consejo Parroquial*

## Desde el escritorio del Párroco

En la lectura del evangelio de este domingo, Jesús nos proporciona la oración central de nuestra fe: el Padrenuestro. En medio de esta oración buscamos el perdón de Dios y expresamos nuestra intención de perdonar a los demás.

Es a través del regalo de Dios para nosotros de su Hijo perfecto, Jesucristo, que tenemos esperanza en la misericordia de Dios y nuestra salvación eterna.

Jesús nos dirige hoy a permanecer firmes en nuestra esperanza. Debemos perseverar, a través de nuestra debilidad, en construir y mantener nuestra correcta relación con Dios.

Jesús nos anima a persistir en nuestra relación con Dios, confiados en que Dios, especialmente en la persona de su Hijo (que siempre intercede por nosotros ante su Padre), escucha y responde a nuestras sinceras y saludables peticiones.

Enfrentemos los desafíos de nuestra vida de fe con esperanza en la bondad y misericordia de Dios. Él está aquí para nosotros y listo para venir en ayuda de todos los que lo buscan.

- Padre Brian Kean