

March 7, 2017
Mt 6:7-15

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us to pray in the words that we know well as the Our Father. Throughout our lives as Catholics, we probably have uttered these words of prayer thousands and thousands of times, often without thinking about just what it is we're praying.

"Thy will be done," . . . easy to say but not so easy to always accept. Be honest! What we would really rather pray is "My will be done," right? When we pray our acceptance of God's will, we are acknowledging that God has a plan and a purpose for us. Don't doubt it, the purpose is right there in the first part of the phrase, "Thy Kingdom come."

In our acceptance of God's will, while we might not understand it, we are being drawn closer to the Kingdom of the Father that is always top of mind for Jesus.

When we live our lives with a "Thy will be done" attitude, our whole perspective changes. Yes, we might not understand what God wills for us and why, but God does, and that's where we anchor our faith.

Reflection questions:

- How sincere are my attempts to discern the will of the Father in my life?
- How difficult is it to do the will of God when it conflicts with my own will and self-interests?
- During this holy season of Lent, what might I do to come to a better understanding and acceptance of God's will in my life?

Lenten reflection by Debbie Bosak, Communications Director for the Diocese of Gary and editor of the Northwest Indiana Catholic. She is a member of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Merrillville.