

When I worked for the car companies, I made it my practice on weekends NOT to wear a watch. The first time I started doing this, I noticed myself always glancing at my empty wrist. That always made me think of my first grade teacher, Sister Anne Fidelis, who would answer the question of “What time is it?” with “Oh, it’s a hair past a freckle.”

In today’s readings, there is a certain emphasis on time. The Gospel begins with:

*Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray ALWAYS without becoming weary.*

The word here rendered as ALWAYS, is in the Greek literally “at every moment of time,” or “every fraction of a second.”

In other words, we are admonished by Jesus to be constantly at prayer.

If you look at this from an overly pragmatic view, it might seem short-sighted. After all, are we supposed to spend our entire lives on our knees praying?

That thought, though, reflects a narrow perspective of what prayer is.

It is my consideration that we should “at all times” be aware of the presence of God in our lives, and “at all times” be in relationship to God.

You don’t need to prop a Bible up on the steering wheel while you’re driving – but it wouldn’t hurt to be aware that even behind the wheel, cussing or growling at the idiot who cuts you off in traffic – that you are not somehow outside of God’s presence.

Saint Paul gives us another angle on time:

*Proclaim the word;  
be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient.*

The words here that are translated as CONVENIENT and INCONVENIENT are sometimes rendered as “in season” and “out of season.”

Another way of looking at those two words are: “at a good time,” or “not at a good time.”

Greek has two words for “time.” One is CHRONOS – where we get the English word CHRONOMETER. That means linear or measured time. Sort of like “are you free next Tuesday for lunch?” The sort of time you can check on your day planner.

In Paul’s letter, he uses the word KAIROS. This sort of time is not a fixed measure of time, but rather a time of opportunity.

This could cause us to reflect on the question when do we take the opportunity to show our Christian faith in our life?

Do we do it only when somebody is watching? Do we do it only when we’re in church, or at a church function?

Today as we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us ask for the grace to “pray constantly” – remaining at all times in the presence and in relationship to the Most Holy Trinity. And let us also live our lives for Jesus Christ – being worthy of the name “Christian” ... whether it is convenient or inconvenient; in-season or out-of-season; opportune or inopportune.

For by our Baptism, we are called to live within the life of the Trinity – children of God the Father, redeemed in Jesus Christ, and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.