



## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 23, 2020

Be holy, for I, the LORD,  
your God, am holy.  
— *Leviticus 19:2b*

### FOOLISHNESS

Sometimes the idea of repentance seems old-fashioned, naïve, even foolish. But if you're looking for real foolishness, you'll find it in today's readings.

We begin with Leviticus and the admonition, "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge" (Leviticus 19:18). We've heard that message before, of course, so we might forget how far it is from the so-called "practical realities of life." Saint Paul warns us about being practical, though. Whoever considers oneself wise had better "become a fool," because "the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God" (1 Corinthians 3:18, 19).

This "foolishness" continues in the Gospel: "Offer no resistance to one who is evil" (Matthew 5:39). In fact, offer the other cheek when you've been slapped. Hand over your coat as well as your shirt. Be like God, who sends sunshine and rain on the bad as well as the good. "So be perfect," says Jesus, "just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (5:48).  
—J. S. Paluch Co.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving: these disciplines, prescribed by Jesus himself in the Sermon on the Mount, along with strict instructions not to flaunt them in public to win recognition and praise (Matthew 6:1-18), have been embraced by all the saints at the beginning of every Lent for almost two thousand years. But mention Lent, and many react with a grimace or slight shudder—even now, years after official obligations have been reduced to a minimum! No wonder the Eastern Rite's "Lenten Announcement" sounds surprising: "Let us receive with joy, O faithful people, the divinely inspired announcement of Lent! The Lenten Spring shines forth! Begin the fast with joy! Let us fast from passions as well as food, taking pleasure in the good works of the Spirit, and accomplishing them in love!" Saint John Chrysostom, whose feast is September 13, elaborates: "Do you fast? Give proof by your works. If you see a poor person, take pity. An enemy, be reconciled. A friend gaining honor, don't be jealous." A positive approach! May the saints help us keep such a Lent!

—Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29  
Tues: Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37  
Wed: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
Thurs: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25  
Fri: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15  
Sat: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32  
Sun: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19; Mt 4:1-11

### REPENTANCE

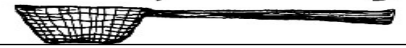
Of all human acts, repentance is the most divine.  
The greatest of all faults is to be  
conscious of none.

—Thomas Carlyle

**Prayer Requests: Call 874-3812.** Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen., Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo [Ed] Arnold, Castellini family, Anne Favre, Kathy R., Donna W., and for all who struggle with civil and human rights, we pray

### Finance Corner:

### Weekly Offering



Your generosity is  
greatly needed and appreciated!

For the month of **February/March** offerings:

2/16: 1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1675. Capital Expenditures: \$1024.  
2/23: Rural Food. 2/26: [Ash Wed.] Church in Central/East Europe.  
3/1: Operating Expenses.

### Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA  
**Finance Council [FC]:** Tues., 4/7/20, at 3PM in Hall  
**Liturgy Committee:** Thurs., 3/5/20, at 9:45AM in Hall

**St. Teresa Ladies Guild:** Contact Diane, 823-6044  
**St. Philip Ladies Guild:** Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

**Every Friday, Centering Prayer:** 9:30AM at St Philip  
**Coffee & Goodies:** Following 8AM Sunday Mass and  
Wednesday/Friday after 9AM Mass, at St Philip Hall



### **Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon:**

All seniors welcome! (No lunch Monday before 2nd Tues. of month)

### ✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Sat., Feb. 22, 5pm Mass ✠ Brendan Smith  
Sun., Feb. 23, 8am Mass  
Sun., Feb. 23, 9:30am Mass for the People  
Sun., Feb. 23, 11:15am Mass ✠ Emily & Joe Palmer  
Mon., Feb. 24, 9am Prayer Service  
Tues., Feb. 25, 9am Mass

Wed., Feb. 26, 9am Mass & Ashes, *Occidental*  
Wed., Feb. 26, 12noon Mass & Ashes, *Bodega*  
Wed., Feb. 26, 6pm Mass & Ashes, *Occidental*

Thurs., Feb. 27, 9am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross  
Fri., Feb. 28, 9am Mass preceded by 8:50 morning Lenten prayer  
Sat., Feb. 29, 5pm Mass ✠ Marcella & Joseph Kiefer  
Sun., March 1, 8am Mass for the People  
Sun., March 1, 9:30am Mass  
Sun., March 1, 11:15am Mass ✠ Fr. Gary Logan

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence

For 86 years,  
I have served Jesus  
Christ, and he has  
never abandoned me.

**St. Polycarp**  
A disciple of St. John the Evangelist,  
Bishop of Smyrna, and martyr for the faith

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saint snippets

February 23

### Pope Francis Quote

"Religion has the right to express its opinion in the service of the people, but God in creation has set us free: it is not possible to interfere spiritually in the life of a person."

Music Note: Tom Hyde will be our guest trumpeter for our first-Saturday-of-the-month mini-recital: Sat., March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30pm in St. Teresa Church. Please join us for the music, followed by 5pm Mass and healing service.

Earlier that Saturday: Thomas Stuart and John Plass will have their priestly ordination at St. Eugene Cathedral at 10am on March 7. All are welcome to attend and pray.

### RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE: FEBRUARY 2020

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, 48 dedicated volunteers welcomed 98 families representing 110 adults, 28 children and 41 seniors, a total of 179 people receiving nutritional support. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations.

**We have set goals of eliminating use of plastic bags and transitioning to reusable grocery bags by the end of 2020** to reduce our costs and to reduce our contribution to landfill. Please continue to collect reusable grocery bags, paper bags with handles, and clean egg cartons.

**Spring cleaning?** If you have clean, gently used sleeping bags or blankets, we are collecting now for distribution this fall when weather turns colder. Drop off at the parish hall.

### RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

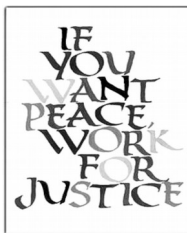
**Sat., March 7**, from 9:00 --10:00am repackaging in Parish Hall  
**Mon., March 9**, from 10:00am – 12:00pm to set up the Parish Hall  
**Tues., March 10**, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and to assist clients



"Besides doing more push-ups, Matt, you'll have to stop collapsing and yelling 'It's my cross to bear!' "

### ASH WEDNESDAY (Fast & Abstinence) is Feb. 26

**Masses & Ashes:** 9am at St. Philip's, Occidental  
12noon at St. Teresa's, Bodega  
6pm at St. Philip's, Occidental



### First Theme of Catholic Social Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person [Part Two]

The dignity of the individual and the demands of justice require, particularly today, that economic choices do not cause disparities in wealth to increase in an excessive and morally unacceptable manner. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth [Caritas in Veritate. . . ]*, no. 32)

Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are. (St. John Paul II, *On the Hundredth Year [ . . . Centesimus annus]*. . . , no. 11)

The basis for all that the Church believes about the moral dimensions of economic life is its vision of the transcendent worth -- the sacredness -- of human beings. The dignity of the human person, realized in community with others, is the criterion against which all aspects of economic life must be measured.

All human beings, therefore, are ends to be served by the institutions that make up the economy, not means to be exploited for more narrowly defined goals. Human personhood must be respected with a reverence that is religious. When we deal with each other, we should do so with the sense of awe that arises in the presence of something holy and sacred. For that is what human beings are: we are created in the image of God (Gn 1:27). (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Economic Justice for All*, no. 28)

Every individual, precisely by reason of the mystery of the Word of God who was made flesh (cf. Jn 1:14), is entrusted to the maternal care of the Church. Therefore every threat to human dignity and life must necessarily be felt in the Church's very heart; it cannot but affect her at the core of her faith in the Redemptive Incarnation of the Son of God, and engage her in her mission of proclaiming the Gospel of life in all the world and to every creature (cf. Mk 16:15). (St. John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life [ . . . Evangelium vitae. . . ]*, no. 3)

As explicitly formulated, the precept "You shall not kill" is strongly negative: it indicates the extreme limit which can never be exceeded. Implicitly, however, it encourages a positive attitude of absolute respect for life; it leads to the promotion of life and to progress along the way of a love which gives, receives and serves. (St. John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life [Evangelium vitae. . . ]*, no. 54)

This teaching rests on one basic principle: individual human beings are the foundation, the cause and the end of every social institution. That is necessarily so, for men are by nature social beings. (St. John XXIII, *Mother and Teacher [ . . . Mater et Magistra. . . ]*, no. 219)

There exist also sinful inequalities that affect millions of men and women. These are in open contradiction of the Gospel: Their equal dignity as persons demands that we strive for fairer and more humane conditions. Excessive economic and social disparity between individuals and peoples of the one human race is a source of scandal and militates against social justice, equity, human dignity, as well as social and international peace. (Catechism of the Catholic Church. . . , no. 1938)

Whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. (Second Vatican Council, *The Church in the Modern World [ . . . Gaudium et Spes. . . ]*, no. 27)

**Next week: Second Theme of Catholic Social Teaching**  
Call to Family, Community, and Participation

### FORGIVENESS

People who cannot forgive others break the bridge over which they must pass if they are to reach heaven; for everyone has a need to be forgiven. --George Herbert