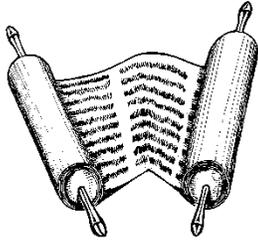


February 12, 2017

Ordinary Time

Sixth Sunday



**“I Have Come Not to Abolish
But to Fulfill”**

Today’s gospel reading involves a teaching about the Torah, the Law. For Jews, the Torah is the revelation of God’s will. Living the Torah is a privilege for Jews.

When Jesus says he has come not to abolish but to fulfill the law, it is incorrect to assume that he is dismissing the Old Testament. Rather, the Torah is so important to Jesus that he is suggesting deeper ways to fulfill it. Jesus suggests that followers go beyond a minimal observance of the law and follow it in a deeper way.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, February 18

4:30 p.m. Spec. Intention – Jurgen Paul Hutzler

Sunday, February 19

8:00 a.m. Marie & Tony Masek

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17 – 18

Responsorial Psalm: 103

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY – TODAY

The observance of World Marriage Day was adopted by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter and continues to grow and spread. In 1993, Pope John Paul II, imparted his Apostolic Blessings on World Marriage Day. This event honors husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society and the Church. It salutes the beauty of a couple’s faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.



LOOKING AHEAD ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT

Ash Wednesday – March 1

Mass Schedule:

St. Mary’s, Praha
5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph’s, Moulton

6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent, 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Fasting and Almsgiving

As Jesus’ disciples we have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters at home and in all nations. The Season of Lent provides us the opportunity to help those in need.

Second Collection (Rice Bowl)

Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday

St. Mary’s Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha



We thank the following for their recent contributions:

Louis Stryk Estate - \$1,067.78

Louis Stryk remembered St. Mary’s Church in his will. The money was earmarked for our Church Restoration Endowment Fund in his memory.

Eternal rest grant unto Louis O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

To make a tax deductible donation towards *St. Mary’s Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha* contact Fr. Gabriel at 361-596-4674.

ORIENTATION

Are You A True Disciple?

Matthew’s Sermon of the Mount portrays Jesus as the new Moses giving the people God’s commands. Jesus, however, takes the original Ten Commandments to a new level. It is no longer enough to keep the letter of the Law; we must also keep the spirit. God sees not just our actions, but our hearts as well. Murder and adultery were forbidden, but now so are anger and lust. It seems an impossible challenge. But Jesus offers a different kind of perfection, one marked by patience and humility and openness to others even when we are challenged or criticized. A true disciple is always a work in progress, a sinner in need of forgiveness, a seeker who does not have all the answers, only better questions. Are you a true disciple?

REFLECTION

Jesus Takes The Law To The Next Level

Today's Gospel, a continuation of Jesus' instruction of his disciples, begins with a statement of intent and a general principle. Jesus' words and position, as recorded by Matthew, answer the twofold question: What attitude should we take concerning the traditional commandments and what is the relationship between "righteousness" taught to us by the Old Testament and that preached by Jesus?

Jesus states with utmost clarity that he has come not to abolish the law of the prophets: "I have not come to abolish but to fulfill". Jesus has come so that all its potential may unfold, that it may be understood and observed in the Spirit that enlivens it more and more, and in order to "fulfill" it, to take it to its completion. From now on, whoever rejects one of the least commandments of the Law and teaches others to do so will be last in the Kingdom of Heaven. To give a bad example by contemptuously disobeying a commandment, even a "little" one is a scandal. Worse still is to teach others to do the same. The warning addressed to the scribes and Pharisees is directed also to all the disciples of Christ. The practice of justice specified by the Law, down to its least commandments, is the condition of entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven.

On the contrary, whoever observes the least commandments and teaches them to others will be declared great in the Kingdom of Heaven. This judgment must be understood in connection with the Beatitudes and in the general context of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus says to those he addresses as blessed, "Your reward in heaven is great."

ORDINARY TIME: 6th – 8th SUNDAY

The Sermon on the Mount, of which part of the introduction was proclaimed last Sunday (the Fifth Sunday) constitutes the framework of a new "sequence" made up of the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Sundays. First, chapter 5 of Matthew's Gospel is continued to the end; then, the last part of chapter 6.

The tone is a little different from that of the introduction, but the line of thought remains the same. We must keep in mind the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount in order to understand well what follows. The aim is to arouse in the hearers new concepts of the Law and morals. This teaching "is not rigorous and intransigent, is not an observance to maintain at all costs, but a call which urges us on farther and farther.

The Gospel of Matthew is addressed to believers who have already experienced the good news. They know they are called to live like Jesus. Therefore, to remind them of the demands of their discipleship makes good sense.

Sixth & Seventh Sundays - shows how Jesus' teaching renews and fulfills the "justice" and the precepts of the Law.

Eighth Sunday - gives us the end of this development. We must choose between God and money; trust must pervade the behavior of the children of the Kingdom.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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February 12 – Matt Cerny, John Decker Jr.
February 15 – Elton Moeller
February 16 – Patricia Gready
February 18 – Aubrey Kubenka

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



February 17 – Pam & Nathan Vrazel
February 18 – Jill & Brian Noska

Holy Rosary Women's A.C.T.S. Retreat: Mar. 16-19

The retreat is hosted by the Holy Rosary Women's A.C.T.S. Community and the send-off will be from the St. Rose Family Center in Schulenburg.

Registration forms are available at the entrance to church. For more information contact Kathleen Svatek at 214-280-7828.

St. Joseph's Church Altar Society Moulton, Texas



Noodle Soup Dinner and Drawing
Sunday, February 26, 2017

Raffle Drawing



1:00 P.M.

Chicken Noodle Soup Dinner
Serving begins at 10:00 A.M.

Chicken Noodle Soup • \$3.00 per Ladle

Chicken Salad Sandwiches

Whole \$2.00 • Half \$1.00

Desserts • \$1.00

Tea and Coffee • Free

Soup To Go Available • Bring Your Own Container

* Raffle tickets for sale at the Parish Office in Moulton.