

February 19, 2017
Ordinary Time
Seventh Sunday



Summoned to Holiness

An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth – punishment for injury – this primal law seems to be written in our human nature. But God, in giving the law to Moses, and Jesus teaching his disciples on a mountaintop, asks for something more. We are called to be holy – to be like God.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, February 25
 4:30 p.m. Lillie & Alois Kalina
 Sunday, February 26
 8:00 a.m. Anton Okruhlik

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



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

First Reading: Isaiah 49:14-15
Responsorial Psalm: 62
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

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.

2016 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

2016 Assessment	\$7,618.00
Contributions So Far	\$6,545.00
Amount Yet to be Contributed	\$1,073.00

We thank all those who have contributed towards our 2016 D.S.A. assessment so far. **It is not too late. You can still make your contribution towards our 2016 quota. The Diocese is accepting contributions through February 28, 2017 for the 2016 D.S.A. assessment.**

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Freely Chosen Obligation



“When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles.” Presenting

the other cheek, handing over your cloak, going the extra mile are all free actions, performed in the midst of a situation in which someone has taken away our freedom.

The late Anthony de Mello tells the story of the Hindi holy man who one day was accosted by a robber who put a knife against his chest and demanded, “Give me all your valuables.”

The holy man immediately handed over his pouch containing a few coins. The robber grabbed the pouch, pulled the knife back and started to run away. But the holy man yelled, “Wait! There’s more. I have a ruby hidden in my sandal. Here it is. Take it too.”

The next day the man was again stopped by the same robber. “What do you want?” the holy man asked. “I gave you everything yesterday. I don’t have anything else.”

“Yes you do,” the robber said. “I want what you have that made you give me the ruby yesterday.”

VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS



The Catholic custom of lighting candles is rooted in Church teaching that Christ is the Light of the World. Candles serve as an outward sign of the light of faith burning in our hearts. They are our silent sentinels lifting up our prayer intentions to the Lord.

Remember to pray for the following intentions:

- For The Sick*
- For Lonny J.*
- For My Mother*
- For Ed & Roger to Get Well*
- For The Healing of My Mother*

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

REFLECTION

Called to be Holy

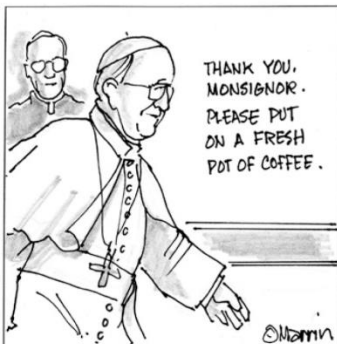
The passage we hear in today's First Reading from the book of Leviticus is a segment that sums up many of the laws that affect ordinary people. Through Moses, God tells the Israelites to do what sounds impossible – "be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy." How can people be like God? The law itself answers that question: "love your neighbor as yourself."

The Gospel continues the Sermon on the Mount. Just as God's words to Moses on Mount Sinai demanded a more-than-ordinary holiness, so Jesus' teachings on this new mountain ask his followers to be super human. It is not enough to love one's neighbor. We must love our enemies, returning good for evil. Jesus gives concrete examples – if someone demands your shirt, give him your coat, too. If someone hits you on one cheek, let him hit you on the other as well. In other words, keep nothing back. For there is nothing exceptional, Jesus says, in loving one's friends and family. Everyone does that. We are to extend our love to all. In other words, we are to be like God.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

I

February 19 – Jill Noska
February 21 – Barbara Prause



Pat Marrin the author of the Francis Cartoons has given permission to *Celebration* subscribers to reprint this Francis Cartoon, the fee has been waived.

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

Lenten Food Drive

We will once again be collecting canned goods for our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK



Be perfect as
your heavenly
Father is
perfect.

Mt 5:48

Jesus tells us to "be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." If we remember that God is love, then being perfect like God is to love as God loves.

The Challenge of Loving

The readings for today and next Sunday offer a dual focus that could easily set the tone for Lent this year. Today's readings call us to grow in our ability to love. They command us to love our neighbor as ourselves and remind us that God's love is revealed in God's kindness and mercy toward us. They speak of the divine indwelling that communicates God's love to us and enables us to love others. Perhaps the biggest challenge, Jesus commands us to embrace those who would do us harm: "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father." Jesus' words stand as a constant challenge to continue to grow in our ability to love as God loves.

Jesus makes it clear that our neighbor must include everyone, even those who hurt us and sin against us. If Lent is supposed to draw us deeper into God's life, then it must draw us into deeper loving.

– Culled from Celebration Publications