

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the***  
***Challenges of Loving service***

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**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY**  
**TIME**  
**February 23, 2020**

**God gives commandments to free people  
from sin, pope says**

By Cindy Wooden of Catholic News Service

**Vatican City** – Jesus wants his followers to move from a formal observance of God’s commands to an interior acceptance of them and, in that way, to no longer be slaves to sin and selfishness, Pope Francis said.

“He encourages passing from a formal observance of the law to a substantial observance, welcoming the law in one’s heart, which is the center of the intentions, decisions, words and gestures of each one of us. Good actions and evil ones start in the heart,” the pope said Feb. 16 during his midday Angelus address.

The pope’s comments focused on the Sunday Gospel reading from the fifth chapter of St. Matthew in which Jesus tells his followers, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

While upholding the commandments and laws given to the people by Moses, Jesus

wanted to teach people “the proper approach” to the law, which is to recognize it as the instrument God uses to teach his people true freedom and responsibility, the pope said.

“We should not forget this: to live the law as an instrument of liberty that helps me be freer, that helps me not be a slave to passions and sin,” he said.

Francis asked the thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square to look at the consequences of sin in the world, including the report in mid-February of an 18-month-old Syrian girl who died in a displaced persons camp because of the cold.

“So many calamities, so many,” the pope said, and they are the result of people who “do not know how to control their passions.”

Allowing one’s passions to rule one’s actions, he said, does not make someone the “lord” of his or her life, but instead makes that person “incapable of managing it with willpower and responsibility.”

In the Gospel passage, he said, Jesus takes four commandments – about killing, adultery, divorce and making oaths – and “explains the full significance” of them but calling on his followers to fulfill the spirit of the law and not just the letter of the law.

“Accepting the law of God in your heart, you understand that when you do not love your neighbor then to some degree you kill yourself and others because hatred, rivalry, and division kill the fraternal charity that is at the basis of interpersonal relationships,” he said. “Accepting the law of God in your heart,” he added, means learning to master one’s desires, “because you cannot have everything you want, and it is not good to give into selfish and possessive feelings.”

Of course, the pope said, “Jesus knows that it is not easy to live the commandment in this all-embracing way. That’s why he offers the

assistance of his love. He came into the world not only to fulfill the law, but also to give us his grace so that we can do the will of God by loving him and our brothers and sisters.”

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or appointment

**Sacrament of Baptism and Marriages**

Call the office for an appointment

**Anointing of the Sick**

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

**For Pregnancy Support**

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**Prayer Group in the Parish**

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. all Women and all Men!

**MASS INTENTIONS February 22 - 28**

**Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Frank Crivello**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Gerard Edward Glenn**

**Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Isidoro Gonzalez**

**Wednesday 9:00 a.m. + Maryellen Martin**  
**7:00 p.m. + Isidoro Gonzalez**

**Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Calvin Andrew Stafford**

**Friday 8:00 a.m. + Jesús Plaza Montero**

**CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR TROOPS**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2020**

Once again we will join with **The Mountain Bible Community and Skyline Church** to put Jesus’ love and mercy into practice with small practical gifts of encouragement to our men and women serving in the military overseas. A detailed list of suggested items to purchase and donate will be available as the date approaches.

**This also proven to be a great event to invite your non-church neighbors who have a heart to do well!**

**Women’s Club/Prayer Group**

We meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month,

**March 25<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 2:30 PM.**

**Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.**

**February 26<sup>th</sup> ASH WEDNESDAY**

**The Masses 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.**

Ash Wednesday is a day of universal fast and abstinence in the Church.

**Every Friday of LENT 6:30 p.m. Soup and after Pray the Stations of the Cross!**

**“MARDI GRAS PARISH PARTY!”**

**This Fat Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

The Men’s Club invites you to enjoy a great time, good dinner and drinks, before the beginning of LENT! The social will be from 6:00 to 6:45 followed by Dinner.

**We will have a great time for every one!**  
**Welcome everyone in the parish and friends!!!**

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**Report Sunday February 15 & 16, 2020**

**TOTAL \$1,624.00**

**We Need Your Support, Thank you!**

**Meet Young Catholic Families Second**  
**SUNDAY every MONTH 10 am Pre-school**  
**GOSPEL 11 am Young Family Social**  
**MountainCatholicwordpress.org**

**St. Patrick’s Day Party 2020**

**Come celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with us!**  
**Sunday, March 22nd from 11am – 2pm.**

We will have appetizers, corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, fruit, and something for vegetarians as well. Also included are fabulous desserts, beer and wine. There will be music, whiskey tasting and 50/50 raffle.

As this is a fundraiser for the young family group we are asking for a donation of \$15 per person or \$30 per family. Sometimes money is tight so even if you cannot donate that amount, any amount or nothing is also fine, just come and enjoy! More than money we want to raise our children in a community, the more the merrier! If you wish to donate you can pay at the door or see us after mass. Also, if you would like to bring a homemade dessert, we would love it!

