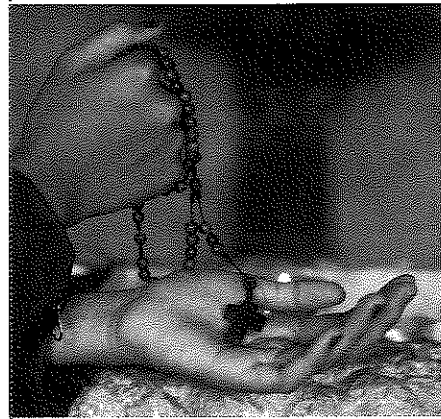


Dear Padre,

A Protestant friend says all the Catholic rituals aren't necessary to get to heaven. What can I say to convince her?

Your friend is correct about heaven: God wishes the salvation of everyone—not just Catholics (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], 13). Even so, Catholics believe—and Christ taught us—that certain rituals are necessary to enter heaven. Baptism is one example.

But being Catholic isn't just about getting to heaven. Earthly benefits abound!



Take the Mass: holy Communion gives us Jesus Christ's very Body and Blood. The sacrament of reconciliation absolves our sins, bringing us peace, comfort, and a closer relationship to God. Our saints and the Blessed Mother inspire us and intercede on our behalf. Our Church leaders—ordained and religious—bring Christ to our lives. Our Catholic hymns and prayer traditions help us offer praise and thanks in a unique way. Your priest and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* can explain in detail the

spiritual and temporal benefits of our rituals and rich traditions.

Once we get to heaven, the need for distinctions among those of different Christian faiths dissolves. But until then, we shouldn't follow the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church simply because it's the religion of our parents or spouse; we should follow them because we believe they show us how to deepen our relationship with God by living as Jesus wanted us to.

So while "all the Catholic rituals" do prepare us for heaven, they also enrich and inform our earthly lives in ways we can't find anywhere else. I thank God for my Catholicism every day—and you should, too.

—Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

One of the essential characteristics of this vocation to perfection is the love of our enemies, which protects us from the temptation to seek revenge and from the spiral of endless retaliation....Those who evangelize must therefore be first and foremost practitioners of forgiveness, specialists in reconciliation, experts in mercy.

—HOMILY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC,
NOVEMBER 29, 2015



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Calendar

Monday
FEBRUARY 24
Weekday
Jas 3:13–18
Mk 9:14–29

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 25
Weekday
Jas 4:1–10
Mk 9:30–37

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 26
Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12–18
2 Cor 5:20—6:2

Thursday
FEBRUARY 27
Thursday after
Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15–20
Lk 9:22–25

Friday
FEBRUARY 28
Friday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1–9a
Mt 9:14–15

Saturday
FEBRUARY 29
Saturday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b–14
Lk 5:27–32

Sunday
MARCH 1
First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:7–9; 3:1–7
Rom 5:12–19 or 5:12,
17–19
Mt 4:1–11

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 23, 2020
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Lv 19:1–2, 17–18
1 Cor 3:16–23
Mt 5:38–48

Be Perfect

Wow, that's a tall order! But what does *perfect* mean? The Greek word means "full" or "complete." In the first reading, Leviticus calls us to be *holy*, a word with cultic allusions—to be set apart to be used for God. Though not possessing exactly the same sense, there is a connection between *perfect* and *holy*, for to be set apart to be used for God will certainly make us perfect, fulfilled, and complete. So what does Jesus mean when he tells us to be perfect, as God is perfect?

Continuing our reflection on the Sermon on the Mount, we find Jesus telling us how we are to be perfect as God is perfect. He offers two examples of extraordinary behavior. The Mesopotamian code of Hammurabi states "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The punishment may not exceed the crime.

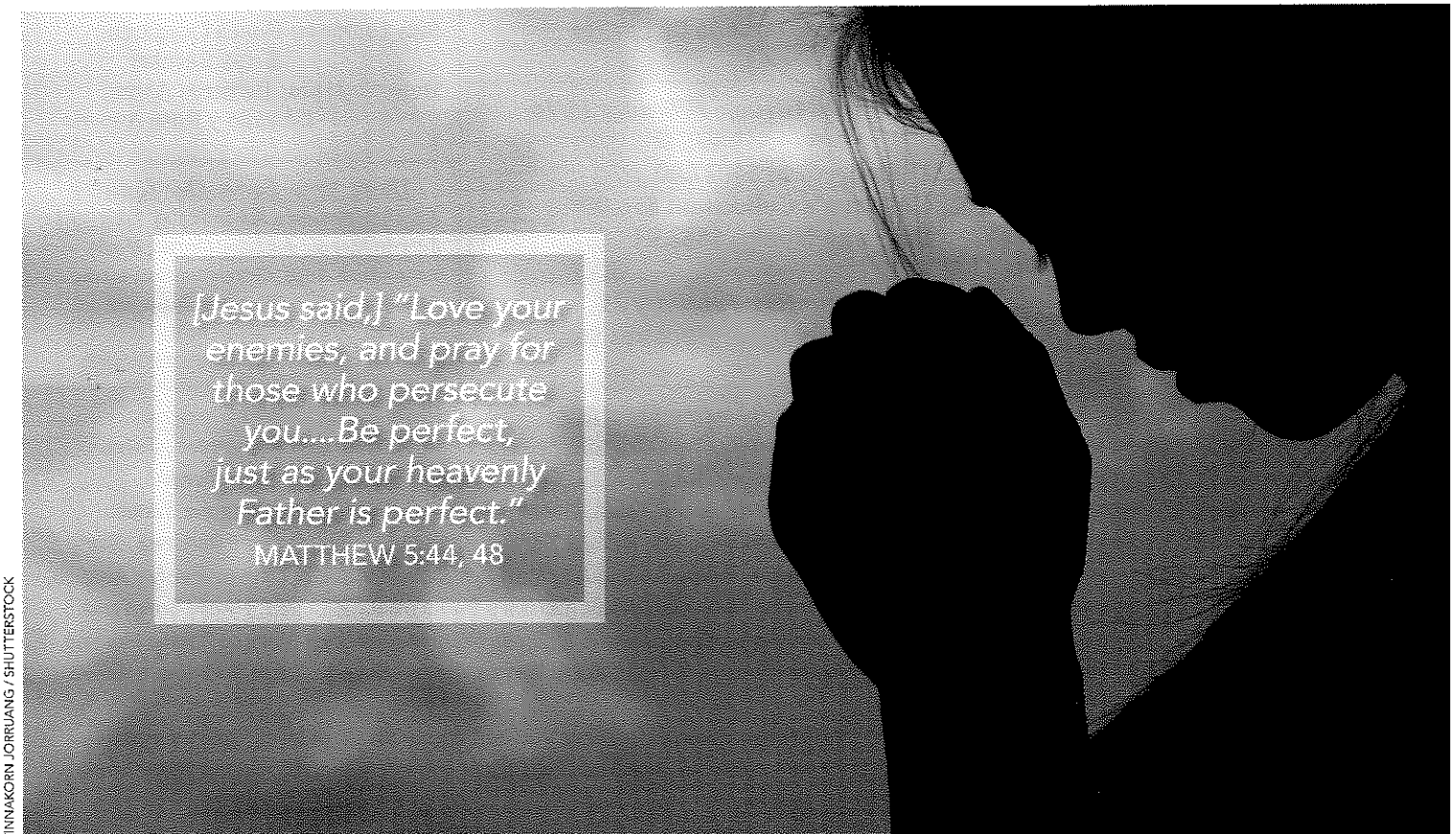
This was a step forward in ancient justice.

Jesus said that this is not enough. There is to be no vindictiveness, no revenge, regardless of how equivalent it might appear. The reason for this is that God loves and cares for all, even those who do us injustice. God makes the "sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:46). In this way, we must be like God; we must love all, no exceptions. This is what it means to be perfect. It is indeed a tall order. But it is the way to be fulfilled, to be complete.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * Where in your life are you being called to consecrate yourself to God and God's work?
- * Where in your life are you being challenged to love more unselfishly?



[Jesus said,] "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you....Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."
MATTHEW 5:44, 48

TINNAKORN JORJANG / SHUTTERSTOCK

Liguori
PUBLICATIONS
A Redemptorist Ministry

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF ST. MARY AND GOOD SHEPHERD

701 N. Key Ave, Lampasas, TX 76550
 Pastor: Rev. Paul Hudson 512-564-0260
 Business Manager: Cyndi Cobb
 Parish Secretary: Patty Rios & Carol Boberg
 Coordinator: Deacon David Cardon

512-556-5544

Fax: 512-556-6967

E-Mail: frpaulhudson@gmail.com

E-Mail: smccltx@gmail.com

E-Mail: smccltx3@gmail.com Ministries

E-Mail: deacon.david@hughes.net

Website URL: <https://stmarycatholic.faith>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Horas De Oficina

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am-6:00pm

Friday 9:00am-2:00pm

Cyndi in office Tues & Friday

10-2pm & by appointments.

Patty in office Tues-Fri 9-2

Carol in office Tues-Thurs 2-6

Confessions: Saturday 4:00-4:40pm

Confessions: in GS Lometa

Sunday 7:30-7:55am

Kitchen Hours/ Horas de Cocina:

Tues- Fri 6:00-11:00am

Food Pantry/Despensa de Comida:

Wed & Fri 9:30-11:30am

Shared Blessing:

Wed & Fri 9:30am-2:00pm

Baptismal Class

Call the office for date.

Clase de Bautismo

Llamar la oficina para la fecha.

Adoration: Every Wednesday after 8:00am

Mass to 5:00pm and Thursday for one hour

after the 6pm Spanish Mass.

Adoración: Todos los miércoles después de la Misa de 8:00am hasta las 5:00pm. Y los jueves después de la misa de las 6:30pm

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday/Lunes, February 24

8:00am: Communion Service

Tuesday/Martes, February 25

8:00am: †Alton Behrend

Wednesday/Miércoles, February 26

6:30am: (SM) Ash Wednesday

5:30pm: (GS) Ash Wednesday

8:00am: (SM) No Mass

7:30pm: (SM) Ash Wednesday

Thursday/Jueves, February 27

8:00am: (GS) †Luis Torrez

6:00pm: †Robert Maldonado

Friday/Viernes, February 28

8:00am: †Adela Garrison

Saturday/Sábado, February 29

5:30pm: †Emil Sherek

Sunday/Domingo, March 1

8:00am: (GS) T Jimenez

10:00am: †Ed Dimas

12:15pm: †Reynaldo De La Cruz

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LECTORS February 22/23

Sat 5:30pm: Kay Savage

Sun 10:00am: Adam Gamez

Victor Olivarez

Dom 12:15pm: Martha Muñoz

Elia Mondragon

LECTORS February 29/March 1

Sat 5:30pm: Jonathan Marks

Sun 10:00am: Tony/Clara Gamez

Dom 12:15pm: Elia Mondragon

Maria Rafael

EMHC February 22/23

Sun 5:30pm: Mary Cisneros

Carmen Coonrod

Sun 10:00am: Carol Boberg

Andrea Cardon

Dom 12:15pm: Bernarda Abreu,

Eduardo y Rosa Arevalo

EMHC February 29/March 1

5:30 Sat 5:30pm: Mary Cisneros

Carmen Coonrod

Sun 10:00am: Donna Coughron

Berna Buenker

Dom 12:15pm: Bernarda Abreu,

Eduardo y Rosa Arevalo

Dom 12:15pm: Bernarda Abreu,

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Dom 12:15pm: Bernarda Abreu,

Eduardo y Rosa Arevalo

Those Who Serve Our Country

Angelica Sanchez, Aaron Ripley Kiser,

Jarren Morua, Anthony Morua, Mark

Argo, Jose Argo, Colton Currier, Luke

Argo, Lawrence Olivarez, Jesus Garcia,

Trenton Cavness, Dyran Self,

Graham Hibbert, Edwin Rivas-Miranda

Sacrificial Giving: February 15/16

1st Collection: \$4047.00

Children's Collection: \$56.00

Poor and Needy: \$862.97

Counters: February 25

Carol Boberg/Dolores Stewart

For Our Sick/Nuestro Enfermos

Carlos Franco, Janie Ovalle, Pauline Swift, Joshua DeZarn & Family, Teri Clayton, Felix DeLeon, Father Jim Robertson, John Michael Maldonado, Trinidad Rangel, Noah Garcia, Teresa Velasquez John Tracey, Cindy Sawyer, Ed Reigle, Jason Moreno, Shannon Barnett, Anthony Ray Torrez, Fred Bartell, Willie Nuñez, Mary Tobin, Dorthy Jeter, Gilbert & Rudy Lozano, Teresa Gronau, Bennie & Nancy Hromadka, Luis Lopez, Bill Nors, Robert Vasquez, Adrian Torrez, Chris Longoria, Robert Ramirez, Mary G Cortez, Tom Rogers, Ann Hughes, Arielle Dayrit, Felix Gonzales, Felipe Rodriguez, Madisyn Morua, Adolfo Torrez, Evelyn Ahearn, Ann Wilson, Anita Hyatt, Anna & Daniel Little, Richard Salazar, Melanie Bartek, Barbara Folks, Maggie Lopez, Henry Langford, Sylvia Reber, Truman Crawford, Lilly & Raul Olivarez, David Hernandez, Mary S & Jesse Ramirez, Andres Moreno, Diana Harlow, Carlos Jasso, Arturo Aragon, James Fioroni, Annabel Salazar, Marie Berger, Juan Torres, Donna Brewer, Lupe Rodriguez, Oliva Garcia,

Prayer: All praise and glory are yours, Lord our God. You have called us to serve you and one another in love. Bless our sick today so that they may bear their illness in union with Jesus' sufferings and restore them quickly to health. Bless those who have grown old in your service and give them courage and strength in their faith. Lead us all to eternal glory. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Announcements

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS: Meets second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the KOC hall

GUADALUPANAS SOCIETY: Meets every first Saturday of the month @ 11:30am, starting with Rosary, Divine Mercy, Mass and ending with Meeting.

GRUPO SAN BENITO: Ven a sentir el abrazo de Jesús, nos reunimos en los Lunes 7:00pm en el pasilo arriba de la cafeteria.

MENS PRAYER GROUP: Men's prayer group, meets every Thursday morning @ 6:00am in in the upstairs hall.

ROSARY CRUSADE: Every Wednesday @ 6:00pm, call Vicki Franco 512-540-1199 for more info

CRUZADA DEL ROSARIO: Cada Miercoles, las 6:00pm. Por favor no dude en unirse con nosotros

RCIA CLASS: Mondays @ 7:00pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS: Meets Sundays @ 9:00am in upper hall

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS: Meets Mondays @ 6pm in cafeteria

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 26 @6:30am and 7:30pm (No CCE on this day)

MIERCOLES DE CENIZA: Febrero 26 a las 6:30am y 7:30pm (No hay CCE en este dia).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: On Fridays beginning, February 28 @6:00pm

VIACRUCIS: En los Viernes, comenzando Febrero 28 a las 6:00pm

CALLING ALL MEN OF ST MARY TO JOIN LENTEN MENS GROUP FOR PRAYER, FASTING AND FATHERNITY, CALL BRYAN ATKINSON @512-461-6838 OR EMAIL bryanandgreta@aol.com FOR MORE INFORMATION.

MINISTROS ORDINARIOS DE LA EUCARISTIA, ABRA UNA RENUNION OBLIGATORIA EL 29 DE FEBERO A LAS 10:30 am, SI NO AISTEN A ESTA REUNION YA NO SERAN MINSTROS DE LA EUCARISTIA.

ATTENTION LECTORS AND EMHC YOUR SCHEDULES ARE READY, PLEASE PICK YOURS UP AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH!!!!!!

Good Shepherd Announcements

FLOWERS: Rebecca Britton

ALTAR: Linda Klose

LECTOR: Missy Buckley

EMHC: Nelda DeRiso, Edna Torres & Adelaida Martinez

DIVINE MERCY CENACLE: Please join us Thursdays @ 4:15 in the Family Life Center.

WEEKDAY MASS: Ash Wednesday @5:30pm

Thursday @8:00am

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday during Lent beginning February 28 @6:00pm

SACRIFICIAL GIVING: February 9

Weekly Offering: \$1918.00

Poor & Needy: \$190.00

St. Mary/Good Shepherd Announcements:

EIM WORKSHOP NEWS:

Schedule for Workshops:

St Paul Chong Hasang/Harker Heights (English) 2/29 @9:00am

Our Lady of San Juan/Moody (Spanish) 2/29 @3:00pm

Cristo Rey/Austin (Spanish) 3/3 @7:00pm

Holy Family/Copperas Cove (English) 3/7 @9:00am

St Helen/Georgetown (Spanish) 3/8 @9:00am

St Helen/Georgetown (English) 3/8 @1:00pm

The EIM Office annually requests membership lists for all persons in ministries/groups/organizations which require compliance with EIM policies (visit austindiocese.org/eim-policies). Please send your membership list to your parish EIM site administrator. Please include last name, first name, other last names used, nick names or other names known as at the parish, their email address and mailing address. All lists should be provided to Carol Boberg, your site administrator, by Friday March 6th. Thank you for your assistance. The EIM Office is in the process of helping all applicants update their email address in their EIM account in order to improve communication regarding EIM compliance matters. Please login to your EIM account at eappsdb.com/austin to update your email address (in Main Application section). If you are not able to login, email the parish EIM site administrator Carol Boberg at smccltx3@gmail.com with your full name, your nickname or name known as at the parish, and your correct email address. Thank you for your help.

EIM workshop is for those serving as Lector, EMHC, members of groups like Guadalupanas, KOC, San Benito, Choir, Religious Education, Kitchen, Ushers, any Council, Counters, Pantry, Bereavement, Shared Blessings, Altar Society, etc.

NO GREATER LOVE: During Lent at Good Shepherd in Lometa on Thursdays, beginning February 27th @ 7:00pm. While taking this study class, you will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Mount of Calvary. Every step of the way, biblical experts reveal how Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. With these insights, Catholics can come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love---drawing closer to Jesus than ever have before.

LITURGY OF THE HOUR: at St Mary, beginning Tuesday, February 25th @7:30am & 5:00pm, and at 8:00am at Good Shepherd.

FOOD PANTRY MONTHLY REPORT FOR JANUARY:

Number of Families Served: 161

Total Individuals Served: 568

New Families Served: 13

Product Donations Received: 458 lbs.

Cash Donations Received: \$150.00

CTFB Products Purchased: \$803.28 (6,139.5 lbs.)

DONATE by using smile.amazon.com, 5% of eligible purchases will be donated to St Mary at no extra cost to you.

CONFESSIONS: During Lent from 5:00-5:30pm every Tuesday and Thursday, beginning Thursday February 27 in the chapel @ St. Mary and every Friday @Good Shepherd in Lometa.

CONFESIONES: Todos los Martes y Jueves durante la Cuaresma, comenzando el Jueves 27 de Febrero de 5:00-5:30pm en la capilla de St. Mary