

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEKEND

SAT 5:00 pm	2/22	Holy Spirit Church and Parishioners, All Souls, Ancient Deceased in the Family, Ane' Than
SUN 10:00 am	2/23	Holy Spirit Church and Parishioners, Joseph Loi Tran, Ngo & Nguyen Family Living and Deceased, Thanksgiving and All Souls

MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEKEND

SAT 5:00 pm	2/29	Holy Spirit Church and Parishioners, All Souls, Conversion of Sinners, Peace in the Family
SUN 10:00 am	3/1	Holy Spirit Church and Parishioners, Joseph Loi Tran, Ngo & Nguyen Family Living and Deceased, Nguyen Family Living and Deceased

WEEKDAYS

MON 2/24	Joseph
TUE 2/25	Poor Souls & Unborn Children
WED 2/26	All Souls & The Conversion of Sinners
THU 2/27	Kenny Perdue, Jr.
FRI 2/28	Thanksgiving & All Souls

Reading 1 Sir 15:15-20 - If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live; he has set before you fire and water to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him. Immense is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power, and all-seeing. The eyes of God are on those who fear him; he understands man's every deed. No one does he command to act unjustly, to none does he give license to sin..



Reading 2 1 Cor 2:6-10 - Brothers and sisters: We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for, if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. **But as it is written: What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him, this God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God.**

Gospel Mt 5:17-37 - Jesus said to his disciples: **“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.** Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

“You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment. **But I say to you,** whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, ‘Raga,’ will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery. **But I say to you,** everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.

“It was also said, whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce. **But I say to you,** whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful - causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow. **But I say to you,** do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’ Anything more is from the evil one.”

**“Before man are life and death, good and evil,
whichever he chooses shall be given him.”**

Fr. Bach



My sisters and brothers in Christ,

The first reading today, from the Book of Sirach, a wisdom book, tells us this: “If you trust in God, you too shall live.” In the second reading, from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul tells us: “We speak a wisdom to those who are mature.” And the Gospel from Matthew today reminds us that it is not external behavior that determines everything, but what is more important is what is happening in our hearts and the external behavior that flows from what is happening in our hearts.

God’s Word is challenging us today to deep conversion in our lives. God’s Word reminds us over and over that to follow God is not only about external behavior but about the conversion of our hearts and our way of living because of a deep, personal relationship with God. To follow God is a commitment to a living relationship with God and from that relationship comes our external behavior.

The Book of Sirach tells us: “Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him.” Life and death! We choose one or the other with our daily lives. We know that we can talk a lot about God and not do His will. We can observe rules without giving our hearts to the Lord. But our God is a consuming fire and wants us to give ourselves completely to Him. We cannot fool God!

The First Letter to the Corinthians continues this teaching, asking us to be wise people because God will give us His life if we give God our lives. Again, to be clear, we must know that we cannot fool God. God wants us to give ourselves to Him completely. God is not interested in good actions that lack our commitment to Him. God wants every bit of us.

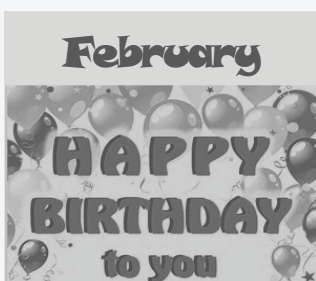
Matthew’s Gospel tells us the same lesson: doing good actions that look good in the eyes of the world and yet which do not contain our completely commitment to Him is not enough: “Let your ‘Yes’ mean ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No’ mean ‘No.’” We cannot fool God. God wants us to give ourselves completely to Him.

May we give ourselves to God today and every day.
He will give Himself to us beyond all that we can imagine!

Your brother in the Lord,
Abbot Philip, 2017



Anna Massey, Beatrice M. McMillon, Brenda Thompson, Brandon, Bobbie Henry, Cameron Nedd, Chloe Pomes, Catherine Hernandez, Dawson Macera, Denise Wiltz, Elinor McKeon, Elizabeth Gale Hardy, Erena Hardy, Jr., Gary LeRouge, Geneva C. Jones, Glynn Boyd, Jerod Boyd, Jeanne & Dan Schmitt, James Casby, Jason Boyd, J.W. Prejean, Kim D. Davis, K. Franklin & Family, Kayla Guiterrez, Lula Ward, Leslie Eiswerth, Matthew Prejean, Major Deloche, Minnie Linyear, Martha Davis, Mary Landreneau, Pam Kamphuis, Roderick Boyd, Richard. R. Vernetzy, Sr., Sliman Family, Tom Thomas, Trudy Morris, Tyrone Wiltz, Vernetzy & Eidt Families, Viney Miller, Wadlington Family, Wayne Belaire



Julie Myers 2/24, Carroll Fortmayer 2/2, Michael Comeaux 2/4,
Sandie Goldman 2/9, Lucien Charlot 2/4, John Stephenson 2/14,
Mini Elnaggar 2/7, Juan Gimenez 2/8, Molly Mix 2/3, Anna Lannes 2/16, Lan Thi
Kiev 2/8, Thien-An Duong 2/2, Martha Davis 2/3,
Gloria Baker Davis 2/21, Maria Raqas 2/12, Clarence Mitchell III 2/20,
In Memory of Marie Nunez 2/9