

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 24, 2019**

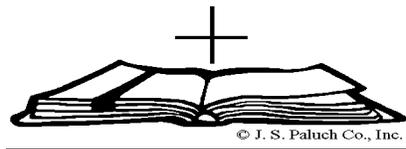
Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
— *Psalms 103:8*

DO NO HARM

We listen quite a while before we get to the “punch line” of the first reading today: even though it would be an easy thing to do, David will not harm the anointed one of the Lord. We, of course, know that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one of God, but the Bible uses this term for many different people. It is scripture’s way of indicating who has been chosen by God for a special place and mission in salvation history.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus presents a greatly enlarged list of those who, as children of God, we should not harm, but love instead: our enemies, those who curse us or do us harm, those who owe us money, the ungrateful, the wicked. The point of Jesus’ teaching is not to encourage these kinds of behaviors in others, but rather to form us in the image of our heavenly Father by increasing our opportunities to love unconditionally, expecting no return; to be merciful and forgiving, even when it would be easier not to.

Mass Intentions



Sat., Feb. 23, 4:30 p.m. Henry McNamara, Dennis McCloskey, Thomas Pitre, Karge Family, Nick Sita, Louis Perschall Sr., Benita and Jerry DePratt (L), Lynn Johnson (L), Huval Family, Marcie Reed (L), R.J. Rogers (L), Huey Bankston

Sun., Feb. 24, 7:30 a.m. Carol Pieri

Sun., Feb. 24, 9:15 a.m. Mary Jane Mehaffey, Rosalie DeMaria, Harrison Brooks III, Henry Bradford (L), Arthur Bartel, Cham Mehaffey Family (L), Cora Morgan, Patti Johnson (L), Betty, Leomie (L)

Sun., Feb. 24, 11:00 a.m. Parishioners

Mon., Feb. 25, 8:00 a.m. Margaret Mary Mule’

Tues., Feb. 26 NO MASS

Wed., Feb. 27 8:00 a.m. David Tucker

Thurs., Feb. 28, 8:00 a.m. Mary Jane Mehaffey

Fri., Mar. 01, 8:00 a.m. Lillian Bartel

Sat., Mar. 02, 4:30 p.m. Henry McNamara, Dennis McCloskey, Thomas Pitre, Nick Sita, Huval Family, Guidry and Bolotte Family, Breaux Family, Juan Navarrette, Amy Goff, Karen Bovia, Curtis Stansbury (L)

Sun., Mar 03, 7:30 a.m. Parishioners

Sun., Mar. 03, 9:15 a.m. Carol Pieri

Sun., Mar. 03, 11:00 a.m. Raymond Cuccio Jr., Carolyn Pierre (L), The Mehaffey Family (L), Wayne and Stephanie Penney (L), Fr. Vincent Phan (L), Lloyd Callais (L), Caleb Callais (L), Melissa Basse (L)

We welcome all newcomers to St. John's Church and invite you to register as members of our parish family. Please complete a “Parishioner Form” located in back of church and drop it in the collection basket. A member of St. John's Church will contact you to assist you with registration.

PRAYER LIST

Helen Lafleur	Rosalind Baham
Ruth Christie	Louise Cashmere
Alicia Pertuit	Ethel Istre
Carolyn Pierre	Rhonda Taylor
Josie Leathem	Rolland Golden
Pam Addotto	Ruthi Olson
Freddie Addotto	Roy Kellum
Curtis Stansbury	Cham Mehaffey

Please remember these parishioners and friends in your prayers. May they be touched by the healing hand of the Lord and restored soon to the full active life of our community and their families.

Weekly Collections
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Envelopes	\$ 2,527.00
Loose	\$ 1,703.00
Bldg. and Preservation Fund	\$ 183.00
2 nd Coll. Catholic Charities	\$ 1,106.00

Would like to give someone special a thoughtful gift? Consider a seven day devotional candle. The candles burn from Friday and are changed out the following Friday. We will be happy to send a special card to the person with personalized message that you would like it to say with the date and the candle will burn for them. For more information please call the office.

THE CANDLES BURN IN HONOR OF:

<i>Sanctuary:</i>	Viola Bradford
<i>Blessed Mother</i>	Susan Beatmann (L)
<i>St. Joseph</i>	Henry Bradford (L)
<i>St. Ann</i>	Mary Anne Treuil (L)

If you would like to honor your intention by burning a 7 day candle please call 796-3806.

SANCTUARY FLORALS

The flowers on the Altar in honor of
Monday Night Bible Study
And

SANCTUARY FLORALS

The flowers on the Altar in honor of
Ken and Nicole Tassin

The Stations of the Cross will be every Friday in Lent at 5:00 p.m. and will conclude on Good Friday.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES ARE 8:00 A.M. AND 7:00 P.M.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

When the Roman Empire turned a favorable eye toward the once-persecuted Christians, among the effects was a population explosion in the baptismal font, as Christian sympathizers stepped from the shadows. With more and more people becoming Christians, laws were passed to protect Sunday as a work-free day. Soon, it became possible to celebrate Mass later in the morning, rather than the older custom of gathering before dawn to celebrate Eucharist. Amazingly, despite the increasing numbers of Christians, there was great resistance to adding to the number of worship events; the Eucharist that began as a few friends around a table soon was transformed into a more formal event with throngs crowding a large hall. All the Christians in a city or town would gather around the bishop for the one Sunday Eucharist, and only when the crowds became unmanageable was there an impulse to divide the assembly by splitting off a new bishop and flock.

Now, sixteen hundred years later, many parishes see a need to trim or combine Mass schedules. This is often seen as tough surgery. Yet our forebears in the faith would see it as a gain: a filling up of the Eucharist with a large and vigorous assembly, a fullness of ministry, an opportunity to make the Church more fully visible and stronger for service.

The office will be closed on March 4th and 5th for Lundi Gras and Mardi Gras We will reopen Ash Wednesday.

The Knights of Columbus are holding their Lenten Fish Fries every Friday during Lent beginning Friday, March 8th from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in Jonathan Hall. The cost is \$9.00 per plate. They will be serving your choice of fried or baked fish, cole slaw, potatoes and hush puppies. Eat in or take out. Everyone is invited to attend.



FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION

For Lent our parish will be participating in a food drive that will benefit our neighbors who are living in poverty. The non-perishable food items we collect will be sent to the Covington Food Bank which serves families in St. Tammany, Washington and Tangipahoa Parishes. To help with the process we will distribute brown bags on March 16th and 17th at Church at all Masses. **We ask that you fill the bags during lent and return the filled bags during Lent and the Food Bank truck will come and pick up the bags.**

PARISH LENT TO FEATURE THE RICE BOWL

The season of LENT begins in 10 days. One way to participate in this season of penance is to give to the RICE BOWL, a program sponsored by Catholic Relief Services. Lent is a season for PRAYER, FASTING and GIVING. Giving can become memorable for children as they learn about people from other countries and drop their dimes and nickels into the RICE BOWL. Families can contribute to the RICE BOWL by not going out for dinner or to a movie and donating the savings. Your RICE BOWL contains stories from people who were helped by the RICE BOWL, because they lacked food, housing, medical care, an education or meaningful work. Pick up your RICE BOWL on the church porch next Sunday. THANK YOU in advance for participating in the RICE BOWL.

DESTROYING ONE'S ENEMIES

Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them? Abraham Lincoln

RECIPROCITY

If God loved us as much as we love God, where would we all be?

SAVE THE DATE

The Social Event of the year

WHAT: Folsom Spring Dance
WHERE: Jonathan Hall
WHEN: Saturday, April 27, 2019
TIME: 8:00 – 11:00 p.m.
ADMISSION: \$ 25.00 per couple

Entertainment will be by the Blenderz Band
Reserve your table today. Please contact Robert and Jean Schultz at 504-669-1327 or 504-909-1662.

Register Now for Confirmation 2019:

Sophomores and juniors in High School should register by April 15. The first meeting with parents, students, and sponsors is Sunday, April 28 at 10:15 am. Five classes, all-day retreat, and rehearsal are required for Confirmation in late September. The Confirmation date has not been set by the Archdiocese. Forms are available on Church credenzas or in the office. Amanda Fraise will be the teacher. Call Theresa Wilfert at 796-3806 office or 778-0548 home.

Vocation Weekend for High School and College age men

Come and See Vocation Discernment Weekend for high school juniors and seniors, and college-age men will be held April 12 - 14, 2019, at St. Joseph Seminary College, Covington, Louisiana. This is an opportunity for men who are interested in the priesthood and who would like to find out more about seminary life. There is no cost for the weekend, but availability is limited on a first come, first served basis. For more information or to register, call the **Archdiocesan Vocation Office** at 504-861-6298, e-mail vocations@archdiocese-no.org or download the flyer here.

The ceiling fans in Church play an important role in circulating the heat down from the ceiling (heat rises). It also plays a part in energy saving propane. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND THURSDAY OF MONTH AT 7:30 P.M. IN ODILO HALL

CATCH FIRE YOUTH GROUP MEETS THE FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 6 – 7:30 P.M. IN ODILO HALL.

PSALMS ADULT BIBLE STUDY, THURS. OR FRI. IN LIBRARY AT 9 A.M.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES EVERY SUNDAY, NOON UNTIL 1:15 IN LIBRARY

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY, REVELATION, 7:30 PM IN LIBRARY

PSR CLASSES ARE EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 6:15 – 7:30 P.M.

EVERY THURSDAY MEN'S GROUP MEETS AT 7:30 PM IN LIBRARY