

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME —February 23, 2020

## First Reading — Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

<sup>1</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>"Say to all the congregation of the people of Israel, You shall be holy; for I the LORD your God am holy." ... <sup>17</sup>"You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason with your neighbor, lest you bear sin because of him. <sup>18</sup>You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

## Responsorial Psalm PS 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

R. (8a) **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

He pardons all your iniquities,  
heals all your ills.

He redeems your life from destruction,  
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,  
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.  
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,  
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he put our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

R. **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

## Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 3:16-23 <sup>16</sup>Do

you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup>If any one destroys

God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are. <sup>18</sup>Let no one deceive himself. If any one among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. <sup>19</sup>For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," <sup>20</sup>and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." <sup>21</sup>So let no one boast of men. For all things are yours, <sup>22</sup>whether Paul or Apol'los or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours; <sup>23</sup>and you are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

## Gospel Reading — Matthew 5:38-48

<sup>38</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' <sup>39</sup>But I say to you, Do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; <sup>40</sup>and if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; <sup>41</sup>and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup>Give to him who begs from you, and do not refuse him who would borrow from you. <sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup>For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup>And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup>You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading — Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

1. How does your dictionary define “holy”? Which part of the definition is most significant to you?

#### Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

2. How would you answer the question in verses 16?
3. What are the practical implications of “For all things are yours, ... and you are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.”

#### Gospel Reading — Matthew 5:38-48

4. How literally should verses 38-42 be taken? If they are not intended to be taken literally, how should we apply them?
5. Have you ever had an opportunity to put this passage into practice? If so, would you share it briefly, while still maintaining the person’s confidentiality?
6. What should we do if our graciousness toward another person is ignored or taken advantage of?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*