

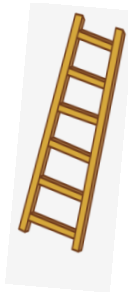
St. Mary's Catholic Church

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

A young boy was flying his kite when it became entangled in a tree. He rushed into his house and asked his father to retrieve his kite for him. The father took his son's hand and said, "Come with me." They grabbed a ladder from the garage and placed it against the tree. The father turned to his son and said, "Climb the ladder and get the kite yourself." The boy was afraid and protested, "No, I will fall." The father insisted, "Climb the ladder and I will be here to catch you in case you fall." Trembling but determined, the boy slowly climbed the ladder and retrieved his kite. He came down safely and with a big smile on his face, hugged his father saying, "I did it!"



Our readings for today deal with the virtue of **wisdom**. In a sense, our Scripture readings are challenging us to climb a ladder since **wisdom** urges us to work to achieve high ideals and not merely be satisfied with the minimum (the lowest rung of the ladder) in our relationships with God and others.

Ben Sira, the author of today's first reading, tells us that the Lord's Law is the only true source of **wisdom**. He reminds us that God created us with the capacity to make choices. There are good choices that lead us to eternal life and evil ones that lead us to death. By God's grace we are given the necessary tools to make right choices in life. By following God's commandments we choose life. God always reaches out to us guiding us along the path of life. Therefore we can confidently put our trust in God's love for us. God seeks the salvation of all by constantly providing us with every advantage to make spiritual progress.

St. Paul in his Letter to the Corinthians reminds us that the **wisdom** of the Gospel is way beyond anything that can be found in this world. He also points out that God's **wisdom** is recognized only by the spiritually mature.

Today's Gospel passage from Matthew continues Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus addresses the topics of law, anger, adultery, divorce and oaths. Jesus uses exaggeration to warn us about how our words can become weapons, how we objectify others, about the value of relationships, and about the need for integrity in what we say and do. Today's passage is set around four case studies. In each case, Jesus contrasts the Mosaic Law's interpretation of the case and what He now says about the case. In each situation Jesus intensifies the meaning of the Old Testament command by increasing its demand and expectation. *(continued...)*

Weekend Masses

Sat Feb 15 4:00 p.m. Nick Stechschulte
Sun Feb 16 10:00 a.m. Jan Schulte
Sat Feb 22 4:00 p.m. For our parishioners
Sun Feb 23 10:00 a.m. In thanksgiving

Communion Service

Fri Feb 21 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$3,165.00 Loose \$525.10
Children \$17.00 Total \$3,710.10
76 envelopes returned = 36%



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for February 22 & 23, 2020

Money Counters: Angie Wenger & Deb Goldenetz

4:00 p.m. – *please sign the sheet in the main entrance*

Greeters: Basil Meyer

Cantor: Dave Roby

Ushers: John Parinello

Lector: Jenny Roby

E.M.: Edna Conkling, Bob Minto

Servers: Jacob Granger

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: Deb Buck

Cantor: Choir

Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri

Lectors: Lisa Welch

E.M.: Michelle Risner, John Schulte, Logan Welch, Jim Tabler

Servers: Addison Businger, Makayla Schweingruber, Izzy Stechschulte

Readings for February 23, 2020 Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1 – 2, 17 – 18

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16 – 23

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:38 – 48

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...The Jews looked upon the Mosaic Law as the summary of all **wisdom**, both human and divine. Jesus, however, emphasizes that the teaching of the Law and the prophets has an internal aspect that surpasses the simple literal interpretation. His teaching offers a view of these cases from the perspective of the kingdom of heaven. Furthermore, the challenge that Jesus offers us is focused on righteousness. Jesus does not abolish the Law but rather he clarifies its meaning as **He is** its completion. Jesus goes directly to the heart of what the Law demands: mercy, far-reaching love, and total positive commitment. Sometimes ideals can scare us and cause fear in our lives. Don't worry since Jesus will be there for us providing His love, support and **wisdom**. He always encourages us to "climb the ladder" and strive to achieve the highest ideals by following Him. Even when we fail to do so, Jesus reassures us that **He is** always there to catch us when we fall. Therefore, let us always trust Jesus by placing our lives in His loving and comforting hands. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John



Sign-up sheets for the "Partners in Prayer" prayer chain are on the shelf in the main hall this weekend. If you would like to join the group to pray for the needs of others, please provide your name, phone number, and email address. Anyone who would like to request prayer, please contact Shar Dunlap at (419) 236 - 7237 (call or text), (419) 643 - 5305, or dsdunlap@embarqmail.com, Pat Lugibihl at (419) 358 - 0665, or Lois Kahle at ljkahle@hotmail.com. We will have commissioning of members on Ash Wednesday.



The family of Kathy Sehlhorst would like to express our deepest gratitude to our St. Mary's family. Many of you made the funeral mass very special. We especially want to thank Sheila and Katie for sharing your beautiful musical talent, Andrew, Kenny, Nick and Ben Lovett for kindly serving, Tricia for reading, and Father John for shepherding our family and friends during this difficult time. We are so grateful to the many people who prepared dishes for dinner. Special thanks to those who

coordinated and worked in the kitchen: Edna & Greg Conkling, Roger Brodman, Deb Buck, Jean & Bill Hohenbrink, Deb Hohenbrink, Paula McKibben, Basil Meyer, Jennifer Tschuor and Betty Ziessler. We also greatly appreciate all the cards, texts, dishes, and countless ways you have shared your care and concern for our family.



Ash Wednesday is February 26th. We will have an Ash Service at noon and we will have mass at 7p.m. If you can help, please sign up on the shelf in the main entrance to see how you can help!

Landeck St. John the Baptist Church is having a Soup and Sandwich Supper on Sunday, March 8 from 3:30 - 7:00 PM. They will have Homemade Chili, Potato, Chicken Noodle and German Cabbage Soup, Venedocia Lions Sausage Sandwich, Shredded Chicken Sandwich, veggies, and Homemade ice cream. Please join us for fun and great food. Carry Outs are available. This will be a Freewill Offering Event. Venedocia bulk sausage (2lb. pkg) for \$8.00 will be available for purchase along with Homemade ice cream in quart size for \$4.00.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is during the 10 a.m. Mass

K-6: Class will meet this Wednesday, February 19th from 6:30 - 7:30

Jr High: Class will meet today from 11 - 1



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will be traveling to Our Lady of Consolation National Shrine & Basilica in Carey, Ohio. Please pray for their travels and their experience while they are there!