

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

There is a story about an elderly Hindu man who would meditate every morning under a tree by the Ganges River in northern India. One morning after he completed his meditation he noticed a large scorpion entangled in the roots of a tree. The more the scorpion struggled to free itself, the more entangled it became in the twining roots. The elderly man reached out trying to save the scorpion by freeing it from its predicament. As soon as he tried to help it, the scorpion stung him. But the man continued trying to free the scorpion. A young man passed by and saw what was happening. He shouted out: "Old man, what's wrong with you. Why bother helping that useless creature?" The elderly man turned towards the young man and replied: "Friend, because it is the nature of the scorpion to sting, why should I give up my own nature to save?"



This story raises a problem that we all do face: do I take my cue for action from the treatment I receive from others or do I continue in the way of graciousness even when I get stung? Today's Scripture readings challenge us with similar questions: How do I conduct myself when faced with violence, hatred and hurt? How do I achieve holiness in spite of my natural desire and tendency to try and get even with someone who has done me wrong? How can I learn to let go of grudges and not seek revenge or retaliation. How can I learn to **truly** forgive someone? How can I learn to love my enemies and those who hurt me?

In our first reading from the Book of Leviticus God challenges us to become holy. How? We become holy by embracing God's standard of showing His love for us. Many times we have experienced God's forbearance and forgiveness. Therefore we should extend show our compassion and forgiveness towards others. Displaying our respect for another should come as readily as displaying our respect for God. And so we should love others as we love ourselves.

In today's Gospel passage Jesus continues His Sermon on the Mount by speaking boldly against hatred, vengeance, and retaliation of any kind. He then follows that teaching by stressing his favorite theme of loving one's neighbor. Jesus' opposition to retaliation and his emphasis on loving one's neighbor gets to the very heart of His Sermon on the Mount by showing what it means to surpass the scribes and Pharisees in righteousness. This means **not** taking revenge when we have been harmed. This means **not** bearing a grudge when someone burdens us. This also means loving our neighbors **and** our enemies as God loves us.

(continued...)

Weekend Masses

Sat Feb 22	4:00 p.m.	For our parishioners
Sun Feb 23	10:00 a.m.	In thanksgiving
Sat Feb 29	4:00 p.m.	Kathy Sehlhorst
Sun Mar 1	10:00 a.m.	Dolores Hermiller & James Trenkamp, Lena Baderstcher

Ash Wednesday

Wed Feb 26	Noon – Ash Service
	6:30 p.m. – Stations of the Cross
	7:00 p.m. – Mass

Communion Service

Fri Feb 28	8:00 a.m. St. Mary's
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SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,800.00	Loose \$683.00
Children	\$32.51	Total \$3,515.51
75 envelopes returned = 36%		



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

Assignments for February 29 & March 1, 2020

Money Counters: Chad Wolford & Nick Recker

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

Greeters: Jan Emmert and Diana Sabater

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink

Ushers: Bob Minto and John Parinello

Lector: Jenny Roby

E.M.: Kevin Vance, Basil Meyer

Servers: Elizabeth Honse

10:00 a.m.

Greeters: John and Sarah Schulte

Cantor: Karen Phillips

Ushers: John Schlumbohm and Debbie Bullman

Lectors: Caitlyn Couch

E.M.: Logan Welch, Lisa Welch, Cathy Hermiller,
Linda Kinn, Rachel Welch

Servers: Carson and Ty Meyer, Will Schulte

Readings for March 1, 2020

First Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Genesis 2:7 – 9, 3:1 – 7

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12 – 19

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1 – 11

