

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 16, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Before man are life and death,... whichever he chooses shall be given him. (Sirach 15:17)

Free will. It's God's greatest gift to us, and it's also our riskiest characteristic. Free will has enabled us to decide for ourselves what kind of people we will be. It has enabled us to create music and art, to build cities and roads, to marry and have children. It has also enabled us to destroy instead of create, to hurt and betray instead of heal and build up. Most important, it's through our free will that we decide whether to follow Jesus or our own thoughts and desires.

Sirach seems keenly aware of how much of a two-edged sword our free will can be. Each of us, he says, is free to choose between "fire and water...life and death, good and evil" (Sirach 15:16, 17). And God will respect whatever we choose.

Of course, our heavenly Father longs for us to choose life in him, but he will never force himself on us. He is not like the petty gods dreamed up by the pagans, who use threats and manipulation to keep their people in line.

God also knows that free will has consequences. And so Sirach teaches, "Whichever he chooses shall be given him" (Sirach 15:17). While God honors our choices, he also respects the results those choices bring.

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us a real-life illustration: "Whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment" (Matthew 5:22). If you choose to nurture anger, resentment, and condemnation, don't be surprised if other people begin treating you in the same way. But if you build an environment of trust and respect, that's what you will receive.

So choose life today. Use this awesome gift of your free will to choose gentleness, patience, and all the other fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Above all, choose Jesus. Welcome him into your life, and let his love soften your heart. It's the best choice you could ever make.

"Jesus, help me to choose you in every situation today."

Deacon Mark Race, Administrator

Sacred Heart Retreat

Ladies, it's that time of year again for our Silent Retreat at the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra. Enjoy days focused on the theme: Come Holy Spirit - "He will guide you to all truth" (John 16:13). Our retreat will take place March 27th - 29th. You can commute daily or stay the entire weekend. Spaces are filling up fast. So please contact Evelyn Payne at 323.291.8325 or Sonya Robertson at 323.291.4846 to get registered right away.

Daily Scripture Readings

Sunday	Sir 15:15-20, Ps 119:1-34, Mt 5:17-37
Monday	Jas 1:1-11, Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	Jas 1:12-18, Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday	Jas 1:19-27, Mk 8:22-26
Thursday	Jas 2:1-9, Mk 8:27-33
Friday	Jas 2:14-26, Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday	1 Pt 5:1-4, Mt 16:13-19
Sunday	Lv 19:1-18, Ps 103:1-13, Mt 5:38-48

Mass Intentions

Saturday	February 15
5:15 PM	Soul of Carl Clay
Sunday	February 16
8:00 AM	Intention of all Parishioners
10:00 AM	Intention of Deacon Gregory Patterson
12:15 PM	Soul of Spencer Leon
Thursday	February 20
8:00AM	Intention of Sidney Portier
Friday	February 21
5:15 PM	Intention of Brian Mutetikka
Saturday	February 22
5:15 PM	Soul of Margery Chambers
Sunday	February 23
8:00 AM	Intention of Lillie P. Jones
10:00 AM	Intention of all Parishioners

Weekly Offering for February 9, 2020

\$5274.58 Tithe and Offering
75.00 Building Fund
1.00 "We Care"

Stewardship Thought

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."
MATTHEW 5:20

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

TRANSFIGURATION LENTEN REVIVAL



Sr. / Dr. Oralisa Martin, O.R.A.

Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday Nights at 7PM
March 15, 16, & 17, 2020 and
Sunday March 15th at 10AM Mass
Spread the Word!

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress

February 20, 2020 (Youth Day)
February 21-23, 2020 (Adult Days)
Youth Day theme: "20/20 Through God's Eyes"
R.E. Congress adult days theme: "Live Mercy – Be Holy"
Held at the Anaheim Convention Center in California
Call the rectory at 323.291.1136 for more details.

Did You Know

Make a playground checklist. Parents sometimes think of playgrounds as "drop zones" for their kids — keep an eye or an ear out, but otherwise settle in on a bench while your child burns off energy. Nearly 170,000 children were injured on playgrounds in 2019, and a few moments of careful attention could keep your child from joining those ranks. When you get to a playground, check out the surfaces underneath the equipment, especially equipment that allows children to jump or hang from it. The ground surface should be soft and shock absorbent. Check equipment for visible dangers — loose or missing pieces, sharp angles, broken supports, etc.

Bible Study Movie

This year Bible Study will present the movie, "**The King's Speech**" for Lenten Reflection. The movie will be shown on Sunday, February 23 at 2:30PM and Monday February 24 at 7PM in the hall. The theme for our 5 week series is "*Finding a voice*" to express yourself. Sometimes we all get a little tongue-tied. All are invited.

Thank you

The Johns Family wishes to express our sincere gratitude to Transfiguration's office staff and religious, friends, and Bereavement team for provided spiritual support, gentle fellowship and delicious food during our time of sorrow at the loss of our dear patriarch Robert Johns.

Pray for the Sick

LaVerne Agnew, Cyd Michelle Anderson, Brian Argusta, Percenia Beasley, Fr. Emile Belletty, Glenda Brown, Vivian Burgess, Barbara Butler, Brownie Cain, Sister Cecilia Calva, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Katherine Clark, Agnes Cooper, Edward Cousin, Juanita Davis, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Jayden Dunn, Nigel Dunn, Alton Duhon, Cynthia Fortier, Teresa Franklin, Judy Felton-Gardner, Michael Frierson, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Jacqueline Holman, Janie Jackson, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Barbara Lindsey, Connie Louie, Joe McZeal, Vylfred Manor, Sister Marianna, Dorothy Okoye, Aliyah Patterson, Sally Price, Wiley R. Pugh, Vickie Race, Andrea Raggette, Doris Rogers, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Chris Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Sandra Sterling, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, Johnnye Washington, and Alice Williams.