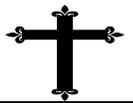




Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16, 2020



Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday – February 15

8:00am- † Francis Plescia
 5:00pm- † Edwin Santiago
 7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Sunday – February 16

8:30am- † Concetta Pellicchia
 10:00am- † Florencio Contreras, Jr.
 11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions
 1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions
 6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

Monday – February 17

8:00am- † Andrew Frulio ~Anniversary~
 12:05pm- NO MASS

Tuesday – February 18

8:00am- † Robert Laurie
 12:05pm- † Thelma Dixon

Wednesday – February 19

8:00am- † Marie Theresa Sardinha
 12:05pm- Special Intentions Christy Grassi

Thursday – February 20

8:00am- † John Plescia, Sr.
 12:05pm- † James T. Parsons

Friday – February 21

8:00am- † Nancy Rogo
 12:05pm- † Adolfo Barrera

Saturday – February 22

8:00am- † Guillermo Martinez
 5:00pm- † Daniel Mayala Luciene Marcelio

Sunday – February 23

8:30am- † Thomas J. Mormino
 10:00am- † Anthony Marcigliano



Mass Intentions

Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish
Offered by: Family

Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish
Offered by: Evette Contreras

Offered by: Frulio Family

Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish
Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish

Offered by: Loyola School
Offered by: Mary Guardiani

Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish
By: Efrain & Wanda Ortiz

Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish
Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish

Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish
Offered by: Margareth Louis

Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish
Offered by: Mt. Carmel Parish



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Blessed is he/she who follows the Law of the Lord" *(Psalm 119)*

The next two weeks we will hear stories from the Gospel of Matthew that tell us how Jesus reinterprets passages of the "Law and the Prophets" to his disciples. Jesus challenges his followers to go beyond the literalness of the written law. The liturgy proposes Psalm 119 that somehow sums up in a wonderful way what a broad interpretation of the law brings to the believer who feels blessed to follow the law.

Reading the Book of Sirach teaches us that we all have the ability to choose between good and evil. Jesus will call this ability "to read the signs of the times." Saint Ignatius of Loyola brings to the Church "the gift of discernment" which is nothing other than "seeking and finding the will of God"; In other words, to discern is to know how to choose good. Pope Francis, a worthy disciple of St. Ignatius and Spiritual Master says in this regard that "Spiritual discernment is the compass that allows us to recognize the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives, in our communities and in the world. Today, as yesterday, God continues to act and accompany his Church, but many times believers do not recognize his voice." Let us recognize that only when we trust in God and keep his commandments are we on our way to salvation." However, we must keep in mind that the "Spirit of Jesus" is the only one that leads us to go beyond mere compliance with the law.

If, when we memorize the commandments, we don't keep them in our hearts, we don't understand what the life of grace is about and we fall into the literalism of the law that Jesus fights in his constant confrontation with the Pharisees. That is why Jesus will say later in the Gospel of Matthew that all the law and the prophets are derived from the two great commandments: love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself. If we remember and fulfill these two mandates, we would be satisfied, and the life of our world and of our Church would be totally different. Jesus, in reinterpreting the commandments and going beyond his literalness is telling us that another world is possible. For example, when Jesus reinterprets the fifth commandment "not to kill", he teaches his disciples the damage that anger produces that if left unresolved can cause death in relationships with others. Hence, for Jesus, the only way to get rid of anger and resentment is reconciliation. Let us ask, then, that the "spirit of Jesus" help us to do good deeds and be more willing to accept his mandates that will always lead us towards the path of reconciliation because "Blessed is he/she who follows the law of the Lord." **Fr. Hernán, SJ**

Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine		~ †
Tabernacle Candle		~ †
Memorial Candle		~ †
Memorial Candle		~ †



SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). *Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."*

February 16: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 15:15-20
Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
1 Corinthians 2:6-10

February 123: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13
1 Corinthians 3:16-23



NOTICE - The Rectory Office will be closed on **Monday, February 17th**, in observance of Presidents' Day. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, February 18th.

LENTEN SERIES - Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. To help us have a more prayerful Lenten experience, Fr. Roselli is offering a 6 week Lenten every Thursday beginning **February 27, 2020** at 10:30am in the Fr. Miguel Meeting Room. It an opportunity for you to grow closer to God by deepening your experience of prayer and faith during this Holy Lenten Season. We ask that you Register in order to prepare the proper amounts of reading materials. Weekly participation is recommended but do not worry if you cannot make every session, you may come to as many sessions as your time allows.

BIBLE STUDY - Join us for our Parish Bible Study, meeting Sundays: **February 23**, March 8 & 22, April 26, May 10 & 31, June 14 & 28. All dates we will start at 1:00pm and run until 3:00pm. If you do not have a bible, one can be provided for you. The Holy Bible is a book that can help us live happier, more peaceful lives. But sometimes we need a little help to know where to start. Come and explore how God's word can help you in your life.

ASH WEDNESDAY - This year Ash Wednesday falls on **February 26, 2020**. The Mass schedule is as follows: 8:00am & 12:05pm (English Masses) OLMC School Students will attend the 12:05pm Mass; 6:00pm & 8:00pm (Spanish Masses). Ashes will be distributed ONLY during these masses. Who may receive Ashes? All Catholics who have received the Sacrament of Penance. Ashes are not intended for babies and young children who are not capable of personal sin.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - We will pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays During Lent after the 12:05pm mass. Beginning **Friday, February 28** join us for this very special Lenten devotion.

CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - *TEACH + SERVE + SANCTIFY*. The success of the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal - helping those less fortunate, spiritually nurturing our youth, caring for our retired priests and religious, growing the many ministry programs that serve our communities - depends on us. Please join your fellow parishioners in stewardship and make your gift to the Cardinal's Appeal today. Thank you to all who have already made your commitment - your generosity is truly appreciated!

TREE OF LIFE - In the back of the church (by the choir area) we have placed **The Tree of Life** memorial for anyone who would like to remember one of their loved ones with a memorial plaque. The suggested donation for a leaf on the tree is \$250. Please call the rectory and request your form, if you would like to place a name on the tree.

PARISH OFFERTORY ENVELOPES - Please help our parish help you by utilizing your envelopes when you attend Mass. If you forget your envelope (which can happen occasionally), we have blank envelopes at the church entrance and you can write your name and/or envelope number on those. And if you are a guest or new to our Parish Family, please go ahead and use those envelopes as well. If you do not currently receive them, please contact the parish office to find out how you may obtain them. **Why do we ask families to use envelopes?** To help us to determine if you are an active Catholic and a witness to our faith. It is a witness to our spouse, our children and to others around us by giving to our church. We have many families who want to have their baby baptized or a child confirmed and they choose a relative or friend to be a godparent or a sponsor. To be a godparent or sponsor, normally one should be an active Catholic. One of the ways for the office to truly know that you are active is to place your envelope in the basket when you attend Mass. If you are asked to be a godparent or a sponsor for a relative or friend out of this parish, the other parish may request us to send "a letter of good standing". What they are requesting is a letter signed by the pastor stating that you are an active Catholic. We cannot send the letter in good conscience attesting to your Sunday attendance if your envelope is not recorded.

COLLECTIONS: February 9: \$4,963; Second Collection: \$512. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of OUR Parish!

CHOICE - "If you choose you can keep the commandments," Sirach tells us. God "has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand" (Sirach 15:15, 16). This is a great mystery: God does not control us so completely that we cannot choose our own path. We have certain boundaries, of course, but no one but we can choose our way within those boundaries. In today's reading from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of our freedom and our responsibility for our lives. He calls us to look beyond the words of the commandments, all the way to their meaning. Look beyond the adultery to the selfishness that poisons our love. Look beyond the murder to the anger that eats away at our compassion. Look beyond the perjured testimony to the lies and deception that drive our behavior. Our vocation is to choose life for ourselves, and to choose a path through our part of the world that helps make life possible and more abundant for others as well. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co