

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 24, 2019**

From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:

Mercy to Others

A friend commented on today's Gospel reading: "Is Jesus crazy? Love enemies, pray for and do good to those who hurt or hate? He needs to live in the 'real world.'" What do you think?

Just last Sunday in Luke Gospel in Jesus' Sermon on a stretch of level ground we heard Him preach something quite opposite to our natural inclination when we are hurt or hated by someone. Like one commentator puts it, this is a Gospel of Reversals.

All of today's readings describe unexpected reversals. In the first reading, David stealthily enters into Saul's camp; we anticipate that David will take his vengeance. But he did not on both occasions. If that were Saul, he would have done it. David could have killed Saul, but would not reject God's way by harming God's anointed. Even though David was an adulterer and murderer. Despite being urged to "take the shot" David too chooses to spare him, out of respect for God's anointed.

In Matthew Sermon on the Mount, the admonition to "love your enemies" is the culmination of a series of extraordinary actions toward another. But today's reading from Luke, after the Sermon on the Plain, the evangelist reverses the order. Jesus sets before the disciples the mandate and then explains what "love your enemies" looks like. In each case, Jesus advocates not passive acceptance, but active desistance. If struck, do not strike back. If your cloak is taken, offer even your inner garment. When you refuse to escalate the violence, you are, in essence, doing "good to those hate you." The motivation for such behavior is trust in God's reciprocity: "For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

Our human inclination to fight evil with evil is replaced with God's inclination to fight evil with love. This is what Jesus offers us to do unto to others. Martin Luther King Jr, Sister Dorothy Stang, St. Oscar Romero, and Pope Francis, to name a few preached this. Three of them were martyred, with St. Pope John Paul II, he was shot twice in an assassination attempt and wounded but St. Pope John Paul later met his assassin in his prison cell and gently speak to him of the forgiveness of Christ. Today, we see St. Pope John Paul as a model for all people of the forgiveness and mercy God offers us. Earthly logic calls this crazy but spiritual logic sees this as a mandate given by Jesus in our dealing with one another.

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**Ash Wednesday March 6, 2019 Mass Schedule are 8:15am, 12:05pm and Spanish 7:30pm  
Prayer Service 3:00pm English**

*What are you planning to pledge towards The Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal 2019?*

*Fr. George will be meeting with various ministries in our Hispanic Community. Once again welcome. Fr. George*

**Stewardship**

God's Plan for Giving Sunday Collection For 02/18/19 was \$ 3,023.00

**2nd Collection:** *The 2nd Collection last Sunday for our monthly Church Property was \$ 1,168.00*

Parish Membership

Every family or single adult to be considered active members of St. Mary's must be properly registered in the parish, receiving and regularly using the weekly donation envelopes. Only in this way can the parish issue documents attesting to parish membership and Catholic practice, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. Also if you have moved and still want to continue as parishioner of St. Mary's please stop by the office with your new address so that we may make the appropriate changes.

Thank You

**Religious Education**

**March 2019:**

2nd Religious Education Classes ~2nd Meeting for First Holy Communion 11:30 am School Cafeteria ~ ALL PARENTS MUST ATTEND!

9th Religious Education Classes~ Reconciliation for 2nd Grade 10:00 am in the Church

16th Religious Education Classes~ Communion Rehearsal 10:00 am

23rd Religious Education Classes ~Confirmation Rehearsal 10:00 am

30th Religious Education Classes

**Sundays Readings:**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9; 12-13, 22-23 page 73: Samuel

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103; page 74: "The Lord is kind and merciful"

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-49; page 74: We shall bear the image of the heavenly one.

Gospel : Luke 6:27-38; page 75 :The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you.

Today's Focus: Is Jesus Crazy?: The expectations and commandments of Jesus-especially to love one's enemies-made people suspicious about him, and his early followers as well. Following Jesus, we should not be surprised if others think we also might be a bit unbalanced!

**Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal for 2019 Goal is 39,500**

**Let's Pray this Prayer**

Heavenly Father, you have called your church to be a community of faith, hope, and charity. Perfect in us, O God, these virtues, so that our hearts may belong completely to you and our words and deeds may serve to continue your work of salvation. Increase our faith, that we may bear witness to the Gospel in a world so burdened by pain and anxiety. Strengthen our hope that we may trust your infinite love will bring healing to a broken humanity and a suffering Church. And deepen our charity, that we may serve you and our neighbor with greater devotion. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Tax Statement**

*Anyone that needs their donation statement for Tax purpose are to stop by the Rectory Office and leave your name and envelope number and we will mail it out to you.*

**Mass Schedule for the week of  
February 24, 2019 to March 3, 2019**

**Mass are daily at 8:15 and 12:05 in English and in Spanish on Thursdays at 7:00pm**

**Below are the Special Intentions for this week**

**Sunday, February 24, 2019:**

7:30 am – For the Parishioners

9:00 am – In Thanksgiving \*Joaquina Tovar

11:00 am – Celio Rodrigues \*Edward & Esther Rodrigues

**Monday, February 25, 2019:**

8:15am Available

12:05pm – Vee & Carl Motta \*Son George Motta

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019:**

8:15am Available

12:05pm – Sr. Marital Gill IHM \*Tony Felicissimo

**Wednesday, February 27, 2019:**

8:15am Available

12:05 pm – Sr Mary Rihn \* Lila Perez

**Thursday, February 28, 2019:**

8:15am - Available

12:05pm - Sagrado Corazon De Jesus \* Lila Perez

7:00 pm – Virgilio Cruz \* Eypsyne Cruz

**Friday, March 1, 2019:**

8:15am – Available

12:05pm – Josephine Mullen \*Stephanie Otero

7:30am - Sagrado Corazon de Jesus

**Saturday, March 2, 2019:**

12:05pm - Leonard Spano

5:00 pm – Salvador Collazo \*Christina

7:00 pm – Alejandra Montoya