

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 16, 2020

LIVING GOD'S WORD

We can pray for the Holy Spirit to open our minds to understand what is at the heart of Jesus' teachings, and that we both discern what God asks of us and respond wholeheartedly. Thus we witness to others what it means to walk in the law of the Lord.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK FEBRUARY 17, 2020

Monday, Feb. 17
NO MASS
Tuesday, Feb. 18
8:15AM Bob Friess by John
Wednesday, Feb. 19
10:30AM Communion Service
Thursday, Feb. 20
NO MASS
Friday, Feb. 21, St. Peter Damian
8:15AM Lena Esselman by Friends
Saturday, Feb. 22
5PM Gerald Lake by Family
Sunday, Feb. 23
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK FEB. 16 THRU FEB. 23

Sunday	9AM Mass PSR Class after 9AM Mass till 11:45AM 1PM SMS Benefit Shooting Match
Monday	NO MASS – NO SCHOOL NO K OF C LUNCHEON
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass (Grades 5-8)
Wednesday	10:30AM Com. Service at Three Springs
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	8:15AM Mass (Grade 5 & 6 Liturgy) 2:50PM Dismissal – NO BUS
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass (Grade 3 & 4 Liturgy)

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: The Israelites revered God, the Holy One, as unapproachable, mighty, pure, and majestic. If you wanted to get to the God of purity, you followed the road that led you to become pure, for the Most Holy could not look upon sin. They believed that you would die if you saw God. Their reverence was rich and deep. To gain "access" to God they followed the laws. Observing the law meant everything to the religious people of Jesus' day-not for the sake of "the law" itself, but because they wanted to be able to approach God. They wanted to come to God with a clean heart. The law was their way to get access to the Most High God. Jesus understood that theology. When Jesus said that he didn't come to destroy the law but to fulfill it, he understood their longing: they wanted access to God. That was admirable, Jesus honored that. Moving forward from the written law, he offered *himself* as the road to the Father: "I am the way."

TITHE WEEK OF FEB. 9, 2020

Mary Help of Christians: \$6,548.00
\$764.00 Improvement; \$25.96 Child Env.; \$13.00 Votives
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,366.13
Fiscal Year Week: 32
YTD Actual Giving: \$203,716.00
YTD Budget Need: \$224,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$20,284.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$633.88)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Israel thought their observance of the Law of Moses was the way to the unseen God. In Jesus Christ, that way to God was made incarnate, visible, and is a way that we still can take.

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Feb. 22 & 23: 5PM, Nate Maes, Kolton Jany; 9AM, Jared Landeros, Elseah Congiardo, Nolin Crain

SUNDAY, FEB. 16 at 1PM the Shiloh Hill Tavern is hosting a benefit shooting match for St. Mary's Catholic School. There will be Money Rounds, Meat Wheel, and a Gun Raffle. Refreshments will be available.

BLOOD DRIVE will be held at the American Legion on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 12:45-5:45PM. To make an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767.

K OF C FISH FRY Friday, Feb. 21, from 4:30-7PM. This week's fish fry will benefit the Newman Fund. The fish fry on Feb. 28 will be for Chester Chamber of Commerce.

ST. MARY DIVINE MATERNITY in Ellis Grove will host a Fat Saturday meal from 4-8PM on Saturday, Feb. 22. All you can eat chicken & fish dinners with 4 sides, dessert, and drinks are included.

NEWMAN AUXILIARY QUILT & CASH BINGO will be held on Sunday, Feb. 23, at St. John the Baptist, Red Bud, beginning at 1PM. Doors open at 11AM. Lunch is available.

PARISH LENTEN STUDY will begin on Sunday, March 1, after the 9AM Mass in the school library until 10:45AM. This will be a four week video presentation on the seven deadly sins on Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, and 22.

THE GIFT OF FREE WILL: In Sirach 15:15 we are given a choice every day by Our Father; to trust in Him in all things and to accept His unfailing love, or to stumble on our own accord, "If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you. If you trust in God, you will live." What a double-edge sword our free will is! Our Father longs for us to choose Him, but He will never force us. If we place our lives in His hands, He will fortify us with every grace through Baptism (water) and help us turn away from sin through our trust in Him. With free will comes great responsibility, not only for ourselves, but the world around us. Attending Mass, spending time in Eucharistic Adoration, receiving the sacraments are a few ways to put on the armor of Our Lord as we head out into the world each day. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us plainly about the pitfalls of sin, "Whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." It's our job as God's children to be peacemakers. Pray for those who have hurt you throughout your life. If you have been in the wrong, reach out and make a phone call or send a note and apologize. Remember to do your best to live in right relationship with others. The kingdom of God is here on earth and it begins with each one of us!

ATTENDING TO LAW: Both civil and Church law give us standards to guide our thought and behaviors. Outward acts help us attend to inner treasures. We need help for interpreting law rightly so that external actions reflect a right and merciful heart. That is why the Penitential Act is made early in Mass before gifts and selves are brought to the altar. How will I live in right relationship with God today? How will this spill over into right relationship with sisters and brothers (real and in the Lord)? How will my interpretation of God's law be filled with mercy and loving kindness?