

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 23, 2020

LIVING GOD'S WORD

We pray to God to continue to pour the Holy Spirit into our hearts so that we can love with God's own love, when our own ability to love fails us. We pray that we can grow into that full maturity that we see in Jesus, who prayed for his enemies from the cross.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Monday, Feb. 24
8:15AM Intention of Catholic Extension Donor
Tuesday, Feb. 25
8:15AM Curtis Jany by Nephews
Wednesday, Feb. 26, Ash Wednesday
8:15AM Rev. Stephen J. Humphrey
6PM Delbert Stirnman by Peggyann Helmers
Thursday, Feb. 27
NO MASS
Friday, Feb. 28
8:15AM Rev. Bernard C. Goedde, Jr.
Saturday, Feb. 29
5PM Paul Schulein
Sunday, March 1
9AM For the Parish

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK FEB. 24 THRU MARCH 1

Sunday	9AM Mass PSR Class after 9AM Mass till 11:15AM
Monday	8:15AM Mass in Rectory Dining Room 11AM-1PM K of C Luncheon Pork Sausage & Kraut/Fried Chicken
Tuesday	8:15AM Mass (Grade 1-4)
Wednesday	8:15AM Mass – Ash Wednesday 6PM Mass – Ash Wednesday
Thursday	Fr. Gene's Day Off
Friday	8:15AM Mass (Grade K-2 Liturgy)
Saturday	5PM Mass
Sunday	9AM Mass

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR: Much of Leviticus focuses on God's formative intentions for Israel by repeating often the phrase, "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy." These words punctuate a section of ethical and cultic laws scholars call the Holiness Code. The command put forward in the reading this week is exemplary of the ethical commands, and it highlights that these commands are meant to form one's "heart". Jesus has been instructing his disciples how the Law is intended to form a certain kind of person. Now he turns to the theme of retaliation. The ancient *lex talionis* is meant to limit vengeance. (Exodus 21:23-24; Leviticus 24:19-20). Jesus deepens this point by commanding his followers to reject vengeance altogether, and further, to respond to demands with generosity. Jesus' command to love enemies is founded on the observable fact that God also shows kindness to the unjust and the bad (who might be considered God's "enemies"). Just as Israel was commanded to be holy as God is holy, so Jesus' followers are commanded to be "perfect" as God is perfect.

TITHE WEEK OF FEB. 16, 2020

Mary Help of Christians: \$8,773.00
\$465.00 Cemetery; \$76.00 Child Env.; \$8.00 Votives
WEEKLY Budget Need: \$7,000.00
YTD Average Weekly Tithe: \$6,439.06
Fiscal Year Week: 33
YTD Actual Giving: \$212,489.00
YTD Budget Need: \$231,000.00
YTD Budget Difference: (\$18,511.00)
YTD Weekly: (\$560.94)

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: We are to let God's grace guide us and draw us near, so we are filled with divine holiness.

SERVERS SCHEDULE for Feb. 29 & March 1: 5PM, Gage Hopkins, Garret Hopkins; 9AM, Gene Bicket, Nathan Jany, Grace Welborn

RAFFLE TICKETS: Please continue to sell your raffle tickets for the Gala Auction. We have sold \$1,281.00.

NEWMAN AUXILIARY QUILT & CASH BINGO will be Sunday, Feb. 23, at St. John the Baptist, Red Bud, at 1PM.

4TH DEGREE K OF C members will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at 7PM in the Chester K of C Hall.

K OF C FISH FRY Friday, Feb. 28, from 4:30-7PM. This week's fish fry will benefit the Chester Chamber of Commerce. The fish fry on March 6 will be for the Humane Society.

PTO CASH & QUILT BINGO will be held on Sunday, March 15, at 1PM in the SMS gym. Doors open at 10:30AM.

BLACK & INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION will be taken up next weekend. Your support helps build the Church in African American, Native American and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Our Belleville Diocese received \$105,000.00 in grant funding from this collection last year, benefiting Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic School, St. Benedict the Black Friary, Newman Catholic Student Center, Vincent Gray Academy and the Offices of Youth Ministry and Worship.

PARISH LENTEN STUDY will begin on Sunday, March 1, after the 9AM Mass. The four part video series will be shown on Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, and 22. These presentations reveal the "seven deadly sins" which are the primary spiritual blocks that inhibit human flourishing in relationship with God and one another. With God's grace and our cooperation, the "seven lively virtues" offer remedies to each sin and enable us to make progress toward happiness.

BE PERFECT, JUST AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS PERFECT: Jesus's words taken from the readings that make up the Sermon on the Mount, are meant to challenge, yet inspire us, as we remember that God is love and that all good things come from God. Christ calls us to practice a love (agape) which is willing the good of the other for the other with no expectation of a return. We can bring agape love into our relationships with family and friends. What about those on the periphery of society; those imprisoned, those who are homeless, those who are refugees? So much work is to be done to build up the Kingdom of God here on earth. Pray for those who have no one to pray for them, show kindness with a smile to all those you meet. Look for ways to make a difference in the life of someone who desperately needs it . . . then, we will know the "perfect" love that Christ calls us to share.

THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL: Jesus still teaches on the mount today. He moves from the "blessed are" to the "I say to you." He says today: Do not hate. Do not get even. Do not retaliate. Do not insult. Love your neighbor, domestic and foreign. He ends with this: "So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Clear. To the point. Hard, but doable with God's help. How will I be kind, be merciful today? Whom shall I stop hating? How can I shape my less-than-perfect behavior in the perfection of God?