

**February 18-19, 2017**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Leviticus 19:1-18**

**First Corinthians 3:16-23**

**Matthew 5:38-48**

A casual reading of any weekday version of 'Dear Abby' from local papers will invariably contain stories of people struggling with family or friends over a variety of issues. Expectations or confusion of how people should or should not act in a variety of circumstances can be the 'set-up' for disappointment, resentment and anger; destination weddings, unacknowledged gifts, intrusive personal questions, workplace social etiquette, pets relieving themselves on neighbor's shrubs, abusive behavior...the list of topics is endless. Most of the themes do not involve any breaking of actual laws but they do touch upon the SOCIAL FABRIC within which many of us try to live. What are we supposed to do when someone offends us or appears to be boorish, self-centered, rude, crass or insensitive? Something of a thematic link to last weekend's consideration of laws, rules and guidelines, our Scripture readings this weekend nudge us beyond what is REQUIRED and urge us to RADICALLY alter our outlook as we interact with one another. \*Love your enemies, \*turn the other cheek, \*give to those who beg, \*do not turn our back on those who want to borrow: rather than a legal recipe of how to precisely deal with real-world situations, Jesus challenges us to review OUR ATTITUDE toward these circumstances...and to choose the higher road of disconcerting patience, kindness and generosity. Dwelling as we do amid millions of people, our interactions with each other can sorely test our faithful resolve to BE LIKE JESUS. The temptation to 'respond in kind' to people and circumstances is alluring...but does it make the world the better place we lament it not being? Have we slipped into the self-justification of 'an eye-for an eye' formulae that Jesus himself rejected? The golden rule....somewhat battered and frequently overlooked, is still an underpinning creating our society, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' What an interesting world it might be if we endeavored, unceasingly, to follow such sage counsel.

As we honor George Washington and Abraham Lincoln this weekend, thank you for taking time from your 72 hour holiday to celebrate Mass with our Santa Clara Community. A reminder that we continue to accept our 2017 Pastoral Services Pledge envelopes...if you were absent on the first weekend of the month, please do not hesitate to pass it along to FKB in person or via the Offertory/Stewardship basket. Following the 12 Noon Mass, our **Family Faith Formation-LEAD ME HOME** kicks off today (Sunday) with lunch and fun ANTICIPATORY activities for the approaching season of Lent. **Next Sunday, the 26<sup>th</sup>, is Seminarian Daniel's opening event (softball and pizza) for his TRANSCEND-Married Men's Series...**the Bulletin has more info on it and other upcoming parish programs, please take a copy home with you. With February speeding past, enjoy the coming week and please remember, even though Valentine's Day has come and gone, you are loved. FKB