

February 23-24, 2019

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Samuel 26:2-23

First Corinthians 15:45-49

Luke 6:27-38

Recent news spoke of the rapid movement of the 'magnetic north pole', something that merited a shrug from many but something of great importance to those who rely on TRUE bearings for all forms of navigation (in the air, on land and on/under the sea)...right on down to our every- day use of Google maps. Small changes can have HUGE repercussions. In our present 'politically polarized' American society, it appears that the time-honored practice of GUIDING OUR LIVES by measuring our choices, words and actions against Sacred Scripture have been replaced with our actions, words and choices being measured against how they reflect our political persuasions and loyalties. God is not Democrat, Republican or Independent, nor is God an American, European, Asian or African; our sacred stories have been assembled through centuries of discernment by which people sense that they offer us glimmers of God's wisdom and guidance. This weekend's First Reading from Samuel speaks of MERCY in large CAPS when it describes an early battle between King Saul and David wherein David surprisingly catches the King asleep and chooses the honorable approach of MERCY and RESPECT as a SPRINGBOARD to conversation rather than a quick killing-spear to the King's heart. Insistence on MERCY and RESPECT are again highlighted in the selection from the Gospel of Luke: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.; bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you....**do to others as you would have them do to you.**' In our polarized, conflictual times, these seem foolish words....but they are the words of JESUS, not some press agent or political action committee flyer. Trying to twist the words of Jesus into our world of politics is a fool's errand...discarding the words of Jesus in favor of political passions does not a disciple of Jesus make. Wisdom calls us to measure all our actions, discussions and discernments against JESUS' words...because not only is God not Republican, Democrat or Independent, neither is heaven...and aligning our lives to the words of Jesus are our keys to access.

A final weekend of February and soon March will bring us new opportunities and seasonal changes. Thank you for joining with our Santa Clara community as we bid the shortest month farewell and prepare for the weeks that will bring us Lent, Spring and all sorts of other notable occasions. **OUR FAMILIES are reminded that THIS SUNDAY- TODAY - is our FAMILY FAITH FORMATION DAY for all our, children, Jr. High and Sr. High teens, along with their parents and those who simply want to participate.** It starts with lunch immediately following the 12noon Mass and concludes around 4pm. Please note the approach of **LENT on Wednesday, March 6th**....ASHES are distributed beginning at 3AM...until 11AM...so you can publicly acknowledge your efforts at living a life in relationship with Jesus. A timely reminder for those who have yet to make a 10-month pledge for our **2019 DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN**.... join the hundreds of others who are saying YES to our future Permanent Church. Lastly, please take a Bulletin home for news of other events...and remember, even during the shortest month of the year, you are loved. FKB