

February 22-23, 2020

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – Last Sunday before LENT

Leviticus 19:1-18

First Corinthians 3:16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

We live within unusual times when morality, propriety, manners and plain old ‘good taste’ are being abandoned and replaced with ‘live anyway you want’ and ‘whatever you can get away with - is ok’ and ‘we get to be the arbiters of what is right or wrong for ourselves.’ We are on a slippery slope of abandoning the hard-learned lessons from thousands of years of **Living in Community** with other human beings and replacing history with ‘whatever I can get away with.’ As hard as it can be to live within our REAL WORLD society, this weekend’s Gospel from Matthew has Jesus unsettling things even more with his admonishment to his disciples to ‘Love your enemies’, ‘Offer no resistance to those who strike you’, ‘Do not turn your back on anyone who wants to borrow from you’ and ‘Pray for those who persecute you.’ Acknowledging that Jesus is the human mouthpiece for GOD ETERNAL, his teachings and guidance are intended to RATTLE our self-deceptions that we are not answerable to anyone other than ourselves. Granted, we human beings have a hard time crafting/creating laws and directions that both respect and invite people to conform our lives to them...as disciples of Jesus we are asked to go ABOVE and BEYOND what everybody else is doing...we are encouraged to be compassionate, forgiving, generous and instruments of healing for the world around us. With LENT beginning this Wednesday, this weekend’s Gospel might be a suitable springboard into the Lenten season for each of us...HOW OPEN ARE WE TO ACTUALLY EMBRACING THE TEACHINGS AND GUIDANCE OF JESUS...or do we just want heaven ON OUR OWN TERMS without having to alter our lives?

On this final weekend of Ordinary Time, thank you for joining with our Santa Clara community in prayer and worship. THIS WEDNESDAY is ASH WEDNESDAY and the distribution of ashes begins at 3am.....YES.....3am...and continues until the conclusion of the St. Francis School Mass around 11:15am. The morning Mass at 8:30am occurs as usual, with ashes distributed at the end. When Mass is occurring, ashes are not available until their distribution time. Please take a Bulletin with you for other news of what is approaching throughout Lent. Please keep our High School Youth preparing for Confirmation in your prayers next weekend as they will be on Retreat from Friday to Sunday. Also, our candidates for acceptance into the Catholic Church on Holy Saturday will go through the Rite of Election next Saturday, March 1st at Christ Cathedral...please keep our candidates in your prayers. Please endeavor to FAST (the equivalent of only one full meal) on Wednesday and also abstain from eating meat...as well, Fridays in Lent are time out from meat as best as you can...it is a communal endeavor, to remember that we are in a special season of spiritual renewal. Enjoy your ashen crosses....and always remember, you are loved. FKB