

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2020

Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.

FOOLISHNESS Sometimes the idea of repentance seems old-fashioned, naïve, even foolish. But if you’re looking for real foolishness, you’ll find it in today’s readings.

We begin with Leviticus and the admonition, “Take no revenge and cherish no grudge” (Leviticus 19:18). We’ve heard that message before, of course, so we might forget how far it is from the so-called “practical realities of life.” Saint Paul warns us about being practical, though. Whoever considers oneself wise had better “become a fool because “the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God” (1 Corinthians 3:18, 19).

This “foolishness” continues in the Gospel: “Offer no resistance to one who is evil” (Matthew 5:39). In fact, offer the other cheek when you’ve been slapped. Hand over your coat as well as your shirt. Be like God, who sends sunshine and rain on the bad as well as the good. “So be perfect,” says Jesus, “just as your heavenly Father is perfect” (5:48).

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In brushing up for “Catholic Jeopardy,” it might help to know that there is only one feast on the calendar for a thing, rather than a person or mystery. It’s for a chair: Saint Peter’s chair in fact

After the Resurrection, there can be no doubt that the disciples reserved a special place for Simon Peter in the upper room. Later, Peter became the bishop of Antioch in today’s Syria, the place where we were first called “Christians.” From there, he went to Rome, the center of the Empire, where it is said that Peter sat in a chair in the house of Priscilla and Aquila to instruct his flock. Jesus, in entrusting the keys of the Kingdom to Peter and his successors, entrusted his compassion and mercy to them, and charged them with pointing to the Kingdom of God. Compassion and mercy are to resonate through their teaching.

Since the ancient sign of a teacher is the chair (“disciple” literally means one who sits at the feet of a teacher), Peter’s chair has long been treasured. Today there is a symbolic shrine of Peter’s chair above the main altar of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. This monument is the last work of Bernini, a huge bronze throne supported by four doctors of the Church: Augustine and Ambrose from the Western Church, and Chrysostom and Athanasius from the East. High above it is the alabaster window of the descent of the Holy Spirit.

All P. R. E. students are to attend ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES. It is mandatory

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Take no revenge and cherish no grudge; love your neighbor as yourself

(Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18).

Psalms — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103).

Second Reading — You are the temple of God, and holy (1 Corinthians 3:16-23).

Gospel — Offer no resistance; love your enemies (Matthew 5:38-48).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: J1 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

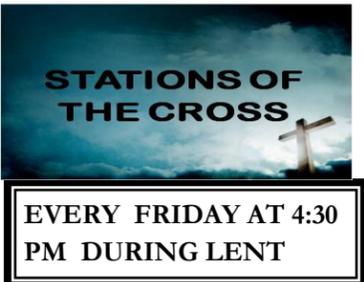
Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence

A garage sale is being planned for later in the spring. The date will be announced later. If you have items to donate please bring them to the church. If you are not able to bring them let the office know and Arrangements can be made to pick them up.

Offertory 2/16/2020
BUDGET \$1351.00
ACTUAL \$ 711.00

-\$640.00

B M
\$400.00



RULES OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

A reminder to parishioners that fasting is about more than denying ourselves food. A deeper understanding of fasting is about emptying oneself of the thing that distracts us from God. It’s about self-sacrifice to allow God to fill us. Fasting should never be an unhealthy practice. A broader perspective of fasting would include providing simpler meals, giving of our excess to charity. We can fast from television, social media, gaming, or other things which get in the way of being with God and being with each other. Fasting should always be understood as a means to grow closer with God and for serving others.

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 60 must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent.

Fasting as explained by the U. S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal. Some food (not equaling another full meal) is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening—depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal.

Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.

.This weekend is Commitment Weekend for the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal. Our parish goal is \$5000.00. Please complete your pledge card, indicating your gift or pledge to our diocesan church. If you do not have a card, please fill out a commitment card located in the front of the church. It is important for all of us to participate in order to support our diocesan church.

Fish Fry in March

Everyone is asked to help and to bring home made goodies for the event March 13th and 27th

MARCH 1ST

LECTOR ANN
E/M TOM/JIM
USHERS PEACH/MARINA
SERVER TY

St. Regina’s Church Staff

Pastor: Fr. ANTHONY ONYEKWE

Secretary: Patricia Humble

DRE: Christina Hammond

Facilities Manager: Jim Molitor

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Remember In Prayer

Michaëlle Box, Fr Robert Ponticello, Emanel Milligan, Leonard Humble, Louis Humble Sr., Joy Williams, Martha Jo Neuenschwander, Mary Taylor, Tracey Johnson