

**February 20, 2022**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23**  
**Ps. 103**  
**1 Corinthians 15: 45-49**  
**Luke 6: 27-38**

Mercy

Today we continue to read from Luke's Gospel, the Sermon on the Plain. It is a parallel to Mathew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount. In Mathew's Gospel the teaching is for us to be perfect as the Father is perfect. In Luke's Gospel the teaching is to be *merciful* as the Father is merciful.

The very beginning of the passage is blunt. Jesus says, "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you...." It goes on. Read it for yourself. This is mercy.

Mercy is distinct from Justice. Justice is what is due to, owed to, a person by virtue of the dignity with which God created him or her. A person deserves Justice. Mercy, however, is what a person is not deserving of. A person has not merited mercy. God decides in love to award mercy.

The Old Testament reading for today, 1 Samuel 26, is a good story regarding the understanding of mercy. It provides a good example.

The transition between King Saul, Israel's first king, to King David is underway in this story. Saul's rule was somewhat a failure. David was chosen by God to take over and Saul was hateful of him. In fact, Saul wished to murder David. It might have been just to take Saul's life since he was actively seeking to kill David. He had to be stopped.

When David had the opportunity to take Saul's life and end the threat against him, he elected not to. David spared Saul. This was an act of mercy. He used the opportunity to teach Saul a lesson on mercy. Saul did not deserve to be spared the death sentence. Yet, David spares him. With this mercy Saul relented.

Why does God call us to be merciful? Why must we love our enemies? We are called to this because we are made in God's image.

In the second reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians Paul teaches humankind is made in God's image. The human body is good. The soul is good. When God made Adam, He blew life into him. It is the "Breath of Life". We all resemble Adam. Then, as Jesus Christ came as one like us and died for our sins we will resemble Him in His resurrection.

You might like retribution against your enemy. Perhaps you would like a little revenge on someone you dislike. Stop and think. If you so dislike your enemy and he so dislikes you, do you not think he might wish evil on you? Do you think he might wish retribution of you? Do you want his wish for you to come true? If you do not want his wish for evil for you to come true, then show him mercy.

Given we are made in God's image we must have within us the power to forgive. Being in God's image it is possible to live by love. We can decide to forgo retribution. The person you show mercy to may relent of his ill will toward you.

In closing, think about this today. Who do you know that needs your mercy?

**Time, Talent, Tithing**

**It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.**

<b>Attendance last week:</b>	<b>263</b>
<b>Tithes Collected:</b>	<b>\$5,719.00</b>
<b>Online Giving:</b>	<b>\$397.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,116.00</b>

**Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive  
ABCD**

**Disciples in Faith. Missionaries of Hope. Servants for Charity.**

**Please make your pledge. Make sure your pledge card designates your pledge originates from Blessed Sacrament Parish. We must claim our quota.**

**Our Goal**

**\$62,000.00**

**Received: \$11,607.00**

**Pledged: \$13,170.00**

**Deficit: \$37,323.00**

**Let Us Do It!**

**SPIRITUALTY**

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Is offered on Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:30pm in the chapel Reconciliation Room.**

**It is also offered most Thursdays before Scripture Sharing from 6:30 to 6:50pm in the chapel. You also may make an appointment for another time as might be available.**

## COMMUNITY

### Faith Formation Families Event Today

Today, after the 10:45am Liturgy the families participating in our Faith Formation program will take part in an hour and a half of play activities. This is to build up fellowship among the children and parents.

#### Black History Month

##### Someone to Remember

Martin de Porres. He became the first black American saint. He was canonized by Pope John XXIII on May 16, 1962. Throughout his life, St. Martin de Porres exemplified God's love for all people regardless of their level in society. He is the patron saint of mixed-race people, barbers, healthcare workers and all who seek racial harmony.

##### A Place Nearby To Visit

1565: St. Augustine, Florida. Blacks, both slave and free, help to found this oldest town in the U.S. In 1693 Spain offers freedom in Florida to slaves who convert to Catholicism. Until 1763, these freed slaves lived in a community northeast of St. Augustine. Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, or Fort Mose, established in 1738, thus becomes the first free black town in the United States.

##### Brothers and Sisters Who Live With Us

The Seminole "Indian" People include Creeks, Yuchis, Yamasses and a few aboriginal remnants. The Population also increased with runaway slaves who found refuge among the tribal nation. In 1970, the Indian Claims Commission awarded the Seminoles of Oklahoma and Florida, \$12,347,500 for the land taken from them by the U.S. military. (Florida Handbook and the Seminole Tribe of Florida)

##### A very brief reflection.

As I read these few tidbits of history regarding my Black brothers and sisters, I recognize a people who looked for a place and identity of their own. Bright and positive people who still push against discrimination.

In the past I was privileged to serve and live in the Black Community. I was welcomed, even with some scrutiny, and I learned humility and acceptance and strength.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Ligget, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahan, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

#### MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 19

- 4:00 p.m. † Sybil Kennedy by Mary Kay & Sonny Little  
† Frank William Cruz by Carol Walgenwitt

Sunday, February 20

- 9:00 a.m. † Jean Yves Dartois by Catherine & Donald Dunn  
10:45 a.m. Priestman Family by Parish

Monday, February 21

- 8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, February 22

- 8:00 a.m. Past & Present Members & Benefactors of SVDP Society

Wednesday, February 23

- 8:00 a.m. † Sancius Cadet by Cadet Family

Thursday, February 24

- 8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Parish

Friday, February 25

- 8:00 a.m. Abuse Victims by Parish

Saturday, February 26

- 4:00 p.m. † Mary V. Murphy by Daniel Murphy

- † Frank William Cruz by Rose Daley

Sunday, February 27

- 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish  
10:45 a.m. Respect Life by Parish