

**February 12, 2023**  
**Sixth Sunday In Ordinary Time**

*Sirach 15: 15-20*

*Psalm 119*

*1 Corinthians 2:6-10*

*Matthew 5: 17-37*

**God's Guidance**

God has given us guidance throughout history. He continues to do so now through the Church he founded on Saint Peter the Rock.

God has given humankind the gift of free will. Each person is at liberty to make choices. Most fundamentally one must choose between good and evil. With that, evil acts happen. Naturally, good acts happen too. So, the first reading states, "If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you...." The commandments aim us in the direction of Good.

In order to keep moving in the direction of Good one must be educated in the way of the Lord. You must know His commands. Psalm 119 says, "Instruct me, O Lord, in the way of your statutes, that I may exactly observe them." If we do not educate ourselves, we will not know what to choose. We will not know right from wrong.

When raising children, parents must teach them carefully. Children must be taught right from wrong. To not do so is malpractice on the part of parents and other adults responsible for the formation of children. It is negligence to not raise children to know right from wrong.

At the same time, parents may guide their children very well during their formative years. Yet, when the child becomes an adult, he or she turns away from what is right. Remember, each person ultimately has the responsibility for him or herself.

Each person, regardless of upbringing may choose wrong. But again, each person may choose right. I believe the majority of people do choose right and good. Even people who did not have good guidance as children have chosen to do right in spite of good guidance from parents. In such cases there are other influences in the person's life. There are other people who mentor.

There is no need to fear God's guidance. Sometimes people believe their independence will be taken away if they give over to God's way. But do not fear.

God's commands are guidance. They are not a hindrance to liberty. God guides people to safety. Saint Paul addresses this. Paul says, "we speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age.... We speak God's wisdom...."

God's guidance is not a thing of the past. It is not static. It is ongoing and God's revelation keeps unfolding until the end of time.

In the Gospel passage Jesus states, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill." That is, all the commands God has given in the past still stand. With the coming of Jesus Christ, we come to experience the foundation of the law of God. It is God's absolute love for us that drives His commands. God wants the best and the most for us. Further, God now calls humankind to go deeper into a life with Him.

God drives us deeper by pushing us beyond merely following the letter of the law. God wants us to scrutinize our intentions and motivations. We are to test the movement of our heart. God gives His law because He loves us much. Like a good parent He guides us so that we are not only safe but proactive in spreading Good.

It is best to work on the attitudes and behaviors that lead to deeper more powerful negative forces. Thus, Jesus says to control anger before it leads to murder, for example. We must get at the root causes of not only evil acts but good acts.

Thus, God gives guidance. This instructs us as we are formed by Him. It leads on beyond the early formation. We continue to grow until our very earthly death. From then on we are in eternal bliss with God.

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS**

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv19:1-2,17-18;1Cor3:16-23;Mt5:38-48

Please read the readings before celebrating Mass.

**Scripture Sharing Thursday @ 7pm.**

**Stewardship Recognition**

**This recognition is not an "award". No one is awarded for doing what they ought to do. Rather, people are held up as an example to all others. We may be encouraged to act in kind.**

**Parish Members**

This year we have selected three young adult members of the parish who serve in the sanctuary during the Liturgy. Each has always been prepared for his or her role and is responsible for attendance and performance. Djaniane Garcia is Reader of the Word. She, and her brothers have remained faithful to the practice of the Faith under the good guidance of their parents. Molly Fuentes has grown up before our eyes being an altar server. She is now a young woman who just graduated college and is the pride of her parents. With all humility Molly continues in the role of server and now organizes the worship space too. Jesse Nafarrate also began as a little boy server. He has become a young man in the role under the guidance of his grandmother. Jesse serves as the lead server to train

others in the role. He also is responsible for the major Holy Days as well.

### Community Member Recognition

In some years a person from outside the parish, a member of the community, is selected. The person has shown good ethical work in the community that has often been linked to the parish's mission. Chris Fischer is a real estate agent now. Prior to this Chris was the side-line reporter for NFL games on CBS. (That's why his face is so familiar.) With his community experience he is now the President of our Neighborhood Association. He became introduced to our parish through our Cherry Creek Park. This year Chris has led the association in advocacy for our continued partnership with the City of Oakland Park in running the park. His media experience has obviously taught him how to be an effective spokesperson and organizer. With the Grace of God, Chris will grow in the role of ethical leadership in the civic realm. (As a result of his advocacy for the parish and park he celebrates the Liturgy with us, keeping holy the Lord's Day.)

**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, Joseph Devlin, 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, Arnold Lakso, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Liggett, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, 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, Jackson 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, Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

### MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 11

4:00 p.m. † Dotti & Joe Ducato by Paul, Marylou & Nancy  
 † Michelle Palmieri by Dennis Kucharewski

Sunday, February 12

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish  
 10:45 a.m. † Mario Gutierrez by Carlos & Mario  
 † Arturo Cuan by Perez & Cuan Families

Monday, February 13

8:00 a.m. NO MASS/OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, February 14

8:00 a.m. † Zacaria Gomez by Selma Gomez

Wednesday, February 15

8:00 a.m. † Lucille Chase by Dan Murphy

Thursday, February 16

8:00 a.m. † Estelle Schlesinger by Dan Murphy

Friday, February 17

8:00 a.m. † Lucille Chase by Dan Murphy

Saturday, February 18

4:00 p.m. † Estelle Schlesinger by Dan Murphy

Sunday, February 19

9:00 a.m. † Patty B. by husband Danny  
 10:45 a.m. † Timothy Stewart by Joe Johnson  
 † Conrad Eric Moulton by Theresa, Brandon, Gina, & Ben

### STEWARDSHIP

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.**

Attendance last week: 283  
 Tithes Collected: \$7,919.00  
 Online Giving: \$701.00  
 Total: \$8,620.00  
 Per Capita: \$30.46

Thank You!

### FAITH FORMATION

The Eucharist! The Sacraments!  
 Presentation in Two Parts  
 Open to All People.

Session #1: February 18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) 9:30-Noon.

Session #2: March 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) 9:30-Noon

The two sessions present the total material. Thus, you attend both to complete the seminar. It is designed as two days of reflection on the Eucharist. You will learn how it comes about that we know this truly is Christ's Body and Blood. It is based on Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium of the Church.

**\*\*All people new in the parish ought to attend. It is required for all NEW Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers. Any other people who have joined an apostolate/ministry must attend.**

**You are considered "new" for the purpose of attending these sessions if you did not attend one of the sessions that took place prior to COVID.**