

February 19, 2023
Seventh Sunday In Ordinary Time

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18

Psalm 103

1 Corinthians 3: 16-23

Matthew 5: 38-48

Show Mercy

In the Book of Leviticus 19, it says, "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."

At my age I look back at all the experiences I have had. I recognize the good Lord has had mercy on me in my sinfulness. So, I ask you to reflect. Do you recognize the times God has shown you mercy? Have you shown mercy to others? Have you forgotten God has had mercy on you?

At the beginning of the Liturgy we say, "Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy". Actually, it is not a request made to the Lord. A better translation is, "The Lord has had mercy". It is a recognition God has already shown us mercy. Without His mercy we are unworthy to come before him in praise and worship. We take a humble stance before the Lord.

In the responsorial psalm today (Ps 103) we reflected, "He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion."

The second reading that is from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 3 we read, "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" The point is we must exhibit the Lord's presence in us and act as the Lord would act. God acts with mercy.

The Gospel passage lays out what seems to be quite severe. You know the "old adage", an "eye for an eye," etc. Well, this instruction in Matthew is an advancement in the direction of mercy. Prior to this any penalty was applied to an alleged offender. He or she may be put to death for any insult or crime. Thus, the gospel says that a penalty for crime must at least be proportionate. Again, mercy is called for.

When one serves another person with mercy it reminds the person he or she is also called to show mercy and serve others as well. Moreover, service goes beyond the surface of the Law. It is something

that comes up from the very being of the person who responds to the mercy he or she has experienced.

Again at my age, I look around myself at the social discourse that rises up in this era. I sometimes wonder where mercy is.

In public discourse we hear much vitriol. Intimidation through "beat down" prevails among some people who are in the public eye. The manner of their speech serves as a weapon. It silences good discourse and the sharing of alternative points of view. When observed with a discerning eye the vitriolic speech offers little constructive viewpoint coming from the speaker.

Such people, a small number as it may be, disrupt rather than listen. It is a mere display of raw negativism that does not promote discussion. Even if the speaker has some truly valued point of view, it is not effectively offered. The negativity shuts down any chance to open a constructive relationship with the other. No mercy is shown. It is merely a violent defense of oneself or group against another.

I appeal to all who read this column today to consider mercy. Build bridges and advocate for the good of others. Consider again what the Book of Leviticus 19 says, "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

First Sunday of Lent

Gn2:7-9,3:1-7;Rm5:12-19;Mt4:1-11

Please read the readings before celebrating
Mass.

Scripture Sharing Thursday @ 7pm.

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:	324
Tithes Collected:	\$4,654.00
Online Giving:	\$1,232.00
Total:	\$5,886.00
Per Capita:	\$18.17

Thank You!

PARISH MISSION

This Week!

Ash Wednesday February 22 @ 7:00PM

Eucharistic Liturgy and Distribution of Ashes.

**Thursday Evening Service of Reconciliation
February 23 @ 7:00PM**

Preaching the Word and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Friday Evening Service of Anointing and Healing
February 24 @ 7:00PM.**

Preaching the Word and the Anointing of the Sick.

The Sacraments and the Eucharist

Session #2

Saturday March 11th

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

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 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

Monday, February 20

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, February 21

8:00 a.m. † Bernard & Eileen Flood by Flood Family

Wednesday, February 22

7:00 p.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

Thursday, February 23

7:00 p.m. Parish Mission-Reconciliation

Friday, February 24

7:00 p.m. Parish Mission-Anointing

Saturday, February 25

4:00 p.m. † Thomas Brosseau by Dennis Kucharewski
Miriam Cardona by Selma Cardona

Sunday, February 26

9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish

10:45 a.m. † Manuel Caelho Rodrigues by Fernando Rodrigues

† Spencer Mannion by Joe Johnson

Respect Life

Join us at the KICKOFF RALLY on Monday, February 20, at 5:30 p. m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3999 North Dixie Hwy, Oakland Park. Speakers, snacks, soda, etc. Volunteers can sign up for vigil hours.

40daysforlife.com/fortlauderdale

Fatima, Lourdes & Shrines of Spain Tour

June 9th - 20th, 2023

Land starting at \$2139 per person based on double occupancy. An \$850 deposit per person is needed to reserve your space

Starting from picturesque Lisbon, visit some of the world's most treasured Marian shrines, pilgrimage sites, and spiritual places of Portugal, Spain, and France. Hear about the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to the shepherd children in Fátima, learn about the journey taken by pilgrims from all over the world into Santiago de Compostela and visit Loyola and Manresa to get inspired by St. Ignacio's Jesuit mission. In Braga, walk the monumental steps of the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte and in Burgos, marvel at the majestic Cathedral. Join the nightly Rosary and candlelight procession in Lourdes. Spend one night by the inspiring Montserrat Sanctuary, where you will also attend Mass. End in Barcelona with time to celebrate life, reflect, and rejoice.

This 12-day group tour includes hotels, guides, historians, transportation, 11 breakfasts and 7 dinners.

Call Catholic Cruises and Tours at 860-399-1785 for more information and to make your reservation. **