

Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace



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FEBRUARY 19, 2023

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m.
& 12:00 p.m.

Saturday: 7:00 a.m.
& 12:00 p.m.

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 p.m.
(Fulfills Sunday Obligation)

Sunday: 6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m.,
10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
& 6:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION

Wednesday & Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
(unless noted in bulletin)

Devotions

First Friday

Adoration/Benediction
at 6:30 a.m.

First Saturday

Adoration after 7:00 a.m. Mass
(unless noted in bulletin)

PARISH OFFICE

MONDAY through FRIDAY
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed on holidays

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Love your *enemies* and pray
for those who *persecute* you

Matthew 5:44



This week's Readings: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18; Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Corinthians 3:16-23; Matthew 5:38-48

Next week's Readings: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-14 and 17; Roman 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Matthew 4:1-11

“BE HOLY, FOR I, THE LORD, YOUR GOD, AM HOLY” (LEVITICUS 19:2)

Beloved Disciples of Christ,,

Greetings of peace, love and joy!

When I became an altar server in the second grade, we met with our coordinator every month. Since I knew my way inside the church, I would always walk inside, go to the sacristy, and pass by statues of saints. In one of our formation programs, we were informed that these statues were men and women who were very holy. With their palms together or hands lifting to the heavens and having a halo, I thought these were enough to say they were holy. Also, knowing that they were very prayerful would make one holy. But when I started to hear or read about how they lived their lives, I realized why they were holy. They had all their pain and sacrifices but remained committed to Jesus. In as much as many of them were forced to recant their faith, they didn't and offered their lives to be true to it. Their faithfulness, love, and living the truth in Jesus were evidence of their holiness, and we regard them as saints.

Our Readings on this seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time sum up God's call for us to be holy. The Book of Leviticus points out that call because the One calling is Holy indeed. But holiness does not mean to be not doing anything wrong. Though this is true, there should be something more and deeper about God's call for us to be holy.

Jesus in our Gospel teaches us to love, care, and forgive, not only those who can share the same. He makes it clear that loving our enemies, going the extra mile, and handing over the other cloak offer a radical change in human values. Living in this way can help us realize God's merciful love and kindness that we are called to follow.

Hearing or reading God's Word today makes us reflect on how we can live our lives for God and be holy. Living a holy life not only affects us but also creates a wonderful relationship with God and others, no matter what. It can bring peace and harmony to a very broken world. It can bring joy and gladness to a

world of anxiety and fear. And to a family, it can build a home and become a haven of love and refuge in a divided world. Maybe it is good to read the lives of saints. In this way, we can see where we can grow as God has called us to be holy, just as He is holy.

Ash Wednesday is here. It marks our entry into the Season of Lent. As we spend these days during this Season of Grace, we allow ourselves to reflect more on how we can live to be faithful to our call to holiness. The disciplines of Lent through Prayer, Fasting, Abstinence, and Doing Acts of Charity or Almsgiving can help us refocus our attention on our call to be holy. And to be holy leads us to live our lives in peace and joy. And in the end, may lead us to enter His Kingdom.

Your friend in Jesus,



Reverend Pascual Abaya IV
Rector

CHURCH'S CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Sunday, February 19
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
2nd Collection for Repairs & Maintenance
Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00am/12:00pm/6:00pm
Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, February 20 - **President's Day Holiday**
Monday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time
Mass at 12:00pm

Tuesday, February 21
Tuesday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time
Masses at 6:30am & 12:00pm

Wednesday, February 22
Ash Wednesday - Distribution of Ashes at Mass
Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00am
Masses at 6:30am & 12:00pm

Thursday, February 23
Thursday after Ash Wednesday
Masses at 6:30am & 12:00pm

Friday, February 24
Friday after Ash Wednesday
Masses at 6:30am & 12:00pm
Stations of the Cross at 10:00am & 5:00pm

Saturday, February 25
Saturday after Ash Wednesday
Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00am
Masses at 7:00am & 12:00pm
Adoration/Benediction following 7:00am
Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Sunday, February 26
First Sunday of Lent
Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00am/12:00pm/6:00pm
Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

SCRIPTURE

February 19, 2023

Today's readings pose tremendous challenges for people of faith. In the First Reading, the Lord tells Moses to inform the whole Israelite community they are to be holy as God is holy. We might imagine making such an announcement in our town or parish church. Would our listeners believe such a message from God? The commandments that follow the Lord's announcement to the Israelites reveal how God's holy people are to act.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples concrete ways they are to act in the world, including the command to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them. These are very specific instructions that, if followed by the disciples, will reflect the love and holiness God offers to his people. By offering such witness, Jesus' followers will not only reflect God's light in the world, they will sing praise as heard in the psalm for the goodness of God already given to us.

SHARING FAITH

What kind of announcement might you make to your neighborhood about God's message and commandment to love? How would you teach them about God's love?

Paul says we are a temple of God and that the Spirit dwells in us. What does that mean to you?

Read Psalm 103. How is God kind and merciful to you?

LIVING THE LITURGY

People have many ideas about holiness. In a group, talk about these then read today's First Reading and Gospel. Both readings name specific ways to practice true holiness. Discuss how you might apply these examples in your life.

Psalm 103 acclaims God's kindness and mercy. We think of kindness as being nice or courteous, but in the Hebrew mindset, kindness was the concrete expression of a covenant relationship. People who shared a covenant treated one another with a respect and generosity called kindness. Those who treat one another with the same kindness and mercy as God work to concretely heal broken relationships, support the needy, release burdens from others, and create safe places for others. God offers all of this to each one of us. In our covenant with God and our brothers and sisters, we are called to offer that to each other.

REFLECTION

Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy (Leviticus 19:2).



MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL IS TO FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH STEWARDSHIP IS UNDERSTOOD, ACCEPTED AND PRACTICED THROUGHOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

ICSC STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

You made the light to shine out of darkness, a light that reveals the goodness of all you have created.

Your Son tells us we are the light of the world. It is a dark world in desperate need of your infinite love and mercy.

Help us to be good stewards of the light you shine in our hearts so that through this precious gift, we too may reveal your handiwork.

And by the power of Your Spirit, show us how to shine our light before others, that they may see our good deeds and glorify you.

We pray this in the name of Christ Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Amen.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

February 6 - 12, 2023

Offertory Collection

Sunday Offering	\$ 5,258.65
Weekday	\$ 1,030.29
Other Feast & Solemnities	\$ 81.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,382.69
Total Offertory	\$ 9,752.63

Other Collection

Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 20.00
Diocesan Collection	\$ 2,332.55
Special Collection (Intentions, etc.)	\$ 1,182.73
Other Collection (Gallery, etc.)	\$ 103.00
Total	\$ 13,390.91



WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ.

Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. Contemplate the meaning and origins of the Lenten fasting tradition in this reflection. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

In Lent, the baptized are called to renew their baptismal commitment as others prepare to be baptized through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a period of learning and discernment for individuals who have declared their desire to become Catholics. - www.usccb.org

SAINT OF THE WEEK

For it was not enough for God to say, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" (Genesis 1:26, but rather, His deed followed word; for, taking the dust from the ground. He formed man out of it, conformable to His image and likeness, and into him He breathed the breath of life, so Adam became a living soul. St. Alexander of Alexandria (250 - 328) Defender of our Faith, Feast Day, February 26.