

Christ Child Catholic Church
Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service

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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME
February 19, 2017

Today's readings explain why Christians are expected to be holy and how we are meant to become holy people. The first and second readings give us reasons why we should be holy and the Gospel describes four methods of becoming holy people prescribed for us by Jesus.

Life messages from the gospel: In the Gospel passages taken from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us four methods of becoming holy as God is holy. 1) The first method is to abstain from all forms of retaliation. Jesus discards even the milder form of retaliation developed by Hammurabi in ancient Babylon and passed on to Israel through Moses. The policy was one of limited, proportional retaliation (Lex Talionis, "tit-for-tat"): "an eye for an eye, a tooth for tooth," rather than allowing unlimited vengeance. In place of this limited, proportional retaliation, Jesus gives his new law of love, grace, forgiveness, reconciliation and no retaliation. For Jesus, retaliation, or even limited vengeance, has no place in the Christian life, even though graceful

acceptance of an offense requires great strength and discipline of character and strengthening by God's grace.

2) The second method of becoming holy as God is holy is to take the offense gracefully and love the offender. Jesus illustrates this in three images: "turning the other cheek, freely giving the tunic and adding the cloak to it, and walking the extra mile." Jesus tells us that what makes Christians different is the grace with which they treat others, offering them love kindness and mercy, even if they don't deserve this treatment. We are commanded to love our enemies as Jesus loves us, with "Agápe" love, not because our enemies deserve our love, but because Jesus loves them so much that he died for them as he did for us.

3) The third method of sharing in God's holiness is by unconditionally and wholeheartedly forgiving the offender without planning revenge in any form. This means not only loving one's neighbors, but also forgiving those enemies who hurt us and willfully cause us suffering, hardship and unhappiness.

4) The fourth method of becoming holy as God is holy is to seal our determination to forgive our enemies by sincerely praying for their spiritual and physical welfare and for the grace needed for their conversion and renewal of life.

Thus today's Scripture readings challenge us to become holy as our God is holy by loving, forgiving and blessing others as our Holy God does.

Troop Care Package Project
Sunday, Feb. 26 11:30 at Mountain Bible

Sacrament of Reconciliation
By request or appointment

Sacrament of Baptism and Marriage

Call the office for an appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

For Pregnancy Support

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. All Women and all Men!

MASS INTENTIONS February 18 - 24

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + John Parker

Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Sylvia Cordle

Thursday 8:00 a.m. + Mari Tere Garcia

Friday 8:00 a.m. + Silvina Tiscareño

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for Lent 2017

"The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift."

Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion.

Christians are asked to return to God "with all their hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive.

Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through the means of sanctification offered us by the Church: **fasting, prayer and almsgiving**. At the basis of everything is the word of God, which during this season we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply. I would now like to consider the parable of the rich man and Lazarus (cf. Luke 16:19-31).

The other person is a gift...

The parable begins by presenting its two main characters. The poor man is described in greater detail: he is wretched and lacks the strength even to stand. Lying before the door of the rich man, he fed on the crumbs falling from his table. His body is full of sores and dogs come to lick his

wounds. The picture is one of great misery; it portrays a man disgraced and pitiful. The scene is even more dramatic if we consider that the poor man is called *Lazarus*, a name full of promise, which literally means God helps. This character is not anonymous. His features are clearly delineated and he appears as an individual with his own story. While practically invisible to the rich man, we see and know him as someone familiar. He becomes a face, and as such, a gift, a priceless treasure, a human being whom God loves and cares for, despite his concrete condition as an outcast. Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift. A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change. The parable first invites us to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it is our neighbor or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ....

March 1st ASH WEDNESDAY
Masses 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Stewardship of Treasury
Report Sunday February 12 & 13, 2017

Total Plate	\$ 1,197.00
EFT	\$ 637.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,834.00

Women's Club/Prayer Group

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month. **February 22th from 7-8:30 PM.** Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time. Please contact Ruth McCormick (ruthmcc@flasj.net)

Tuesday February 28th, 2017
6:00 p.m. Mardi Graas Dinner!!!

"Fat Tuesday Celebration"
Before Lent begins!!!
Welcome everyone