



“So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Talk about setting the bar high!

This verse, at the end of today’s Gospel passage from Matthew, sets the tone for all of the readings this week. In embracing stewardship as a way of life, we have a custom-made plan that, with a big dose of God’s grace, will move us towards the holiness of life to which Christ is calling us in this verse.

Our first reading, from Leviticus, lays out this theme immediately, as God instructs Moses to tell the whole community to, “Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.” The call to holiness is for everyone because every one of us is made in the image and likeness of an all-holy God. This call

should therefore not seem strange or unattainable — on the contrary, it is a call to become our truest selves.

And even in this ancient passage, we find practical instruction in how to begin to attain holiness:

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.”

The first few verses of our second reading from Corinthians give a further reminder as to why we must live holy lives with this thought-provoking question, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” What great dignity we have as God’s own dwelling place. And what encouragement this should bring us — the call to holiness is possible because we have the Holy Spirit dwelling right within us!

The following verses from this passage show us that a life of holiness will not make sense in worldly terms, however.

“If any one among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool, so as to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God.” The stewardship way of life, giving away the best of our time, our talents and treasure to God for His glory and for the sake of others, is the path to holiness. Yet, it appears utterly foolish in the eyes of many.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, our Lord takes this “foolish” concept even further with these illustrations of how we should give of ourselves and our things: “When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go for two miles.” And further still: “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Jesus teaches that this is the kind of action and attitude that will make us “children of [our] Heavenly Father.”

This is the high bar of holiness to which our Lord is calling us.

If your lifestyle and your priorities look a little foolish to the world around you, know that you’re probably doing it right in God’s eyes. At the same time, you will be filled with a peace that the world around you desperately needs.

And your stewardship way of life may just draw those around you to the heavenly Father and a life of holiness, too.

So, with God’s grace and the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we can confidently press on in the stewardship way of life, aiming to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Our all-holy God desires it and deserves nothing less.



MAY HE REST IN PEACE:

May God comfort the family and friends of

Mike Segovia

who died during the past week.

(brother of parishioner Theresa Garza)

Our sincere sympathy and assurances of prayers are extended to Theresa and the Segovia / Garza Family

YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

February 16, 2020

Weekly Collection..... \$ 7,548.69

Vigil Lights..... \$ 85.50

**Second Collection: Feb 29 - Mar 1:
Facilities Improvement Fund**



ALUMNI REUNION

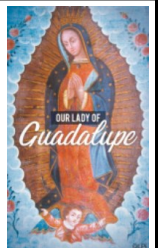
Our Lady of Guadalupe School

1321 El Paso St.; San Antonio

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Mass of Celebration at 10 a.m.

Reception to follow in Church Hall



To confirm attendance or for more information contact:

Gilbert Arias @ (210) 842-8424,

Delia Arias Olivarri @ (210) 733-0690,

Ester Camacho Sifuentes @ (210) 344-2826 or

Rosario Hernandez Tijerina @ (210) 365-2606

Remember... You are dust! And, to dust you shall return!
¡Recuerda que eres polvo! y al polvo has de Volver.
Repent... and, Believe in the Gospel!
Conviértete y cree en el Evangelio



Wed, February 26 - Ash Wednesday: 6 am - Mass (English)
El 26 de febrero - miércoles de Ceniza: 8 am - School Mass (English)
 10 am - Communion Svc w/Ashes
 12-Noon - Mass (English)
 5 pm - Communion Svc w/Ashes
 6 pm - Mass (English)
 7:30 pm - Mass (Spanish)



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday! Your Lenten Goal?

Get closer to the God of the universe... closer to Jesus! Strengthen your relationship with God... but... how? Traditionally... we “give – or offer – up” things we tend to love too much... Things that we sometimes place before God... sports... food... etc. making them our #1... When we “give up” something for Lent, we’re supposed to do it so that we can make more room for Jesus, not just make our lives more challenging! So what’s your focus? Take a look at your Lenten resolutions... and ask yourself where they are leading you. If they’re not leading to a more solid relationship with God... you may want to think about readjusting them.

"Pride is an admission of weakness;
 it secretly fears all competition and dreads all rivals."
 - Bishop Fulton Sheen



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!
“Be Holy as my Heavenly Father is Holy”



**Lent is a time of Penitential Preparation...
 a time to Prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord!**

We have a number of “Special Days” coming up during this Lenten Season!

Stations of the Cross: We will celebrate the Way of the Cross every Friday evening at 6 pm in English y a las 7 pm en español

Lenten Retreats: Topic - **Conversion as a Pathway to Holiness**
Conversion como Camino a la Santidad
 Presenter - **Fr. Krikor Chahin, Professor and Spiritual Director**
martes, el 3 de marzo - en español - 7 - 8 pm
Wednesday, March 4th - English - 7 - 8 pm

Lenten Penance Service: Tuesday, March 10th / martes, el 10 de marzo
 6:30 pm - Bi-Lingual Prep w/Examination of Conscience
 (Presenter: Deacon Rolando Guerra)
 7 pm - Individual Confessions (Several priests will be available)

Catholic Father’s Day: Thursday, March 19th / jueves, el 19 de marzo
 (Solomnity of the Feast of St. Joseph) 6:30 pm - Special Mass for Catholic Fathers



I hate to say it but I think we have to move on from our “favorite Bible Verses.” There are still more. In fact, I’m still getting a response or two each week... Keep ‘em coming... I’ll look at them and who knows— we may continue this thread at a later date. I’ll leave you with this one last verse. A parishioner said he uses it whenever a Christian or Pseudo-Christian “Missionary” comes to his door... He asks if they have a bible (they always do). He asks them to read from Matthew 16:18, “... you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...” *Then, he will ask them to read it again... and then will finally ask them ‘how many churches did Jesus build?’ the answer, of course, is ONE.*

*Which church is built on the foundation of Rock / Peter?? Needless to say... they (missionaries) don’t like to hear or talk about this passage. Thanks Fernando... Once again... If you **don’t** have one (or several) special verses that ‘speak to you,’ I invite you to read and search for your ‘special’ verse(s). But... to begin / continue our Lenten journey..*

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It seems around this time of year there is always some confusion about the Lenten requirements concerning Fast and Abstinence... in fact I've already been asked about it several times.

So, I thought I'd go ahead and lay it all out EXACTLY how it is... **Officially:**

It is a traditional doctrine of Christian spirituality that an essential part of repentance - turning away from sin and back to God - includes some form of penance, without which the Christian is unlikely to remain on the narrow path and be saved. Christ Himself said that His disciples would fast once He had departed.

The 1983 Code of Canon Law specifies the obligations of Latin-Right Catholics.

Canon 1250 states: Fridays, throughout the year, are penitential days throughout the entire church.

Canon 1251 states: Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the Conference of Bishops is to be observed on Fridays unless they are solemnities.

Abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Good Friday).

Canon 1252 states: All persons are bound by the *Law of Abstinence beginning with their 14th birthday - for life, and all adults are bound by the Law of Fast beginning with their 18th birthday until their 59th birthday* (i.e. the beginning of their 60th year). Pastors and parents are to see to it that minors not bound by these laws are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

Canon 1253: Gives the Conference of Bishops authority to determine more precisely the observance of fast and abstinence and to substitute in whole or in part other forms of penance, especially works of charity and exercises of piety.

Abstinence: The law of abstinence requires a Catholic to abstain from eating meat on Fridays in honor of the Passion of Jesus on Good Friday. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Also forbidden are soups or gravies made from them. Salt and freshwater fish, amphibians, reptiles and shellfish are permitted, as are animal-derived products such as margarine and gelatin, which do not have any meat taste.

During Lent... Abstinence from meat on Fridays is obligatory.

Outside of Lent the U.S. Bishops Conference obtained permission from the Holy See for U.S. Catholics to substitute a penitential, or charitable, practice of their own choosing. If a person does not substitute this penitential / charitable practice... Abstinence from meat is still the norm.

Fasting: Requires a Catholic to reduce the amount of food eaten from their normal. The Church defines this as one main / regular meal a day and 2 smaller meals (which if added together would not equal the main meal in quantity).

Fasting is obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The fast is broken by eating between meals and by drinks which could be considered food (milk shakes, but not milk).

Exemptions from Fast or Abstinence: Besides outside the age limits... those of unsound mind, the sick (diabetics must maintain sugar levels, etc.), the frail, pregnant or nursing women... according to need for meat or nourishment, manual laborers, guests at a meal who cannot excuse themselves without giving offense and other situations of moral or physical impossibility to observe these penitential disciplines are exempt of these requirements. Before all else we are obliged to perform the duties of our state in life. Any deprivation that would seriously hinder us in carrying out our work – as students, employees, parents etc. would be contrary to the will of God.

Hope this clears thing up. Any questions... talk to Fr. Tomy or any of your Deacons.

‘till next time... God Bless- DT



St. Thomas More English Prayer Group

Feb 27 - “Fortitude” - the Fourth Gift of the Holy Spirit
and Fr. Tomy

Prayer Group meets every Thursday in the Church at 7:00 pm
Contacts: Olga Guerrero, 657-1610 or Stella Lopez, 618-6977



Grupo de Oración Familias compartiendo la palabra

28 Feb - Servidores de la Oracion

El grupo de oración se reúne los viernes a las 7 pm.
Para mas informacion contacte Maria Isabel Hernandez.



This Week at our Parish**Sunday, February 23, 2020**

8:30 am KoC Breakfast - Carolan Hall
 9:30 am Faith Formation (Eng) - School
 3:00 pm CDA Movie - Carolan Hall

Monday, February 24, 2020**Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

5:30 pm Divine Mercy Cenacle - Rectory Mtg. Room
 6:30 pm Leaders Meeting - Rectory Mtg. Room
 7:00 pm Grupo Choir - Church
 Coro Alegria - Dining Room

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 - Ash Wednesday

6:00 pm KoC 4th Degree Mtg. - Church
 7:00 pm Bible Study (English) - Dining Room

Thursday, February 27, 2020

7:00 pm English Prayer Grp - Church
 RCIA - Rectory Mtg. Room

Friday, February 28, 2020

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross (English) - Church
 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish) - Church
 Coro Alegria - Dining Room
 7:30 pm Grupo de Oracion - Church

Saturday, February 29, 2020

Noon Rite of Election at OLPH

Sunday, March 1, 2020

9:30 am Faith Formation (Eng) - School

Readings for the week of Feb 24 - Mar 1

Monday: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10,15; Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a,23; Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6b,12-14,17; 2Cor 5:20-6:2;
 Mt 6:1-6,16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4,6; Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6b,18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6,12-13,17; Rom 5:12-19;
 Mt 4:1-11

**Sanctuary Light Intention:**

†Paul Blea

Liturgical Roles**Saturday, February 29, 2020**

5 pm **Altar Servers** - (Volunteer)
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, T.S.Garza,
 T.Guerrero, J+B.Hernandez
Lector - T.S.Garza

Sunday, March 1, 2020

8 am **Altar Servers** - Z.Dempsey, Z+A.Hebert
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, J.Blea, L.Gonzales,
 C.Brown, M.Fisher
Lector - S.McCarthy
 10 am **Altar Servers** - I.Rodriguez, Z.Ramirez
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Tim, DC John, E+M.Cantu,
 M+S.Briseno, A.Garza
Lector - W.Torres
 12 pm **Altar Servers** - Volunteers
Eucharistic Ministers - Dcn Rolando, D+F.Malacara,
 E.Marshall, A.Martinez (+2 vol)
Lector - E.Marshall / V.Mompaz

Mass Intentions**Saturday, February 22, 2020**

5:00 pm †Jay Dotson by Family
 †Juan & Rita Segovia by Theresa Garza

Sunday, February 23, 2020

8:00 am †Aaron Michael Garza by Friends & Acosta Family
50th Wedding Anniversary - Lorenzo & Diana Acosta
 10:00 am †Margarita Sifuentes by Daughter
 †Jay Dotson by Family
 †Cexila Nguyen by Family
 12:00 pm †Albina Robledo

Monday, February 24, 2020

8:00 am †AnnMarie Oswald by Bob & Cindy Belgan
 †Rafael & Aurora Garza by Theresa Garza
 †Vincente & Teresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

8:00 am †Teresa Hoi by Kim Nguyen
 †Sonia Hernandez by Family
The Suarez Family by Mary Suarez

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 - Ash Wednesday

6:00 am Mass - People of the Parish
 8:00 am †Rosie & Suzell Reyes by Eddie Reyes
 †Cynthia Villanueva by Family
 10:00 am Comm Svc w/Ashes -
 12:00 pm Mass - People of the Parish
 5:00 pm Comm Svc w/Ashes -
 6:00 pm Mass - People of the Parish
 7:30 pm Mass (Spanish) - People of the Parish

Thursday, February 27, 2020

8:00 am †Cexila Nguyen by Family
 †Demetrio & Guadalupe Garza by Theresa Garza

Friday, February 28, 2020

8:00 am †Santos Garcia by Family
 †Vincente David Nguyen by Kim Nguyen
In Thanksgiving

Saturday, February 29, 2020

8:00 am People of the Parish
 5:00 pm †Edgar Richardson by Wife
 †Jay Dotson by Family
 †Genevieve Oswald by Oswald Family

Sunday, March 1, 2020

8:00 am †Mike Segovia
 10:00 am †Jay Dotson by Family
 †Henrietta & Herman Avila by Theresa Garza
In Thanksgiving
 12:00 pm †Jose Alcantar

Lecturas de la Semana del febrero 24 - marzo 1

Lunes: Sant 3:13-18; Sal 19:8-10,15; Mc 9:14-29
Martes: Sant 4:1-10; Sal 55:7-11,23; Mc 9:30-37
Miércoles: Jl 2:12-18; Sal 51:3-6,12-14,17; 2Cor 5:20-6:2;
 Mt 6:1-6,16-18
Jueves: Dt 30:15-20; Sal 1:1-4,6; Lc 9:22-25
Viernes: Is 58:1-9; Sal 51:3-6,18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Sábado: Is 58:9-14; Sal 86:1-6; Lc 5:27-32
Domingo: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Sal 51:3-6,12-13,17; Rom 5:12-19;
 Mt 4:1-11