

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle



St. Columban Church

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Daily Mass 9:00 AM (Tuesday-Friday, Except First Fridays)

Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 6:30 PM

(Resumes May 5)

Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Baptism & Wedding Preparation

Contact the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours at St. Columban Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM | First Friday Mass 9:00 AM

Confessions Sunday 7:30-7:45 AM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

February 19, 2023

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A

Entrance Antiphon: *O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation.*

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

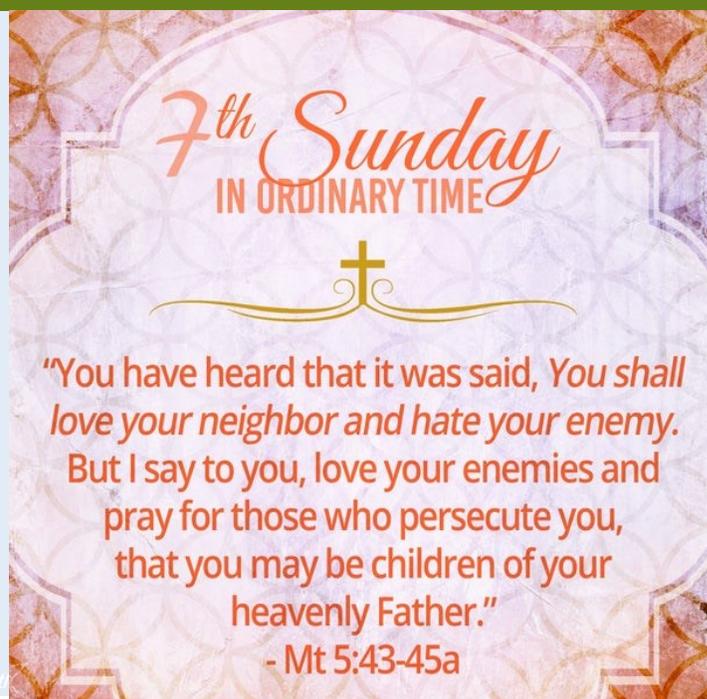
Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is kind and merciful.*

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel Acclamation: *Whoever keeps the word of Christ, the love of God is truly perfected in him.*

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

Communion Antiphon: *Lord, I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God, who is coming into this world.*



www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

360-458-3031

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Parish Staff

360-458-3031

Fr. Brian Thompson Priest Administrator
frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext 6

Jennifer Langham PA for Admin, Liturgy, and Music
jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 1

Holly Dodd PA for Admin, Bookkeeping, & Records
holly@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 4

Gabriela Makinster Elementary & Adult Faith Formation
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org *habla Español* Ext. 2

Chad Lucero Youth Ministry
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 3

Steve Slater St. Columban Maintenance
steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino St. Peter Maintenance

St. Columban Parish Pastoral Council

Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf

St. Peter Advisory Commission

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston
stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

St. Columban Parish Finance Council

Joseph Judge (St Columban)
 Mari Evans (St Peter)

Week of February 5, 2023

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$3,189.50	\$1,372.00
Online Giving	\$1,632.53	\$586.86
Net	(\$977.97)	\$958.86
Special Funds		
St Vincent DePaul	\$138.59	\$0.00
Sacramentals (Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)	\$23.00	\$0.00
Flowers	\$0.00	\$5.00
Building Fund	\$315.16	\$20.00
Mass Intentions	\$0.00	\$0.00
2 nd Collection	\$149.28	\$20.00

Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY February 20

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED *President's Day*

Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM

Church

TUESDAY February 21

St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor

NO DAILY MASS

Choir Practice 6:00PM

Church

RCIA 6:30PM

RE Building

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM

Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY February 22

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass 9:00 AM

St. Peter Mission

Mass 7:00PM

St. Columban

THURSDAY February 23

Mass 9:00 AM + *In Mem Michelle Paula Penn Wesley RIP*

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive 11AM-4PM

Parish Hall

Sunday Scripture Study 6:30 PM

RE Building

FRIDAY February 24

Daly Mass 9:00 AM *Int. Hospitality Ministry*

Church

Homeschool Enrichment 10:00AM

RE Building

Stations of the Cross 6:00 PM

Church & St. Peter

Confessions 6:00 PM - until all are heard

Church

Soup Supper 6:30 PM

Parish Hall & St. Peter

SATURDAY February 25

Confessions 3:30 PM

Church

Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00 PM *Int.: Pro Populo*

Church

SUNDAY February 26

1st Sunday of Lent Year A

Confession 7:30-7:45 AM

St. Peter

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM *Int.: Pro Populo*

St. Peter

Sunday Mass 10:30 AM *Int.: Pro Populo*

Church

Faith Formation (Grades K-5) 9:00-10:15 AM

RE Building

Youth Scripture Study (Grades 6-12) 9:15-10AM

Youth Space

Confirmation Preparation 11:45-1:00 PM

RE Building

Knights of Columbus Breakfast 11:45AM

Parish Hall



**EARTHQUAKE
RELIEF FOR
TURKEY
AND SYRIA**

Help families today.



HOW TO HELP

Donate online:

<https://www.crs.org/earthquake-response>

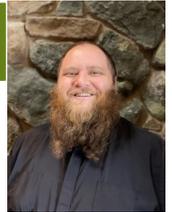
By phone: 1-877-HELP-CRS

Or by check: Earthquake Response

P.O. Box 5200, Harlan, IA 51593-0700

"I am asking our people to please keep this humanitarian need in prayer, and those who can, to please assist financially."
 —Archbishop Paul D. Etienne

A Word from Father Thompson



This week we enter the season of Lent. I want to highlight three things: Repentance, deepening devotion, and reflecting the season in the liturgy.

First and foremost, Lent is a season wherein we take stock of our progress in following the Lord Jesus Christ. In ancient times this was the season where those preparing for baptism underwent numerous ritual scrutinies (a version of which is still done for our catechumens on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th weeks of Lent) to make sure they were ready to become Christians, and Christians who had sinned notoriously/publicly took on intense penitence to prepare for Reconciliation on Holy Thursday. Indeed, solidarity with Catechumens and Penitents was the origin of taking on Lenten disciplines; additionally, many early Christians were themselves converts and had the additional motivation of recapturing the zeal they themselves had while going through catechumenal rites. In this vein of recapturing the zeal of discipleship, I recommend one thing above all other Lenten works: **Go to Confession!** I think I mentioned at some point last spring that I hear as many confessions in a year in this parish as I have heard in a week in other parishes of our Archdiocese, which makes me worry that you all are not taking advantage of this amazing source of mercy. Now, maybe—like I do approximately weekly—you drive some distance to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance at another church, and that is fine; my concern is that you are going to Confession, not so much that you are going to me.

A second bit of Lenten advice is, yet again, for me to advocate the praying of the Liturgy of the Hours. I took on saying Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer the Lent of my senior year of high school. It changed my life. I know I keep beating this drum, but the praying of the psalms by Christians throughout the day across the world is the very heartbeat of the Church. Look up the smartphone app: iBreviary.

Third, I want to note two liturgical shifts we will experience during Lent. Both of these are prudential pastoral choices I make to mark the season and you may or may not see them in other parishes (where the priest there has made his own prudential choices). The most noticeable is that, at the parish church at least, we will be using the English chant mass parts (and then in Easter Season, we will use the Gregorian/Latin parts as we did during Christmas). Second, the altar servers will ring the hand bells at the same moments but with fewer pulses/rings during Lent. I know some people sometimes wonder about the purpose of such seasonal changes; I do them precisely because they are strikingly different and add an extra level of sobriety to our Lenten Masses. Of course, our other priests are totally free to do as they like, so you may or may not always experience these temporary changes.

In Christ,

Remember in Your Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sisters and those who have asked for our prayers:



The Sick and Homebound

Jessica Nash, Mary Taylor, Jeanine Kavanaugh, Vivienne Hayden, Ralph Monroe

The Deceased

Extraordinary Intentions

- + All those in harm's way, especially those experiencing natural disasters and terrorism.
- + All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name to this list or request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office. All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes.

St. Columban Prayer Chain: *Confidential and private prayer chain. To join contact the parish office.*

Parish Ministries & Events

Please contact Jennifer at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with our various parish groups: 360-458-3031 x1 jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org




Altar Society
Meets every Thursday after Daily Mass to clean the church.



Knights of Columbus
Council 17152
Next Council Meeting
March 15th
5:30PM Church
6PM Hall
Next Breakfast
Next Sunday!
Feb. 26th following



St. Peter's Circle
St. Peter
Meets Bi-monthly
Next Meeting
March 14th 9:30 AM

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Monthly Meeting
March 16th, 7:00 PM
Parish Hall



Lent Schedule

ASH WEDNESDAY

M A S S T I M E S

February 22

St. Peter Mission Tenino

9:00AM

Obligatory Day of Fasting & Abstinence

St. Columban 7:00PM

©LPi



JOIN US FOR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

FRIDAYS OF LENT

ST. COLUMBAN

Stations of the Cross & Confessions - 6:00PM
Soup Supper (Parish Hall) - 6:30PM
February 24 *hosted by the Spanish Prayer Group*
March 3 *hosted by the Altar Servers*
March 10 *hosted by Faith Formation & Youth Ministry*
March 17 *hosted by the Knights of Columbus*

ST. PETER MISSION

Stations of the Cross 6:00PM | Soup Supper 6:30PM

Join us in the Parish Hall for Breakfast

Sunday February 26

after the 10:30AM Mass
Donations welcome!

Hosted by



Knights of Columbus



LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE FOR CATHOLICS

WHEN

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday = Fasting & Abstinence
Every Friday = Abstinence

WHO?

Catholics 14+ practice abstinence,
Catholics 18-59 practice fasting

WHAT IS FASTING?

One full meal & two smaller meals ≠ one full meal

WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?

No meat

Elementary Faith Formation

Gaby Makinster 360-458-3031 x2 *habla Español* gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org



Tuition is now Due

Tuition is used for the purchase of the curriculum books used in class along with other catechetical items. **Please call me if you are in need of a scholarship.**

Faith Formation: Grades K-12

All K-5 classes meet before Mass from 9AM-10:15AM on Sundays.

Feb 19 NO Class President's Day
Feb 26th Class
Mar 5 Class
Mar 12 No Class

Celebrating Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday).

- Go to Confession
- Eat sweet and fatty food
 - Pancake races!
- Have a Mardi Gras celebration
 - Hide the Alleluia

More information regarding this celebration can be found on Teaching Catholic Kids. The link will be on the electronic bulletin.

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

Can you believe Lent starts this Wednesday?

Prayer: The Family is often referred as the "Domestic Church", a place where God is worshipped and adored and his will is sought and acted upon. What does that mean to your family? How does your family fit into the image of the "Domestic Church"? What can you change?

Fasting: Does your family fast during Fridays in Lent? Could you fast daily by not taking second helpings? You can also fast from devices and read books instead. There are many ways to fast that are child friendly and good for their character and soul.

Almsgiving: As a family, research and select a charity that you will support and share your talents.

There will be a link on the website bulletin for more ideas on commemorating this penitential season in your home and with your family.

Act of Love morning prayer.

O Lord God, I love you above all things and I love my neighbor for your sake because you are the highest, infinite and perfect good, worthy of all my love. In this love I intend to live and die. Amen.

Our journey through Lent.

MAKE SPACE FOR GOD

Ash Wednesday to March 4

Lent begins this week. This holy season offers us the opportunity to reset amidst the noise of technology and distractions.



Conversation starts this week:

- Talk about a time when you gave up something you really wanted for the love of Jesus. Why did you do it? How did it feel at first? Later?
- How would you feel about giving up screen time for Lent? Do you think it would be easy or difficult? Why?
- What is something that you could give up for Jesus today? Take turns.

Resolution for the week:

Make your dinner table sacred space: Keep devices away from the table and give your full attention to each other. Remember to say grace too!

Grace before meals

Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

For more tips, go to:

MakeSpaceforGod.org

Youth Ministry & Confirmation



POC: Chad Lucero chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Youth Ministry Saturday: A mini-retreat

February 25, 9am-2pm
Parish Hall, **Grades 6-12**

- Prayer together
- Special guest speaker
- Potluck meal, bring a dish or a dessert item to share
- Special screening
- Icebreakers and Fun

Please reply to
the Youth Ministry
Email to RSVP



Sign up for the *Middle School Encounter!* This is a Saturday youth conference for Grade 6-8 on March 11 at Bellarmine Prep. Contact Mr. Chad to sign up.



Youth Sunday Scripture Study meets 9:15-10AM in the Youth Space. Open for all youth Grades 6-12.

Bible Tidbit: Jeff Cavin's *Great Adventure Bible Study* divides Sacred Scripture into 12 time periods: Early World, Patriarchs, Egypt and Exodus, Desert Wanderings, Conquest and Judges, Royal Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Exile, Return, Maccabean Revolt, Messianic Fulfillment, and The Church

CONFIRMATION



Parents, the bishop may ask your Candidate the following questions. Are you or your candidate able to answer them?

1. What sacrament have you been preparing to receive?
2. Who comes to strengthen us in the Sacrament of Confirmation?
3. Will you actually see the Holy Spirit when you are confirmed?
4. Have you learned what steps the bishop will do to confirm you? What will he do first with the oil? Then what?
5. What kind of special oil will the Bishop use? Do you remember the name?
6. What sacraments have you received so far in your life?
7. What do you think it means to be a disciple of Christ?
8. How many times can you be confirmed?
9. Can you tell me what some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are? (ask the meaning of some of the gifts they listed)
10. Can you name any of the fruits of the Holy Spirit? (ask the meaning of some of the fruits they listed)
11. Have you chosen a saint's name for your confirmation name? if so can you tell me a little bit about the saint you chose?

Confirmation classes meet after Mass 11:45-1:00PM in the RE building. Same dates as Elementary Faith Formation.

RCIA & Adult Faith Formation

Gaby Makinster 360-458-3031 x2 *habla Español* gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org

The next class is Tuesday February 21st at 6:30 PM in the Religious Education Building.

The topic is: Sacraments of Healing

Understand the the Churches teaching about the sacrament of Penance and Anointing of the sick as we as the ceremony of words and action and when one should celebrate these two sacraments of healing.



What the Catholic Church Teaches

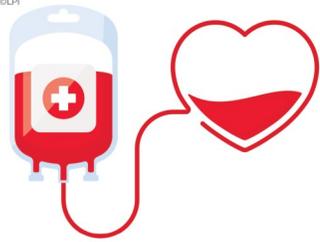
1420 Through the sacraments of Christian initiation, man receives the new life of Christ. Now we carry this life "in earthen vessels," and it remains "hidden with Christ in God." We are still in our "earthly tent," subject to suffering, illness, and death. This new life as a child of God can be weakened and even lost by sin.

1421 The Lord Jesus Christ, physician of our souls and bodies, who forgave the sins of the paralytic and restored him to bodily health, has willed that his Church continue, in the power of the Holy Spirit, his work of healing and salvation, even among her own members. This is the purpose of the two sacraments of healing: the sacrament of Penance and the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick.

1489 To return to communion with God after having lost it through sin is a process born of the grace of God who is rich in mercy and solicitous for the salvation of men. One must ask for this precious gift for oneself and for others.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 1420,1421 & 1489

Blood Drive this Thursday February 23, 11am-4pm



American Red Cross

St. Columban Parish Hall

Pre-register for an appointment online:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>
Search for "KnightsYelm"



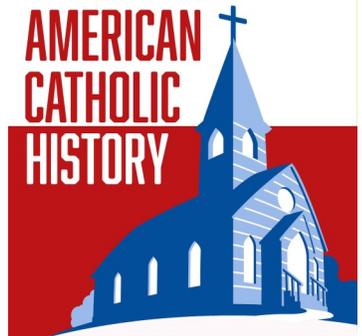
Knights of Columbus®

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Catholic Media Recommendations for Everyone

Podcasts

American Catholic History is a fantastic show. It chronicles many little-known or forgotten facts about the formation and legacy of Catholicism in the United States of America. For this President's Day weekend, I recommend listening to Episode #85 titled, "George Washington, Catholic?" Hosts Tom and Noëlle Crowe examine why some think our state's namesake president may have been more than a mere Deist or Christian; they also note attitudes and actions in his life that were favorable toward Catholics. When you're done listening to this episode *ACH* has a ton of other topics that will enlighten your curiosity. -Mr. Chad



THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Our parish pays for a subscription to [FORMED.org](https://www.formed.org), a streaming service from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius press. Go to [formed.org/signup](https://www.formed.org/signup) and enter our parish name to redeem your FREE membership.



Whole 40: Making a Spiritual Plan for Lent

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.

When was the last time you went on retreat?



IRON SHARPENS IRON

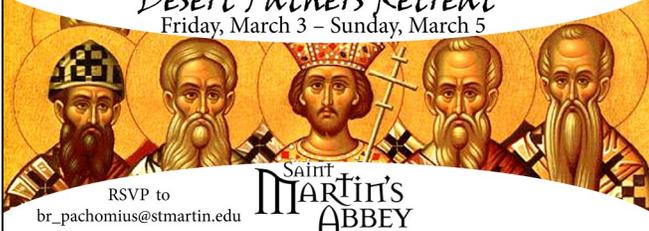
Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference "Brokenness into Boldness"

St. Michael Parish in Olympia on April 29, 2023.

Speakers include: Bishop Schuster, Dr. Tom Curran, Deacon James Thurman, John Leonetti
Registration fee: \$35 for early bird; \$45 after March 30. Lunch will be provided.
Scholarships are available for students and those of special need. For information, please contact Chris Peterson at cpeterson@saintmichaelparish.org or (360) 292-7116.
For more information, contact and registration, go to <http://www.seattlemensconference.org>.

Retreat from the world to the desert for discernment wisdom

Desert Fathers Retreat Friday, March 3 – Sunday, March 5



RSVP to
br_pachomius@stmartin.edu



Salesian Women's Lenten Silent Retreat

MARCH 17-19, 2023

Led by Fr. Tom Helfrich, OSFS



St. Peter Mission

Fridays During Lent

Stations of the Cross

6:00PM

Soup Supper

6:30PM

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Fasting

Ash Wednesday
Good Friday

Ages 18-59

Abstinence

Every Friday
during Lent

Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

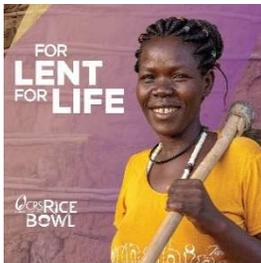
Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit uscgb.org.



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ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES



**Rice Bowls
available
in the
Narthex**

*Serving the
needs of the
poor in our
community*



Lent 2023 Events

At St. Columban Catholic Church of Yelm



February 22nd

**Obligatory Day of Fasting & Abstinence*

9:00AM Mass @ St. Peter Mission

7:00PM Mass @ St. Columban

Friday February 24th

Stations of the Cross w/ Confession

6:00PM

Lenten Soup Supper

6:30PM

hosted by the Spanish Prayer Group

Friday March 3rd

Stations of the Cross w/ Confession

6:00PM

Lenten Soup Supper

6:30PM

hosted by the Altar Servers

Friday March 10th

Stations of the Cross w/ Confession

6:00PM

Lenten Soup Supper

6:30PM

hosted by Faith Formation & Youth Ministries

Friday March 17th

Stations of the Cross w/ Confession

6:00PM

Lenten Soup Supper

6:30PM

hosted by the Knights of Columbus

Friday March 24th

Stations of the Cross w/ Confession

6:00PM

Lenten Soup Supper

6:30PM

hosted by the Daughters of Mary

Friday March 31st

Stations of the Cross w/ Confession

6:00PM

Lenten Soup Supper

6:30PM

hosted by St. Vincent de Paul

The Daughters of Mary & Knights of Columbus Council 17152
Presents the 2023...



Saturday May 6th from 9AM – 2PM
in the Parish Hall

We will be accepting the following donations starting in April.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Plants & Plant Starts | Camping Gear (clean & good condition) |
| Books (gently used) | Sports Gear (clean & good condition) |
| Lawn Care Tools | Yard Games (clean & no missing parts) |
| Outdoor Furniture | Small Power Tools (clean & working) |
| Tools (clean & good condition) | Gardening Tools (clean & good condition) |
| Small Household Appliances (clean & working) | Household Decor |

PLEASE NO CLOTHES, LARGE FURNITURE, MATTRESSES, OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCLUDING BATTERIES OR PAINT. NO DUMPING!

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

Though counterintuitive, loving our enemies provides a powerful way to keep our hearts focused on God and doing good, even when they are tempted to wish evil things on another person.

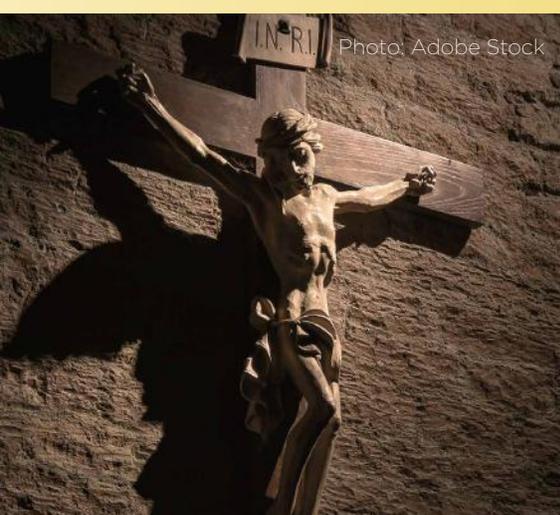


Photo: Adobe Stock

As St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians reminds us, the wisdom of Jesus seems foolish to the world. Why would we love our enemies?

Love is appreciating that the other person is loved by God and choosing to act for their good. Loving our enemies doesn't mean we have to feel affectionate to them, nor does it mean that we need to surrender to those who would do us harm. It means that we intentionally choose to do the good thing that God intends, even when fear of our enemies tempts us to think that evil might be justified. If others do evil to us, we still have power. The power to choose to do the good.

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Psalms 103

The Lord is kind and merciful.

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

The wisdom of this world is foolishness.

Matthew 5:38-48

Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

At Home with **Faith**

Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Let your children know about a time when you made the choice to follow Jesus and love your enemy and it resulted in something good for you.

Maybe it helped you reconcile with someone who you misunderstood.

Even if it did not, let your child know that your choice to love your enemy helped you move past fear and resentment into a better state of mind and a closer relationship with God.



Watch this 6-minute video on how we pray for our enemies:

Are We Really Supposed to Pray for Our Enemies?

<https://youtu.be/6tiVkl1dUjQ8>



Go deeper and learn about Loving your Neighbor in a civilization of contempt in this 25 minute presentation:

Bishop Barron Presents | Dr. Arthur Brooks - Love Your Enemies

https://youtu.be/_UPvINIisdC



For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://www.athomewithfaith.org>



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023

7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." - Mt 5:44

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

I am the LORD." (Lv 19:18)

Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

Second Reading:

All belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God.
(1 Cor 3:22-23)

Gospel:

"You have heard that it was said,

You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.

But I say to you, love your enemies

and pray for those who persecute you." (Mt 5:43-44)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Want to be a real revolutionary? Defy the fallen impulses of human nature. Love your enemy. Pray for your persecutor. Give to those who would take. We can do hard things, Christians. We aren't perfect, but our God is.

Observances for the week of February 19, 2023

Sunday: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Presidents' Day

Tuesday: St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday

Thursday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

Venerable Félix Varela was a thought leader, professor, scholar, political leader, and cultural champion for immigrant families. Originally from Cuba, he served in Spain and in the United States as a pastoral luminary in every community he engaged.

Prayer

Prayer for Venerable Félix Varela y Morales's intercession

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image.

Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and make no peace with oppression.

Help us, like your servant Venerable Felix Varela,

to work for justice among people and nations, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: -Adapted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006), page 60

<https://neatnik2009.wordpress.com/2016/12/10/feast-of-venerable-felix-varela-february-25/>)

Readings for the week of February 19, 2023

- Sunday:** Lv 19:1-2, 17-18/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 (8a)/1 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48
- Monday:** Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29
- Tuesday:** Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37
- Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20 6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
- Friday:** Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32
- Next Sunday:** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 (see 3a)/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Of all the things Jesus says which seem totally bat-crazy, this one might take the cake: **“But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”** An enemy is someone who desires the destruction of you, your projects, or those you care about. To love and pray for them is to want their health, strength, and flourishing. But if they thrive, they are more likely to hurt you and others. So, aren't you indirectly willing your own destruction, or that of your friends? If you doubt that this problem is embedded in this teaching, when was the last time you actually prayed honestly for the people you really hate?

How can we solve this riddle so we might actually live this command? Recall that enemy-love is the surest sign that you love someone with God's love, and not with indirect egotism. After all, if my love for my enemy ends up hurting me or my loved ones, it can't be for me. Enemy-love costs more because there are no tit-for-tats. No reciprocity — just loved poured out, and often pain in return. That's why it is so precious and rare. “What is unusual about that?” asks the Lord about love for our friends. Jesus wants us to experience the unusual love which only comes from him.

When Jesus was being killed on the cross, he was loving his executioners. In fact, he was holding them in being as they nailed him to the cross. He loved those who were spiritually piercing his Mother's heart, while they were doing it. And when he rose from the dead, he showed us that this kind of love is always worth it. It's stronger than death. Real love is unusual.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Hardness of Holiness

Want to know the words I find hardest to say?
“Lord, give me the strength.”

The world tells us to push ourselves outside of our comfort zone if we’re training for a marathon or applying for a job — but if we’re talking about God, everything is supposed to be easy. If it comes “naturally” or without struggle it’s supposed to be right.

Only God is perfect, the world tells us. What’s the use of trying so hard?

I’m really good at finding excuses for myself, especially when it comes to holiness. Holiness, often (not always, but often), is about choosing the hard, but right, thing. The invitation to holiness is whispered in the hardest moments of my day when I am the most hopelessly human. After the kids’ bedtime, when I really just want to watch Dateline and eat too much ice cream instead of saying the Rosary. When I’ve committed to helping someone, but it suddenly becomes incredibly inconvenient. When I see a social media post that’s just begging for a snarky reply. When the conversation becomes gossip and I’m dying to make myself feel superior to someone.

The reason it’s so difficult for me to mutter these five simple words is because I know that if I say them and I mean them, they form a prayer that God will always answer in the affirmative. He will give me the strength I ask for, and then I will have no excuse.

It’s not unlike my kids claiming they’re too tired to clean up the playroom. If they would just ask me for help, it would all be so doable. But where would that leave them?

With a job to do, that’s where.

*“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.”
— Leviticus 19:2*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Is gossip a mortal sin?

Answer:

To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: “You shall not bear false witness.”

In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing “false witness” means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word “gossip” isn’t used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words “detraction” and “calumny,” which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing “another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them,” without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it “harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements” (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: “No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it” (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person’s good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

“You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well.”

- Mt 5:38-39

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Leviticus teaches us that one way to be holy is to have an attitude of love and non-retaliation toward your family and neighbors. Can you name some examples when you have acted in this manner?

Second Reading

Paul teaches that as believers we are now “the temple of God” with the “Spirit of God” dwelling in us. How might we celebrate this new reality?

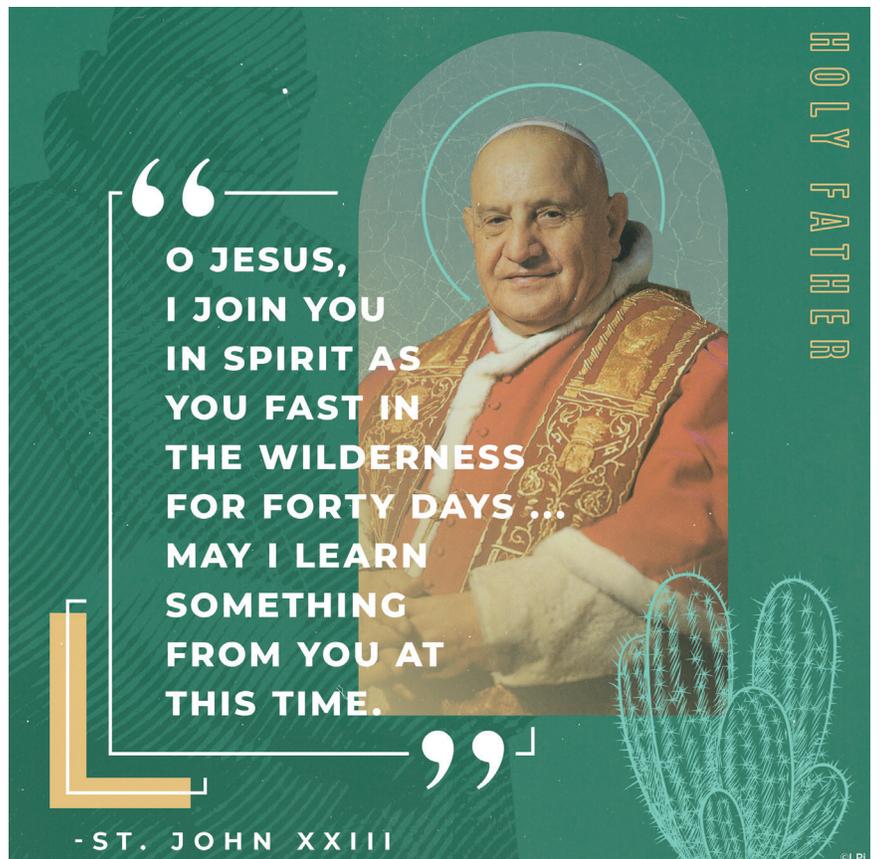
Gospel Reading

Jesus challenges his disciples to love and to pray for your enemies. Why do you think Jesus encourages us to behave this way?



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“You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father.” - Mt 5:43-45a

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Prayer

God, show me ways to help all people who love you.

Mission for the Week

Together as a family send a care package to a missionary family.

Sharing the Gospel

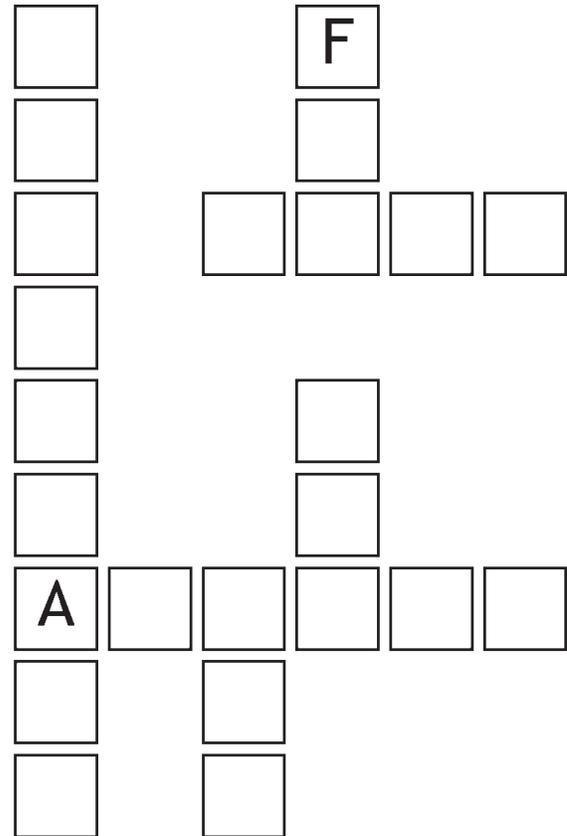
God wants you to love your family and friends. But God wants you to love him even more. Be kind to your mom and listen to her. Help your dad with chores and have fun with him. But also remember to help people who are not in your family. God gets excited when you share his love with others.

Now color the picture!



Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Pray for anyone who mistreats you.





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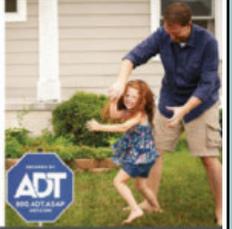
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