

Established  
July 5, 1840

# St. Michael the Archangel Parish

*We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.*

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahaluu  
St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771

Email Address: [stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org](mailto:stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org) / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

**WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES:** 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel

**WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES:** 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception

**Adoration:** Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / **Confessions:** Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church

**WEEKEND MASSES:** Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 4pm / **SPANISH MASS:** Sun 12 noon

**Gift Shop Hours:** Sun 7:30am - 11:00am

**Website:** [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org) **February 23, 2025 | 23 de febrero de 2025**

## Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

Reading I - 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23 | Psalm - 103:1-2,3-4,8,10,12-13 | Reading II - 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 | Gospel - Luke 6:27-38  
Primera Lectura - 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23 | Salmo - 102:1-2,3-4,8,10,12-13 | Segunda Lectura - 1 Corintios 15:45-49 | Evangelio - Lucas 6:27-38

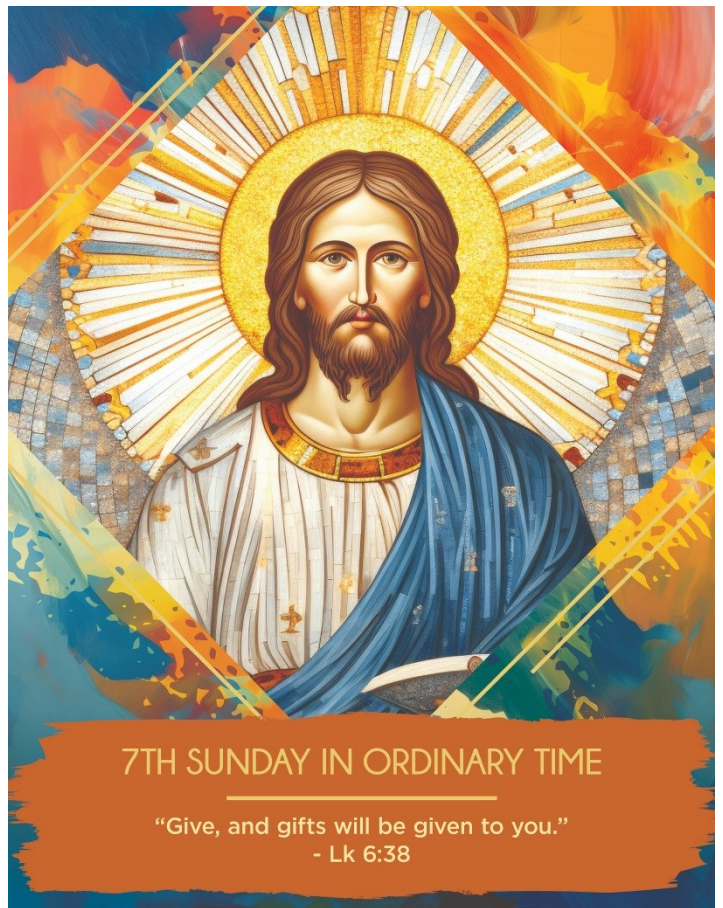
### DO NO HARM

We listen quite a while before we get to the “punch line” of the first reading today: even though it would be an easy thing to do, David will not harm the anointed one of the Lord. We, of course, know that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one of God, but the Bible uses this term for many different people. It is scripture’s way of indicating who has been chosen by God for a special place and mission in salvation history.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus presents a greatly enlarged list of those who, as children of God, we should not harm, but love instead: our enemies, those who curse us or do us harm, those who owe us money, the ungrateful, the wicked. The point of Jesus’ teaching is not to encourage these kinds of behaviors in others, but rather to form us in the image of our heavenly Father by increasing our opportunities to love unconditionally, expecting no return; to be merciful and forgiving, even when it would be easier not to. - Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.

#### PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Give, and gifts will be given to you.”  
- Lk 6:38

#### Prepare for Next Week’s Scripture Readings

1st Reading/Primera Lectura: **Sirach 27:4-7 (Sirácide) 27:5-8**  
Psalm/Salmo: **92 (91): 2-3,13-14,15-16**  
2nd Reading/Segunda Lectura: **1 Corinthians (1Corintios) 15:54-58**  
Gospel/Evangelio: **Luke (Lucas) 6:39-45**

**Ash Wednesday, March 5 ~ Masses: 7am, 12noon, 5pm - English & 7pm - Spanish**

**Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish** - We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org). To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.

February 23, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sam 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 | 1 Cor 15:45-49 | Lk 6:27-38

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

“Love your enemies” may be one of the most oft-quoted verses of Scripture. We tend to think of it as a moral principle to guide us in our dealings with people who rub us the wrong way. But do we ever consider what it tells us about God? After all, Jesus, who is God himself, speaks it. God tells us to love our enemies because *God* loves his “enemies” – that is, those who freely choose to oppose his plan of life and love. On the cross, Jesus forgave and prayed for the people who sought to kill him *while they were crucifying him*. But his mercy was not confined to that time and place alone; he died for each of us who, whenever we sin, refuse to love him. If we get this into our heads and our hearts – “God loves and forgives *me*” – we can begin to rest in his embrace like children confident in the unconditional love of their father’s heart.

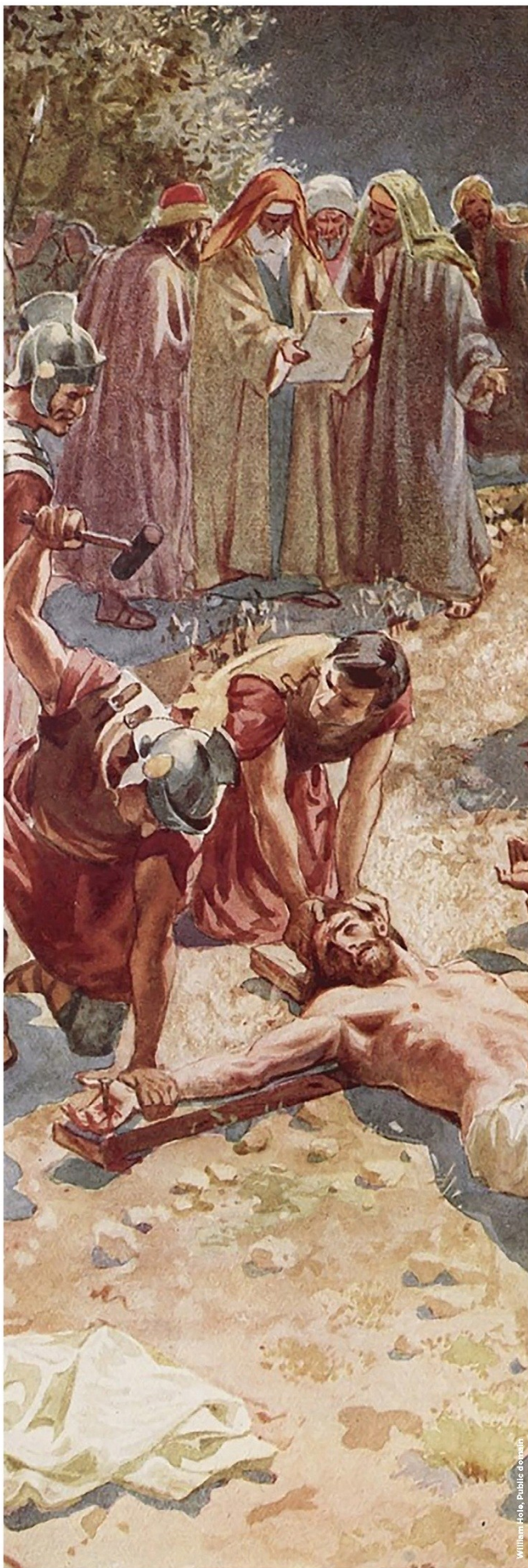
### **GO** EVANGELIZE

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

If, as a child, you learned a musical instrument for which regular recitals were the norm, you know how many hours of practice are required for a few short minutes of performance. You know, too, that if you are well prepared, a musical composition which appeared impossible months before comes easily and naturally on the day of the recital. For most of us, loving our enemies as Jesus commands us to do appears far beyond our reach – impossible, in fact. But this kind of heroic love is nevertheless God’s call for us, and he will never deny us the grace we need to respond to his call. What’s required on our part is a willingness to practice. If we practice loving in small things even when it’s difficult – listening patiently to someone whose conversation bores us, for example, or taking on an extra chore without seeking recognition or thanks – we will be prepared for the day when God asks us to make an even greater act of love for his sake.

### **PRACTICE**

This week, go out of your way to find opportunities to love even when it’s difficult. Do your best to be conscious of your intentions, even in the moment, by asking God for the grace to love generously and by offering your act of love to him.



# Life of Stewardship

In today's Gospel, taken from the sixth chapter of Luke, Jesus offers a very challenging, seemingly impossible approach to daily life. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak do not withhold even your tunic." It makes one want to say, "Seriously, Lord?" And He doesn't stop there. Jesus adds, "Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back."

It seems so unfair! That is, unless we look at this way of life from a stewardship point of view. Then, not only does it seem doable (though challenging), but it also actually makes perfect sense. A steward understands clearly that all he has and all that he is - his very life - is a gift from God given to him from an unfathomable abundance of love. This changes everything! This means "my" cloak, "my" tunic, "my" money, and time - all of it ultimately belongs to God. He has entrusted these things to each of us in love to use for His purposes and His glory.

Does this mean we are to be passive "doormats" to anyone who wants to take advantage of us? Certainly not. Jesus explains this in the next verse of this passage when He says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." There is nothing wrong with loving oneself since God loves us and has made us in His own image and likeness. Jesus is simply asking that we also approach others, and the sharing of our gifts, with this same attitude. He is giving us a definition here of real love, a steward's love!

- *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

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## Parish News

### Blessed Palms for Ash Wednesday

Please bring in your blessed palms from last year so we can prepare them for Ash Wednesday.

### Ash Wednesday Masses

Ash Wednesday is on **March 5th**. Masses will be at **7am, 12noon, and 5pm** in English and **7pm** in Spanish. All Masses will be celebrated at St. Michael's. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be after the 7am Mass with **Benediction at 4pm**. The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed during our 12noon Mass.

### Children's Rosary

Our Children's Rosary Club will meet at the grotto after the 9am Mass on February 23 to pray one decade of the rosary. Parents: This is a great way for children to recite their basic prayers. Please encourage your children to join us!

### Immigration Ministry Seminar

Please join us on Sunday, February 23 at 1:00pm in the Grace Parish Center for an informational one-hour seminar on immigration by attorney Evita, who will discuss federal immigration laws. If you, or someone you know from any country in the world, are here in the USA without legal status and are not sure where to begin the process to become legal, this is a must attend. All immigration questions will be answered.

### Monthly Food Pantry & Diaper Ministry Drive

The monthly parish food & diaper drive will be held on **Mon-**

**day, February 24 from 9-10am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.** Thank you for your continued support of this much needed ministry. We depend on your contributions and are grateful for any donations you may have. Know that you are helping to feed over 1000 people every month.

Diaper sizes needed are size 6 and Pull-Ups 4T-5T Boys and Girls. You are also welcome to leave food & diaper donations in the baskets at the Church entrance when you come to Mass.

### Healing Mass

There will be a Healing Mass on **Tuesday, February 25 at St. Michael's**. Anyone in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing or healing in relationships is encouraged to come. **Praise & Worship and Confession at 6pm. Mass begins at 6:30pm.** For more information, contact Monica Choe at (720) 341-3752.

### Men of Faith

Join fellow men of St. Michael's to deepen your faith during the Holy Season of Lent. We meet on the South Lanai of Church every Wednesday from 5:30pm to 6:30pm and reflect on the prior Sunday's scripture readings. Come early to spend time with Christ in Adoration, evening prayer and Benediction starting at 5pm. **Reminder:** On the last Wednesday of the month, we meet in the Grace Parish Center where we share a potluck dinner.

### Consecration to God the Father Ministry

Please join us in prayer to honor God Our Father, **Sunday, March 2 at 3pm**. We will pray Consecration Prayers to God Our Father and Divine Mercy. The Consecration prayer helps us to acknowledge God as our Eternal Father, to honor Him, and to give Him our commitment to follow His commandments.

### Lenten Fish Fry Friday - March 7

Please join fellow parishioners starting March 7th for Lenten Fish Fry Friday's from 5:45pm to 7:15pm, for just \$10 per person, in the Grace Parish Center, hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

### St. Michael's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

St. Michael's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday March 8th at Kona Country Club. . Volunteers are still needed and Silent Auction items are available for bidding. Stop by the golf desk after Mass this weekend to bid on some great items!

### Lenten Soup Supper

Beginning March 12, we will be hosting a soup supper after Benediction. Join us for Benediction at 5:00pm. Then different ministries will be providing a simple soup supper in the Grace Parish Center. Bread will also be available. You are welcome to bring your own soup bowls and spoons. Paper goods will be provided too. We look forward to seeing you for this simple meal as we come together to embrace the Lenten season.

### Friendly Place Lunches Ministry

This ministry provides a hot meal every Monday for our

# Stewardship of Treasure

February 10th - 16th, 2025

ONLINE GIVING	\$ 3,095.00
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	\$ 12,625.00
GRACE PARISH CENTER CAMPAIGN	\$ 64,754.00

## Parish Center Update

We have collected **\$5,675,926.17** for the Parish Center Campaign, which includes pledge payments.

*Mahalo* for your continued generosity.

**Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or click on our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.**

## STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2025

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: **\$11,525.00**

MONTHLY 'OHANA IN CHRIST ASSESSMENT: **\$2,446.33**

The above amounts fund Diocesan ministries, as listed in 'Ohana in Christ to help support our parishes, pastors, schools, service agencies, and communities within the Diocese of Honolulu.

## Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit [saintmichaelparishkona.org](http://saintmichaelparishkona.org) and click our **ONLINE GIVING** tab. Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

unsheltered neighbors here in Kona. There are several ways to help! Prepare part of the meal, help to serve the food at the Friendly Place, or make a donation to help with the cost of the weekly meal. Please call Janice at the Parish office if you can help or if you need more info.

## Faith Formation

### Faith Formation Classes Grades K-5

Classes are held on Sundays from 10:15 to 11:50.

Classes for February & March are on February 23, March 2, 9, 23, and 30. No class on March 16.

- Margaret Essex, *Catholicist*

### Youth Ministry Classes Grades 6-12.

Regular classes will be held on February 23 and March 30. **Saturday, March 1st is Big Island Youth Day.** The theme is **"Disconnect to Reconnect: Find Hope in Christ's Presence."** Youth from Hawaii Island will gather at St. Michael's in the **Grace Parish Center.** Activities run from **10:00 am to 5:30 pm**, with check-in starting at **9:30 am.** There will be no Youth Ministry class on Sunday, March 2nd.

Please note that a **Mandatory Safe Environment Training for all youth will be held on March 9.** No classes on March 16 and 23 due to Spring Break. - *Eduwina Fujimoto, Youth Minister*

## Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darknesses.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect that perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of God's life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating what-ever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance. - *Father John Muir, ©LPI*

## Treasures from our Tradition

When the Roman Empire turned a favorable eye toward the once-persecuted Christians, among the effects was a population explosion in the baptismal font, as Christian sympathizers stepped from the shadows. With more and more people becoming Christians, laws were passed to protect Sunday as a work-free day. Soon, it became possible to celebrate Mass later in the morning, rather than the older custom of gathering before dawn to celebrate Eucharist. Amazingly, despite the increasing numbers of Christians, there was great resistance to adding to the number of worship events; the Eucharist that began as a few friends around a table soon was transformed into a more formal event with throngs crowding a large hall. All the Christians in a city or town would gather around the bishop for the one Sunday Eucharist, and only when the crowds became unmanageable was there an impulse to divide the assembly by splitting off a new bishop and flock.

Now, sixteen hundred years later, many parishes see a need to trim or combine Mass schedules. This is often seen as tough surgery. Yet our forebears in the faith would see it as a gain: a filling up of the Eucharist with a large and vigorous assembly, a fullness of ministry, an opportunity to make the Church more fully visible and stronger for service. - *James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

## Everyday Stewardship - Thanking God for Missing Spears

Imagine how Saul must have felt when he awoke from his sleep and saw his spear missing from its resting place. Now imagine how he felt when he realized that the person who had it was the same person seeking his life - and there he sat, safe and sound. Now there's a day you don't forget your morning prayers.

I think if we look, we can all find a "missing spear moment" in our lives, when it hits us right in the gut that God has kept us safe from an impending disaster. This can be physical disaster, sure - but more commonly, I think it is spiritual disaster. Often the salvation comes through the gift of a person, or people, through whom God reveals His mercy.

When I was in high school, I had a circle of friends who

# YOU ARE INVITED

(schedule may change without advance notice)

## MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm (2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

## TUESDAY

- Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am
- Charismatic Prayer Group 6:30-8:00pm

## WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm

## THURSDAY

- Women of Faith 2:00-3:00pm
- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm (3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm

## FRIDAY - NO EVENTS

## SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

## SUNDAY

- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass (Last Sunday of each month)
- Immigration Seminar 1:00-2:00pm (Last Sunday of each month)
- Consecration to God the Father 3:00pm (1st Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:15-11:50am
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm (Please refer to the Faith Formation section for class dates)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

# Baptism

Classes are held once a month. Parents and Godparents must attend class.

To register, please email [baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org](mailto:baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org)

# Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation

were really into their faith. We were all in youth ministry together, and the bond we shared taught me a lesson that changed me as a person: we become those with whom we associate. I can look back now, all these years later, and see that these people are evidence of God's hand in my life.

Take a look at your life. In whose love has God shown you comfort? By whose hand has God brought you closer to Him, or kept you away from harm? Through whose friendship has God shaped you into the person you are?

Let's strive to remember to thank God for these people and to thank them, too.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

## Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - Judgment and Love

"Oh, well. I'm going to hell anyway, right?" I have a few family members and friends who are not practicing Catholics who say this to me from time to time. It's always spoken in a teasing manner, with a wink and a shoulder shrug, usually to explain away some sort of minor misbehavior they feel guilty about.

It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. I think in part it stems from a misunderstanding on the part of unchurched people (and lots of churched ones, too) regarding what constitutes "judging." It is absolutely not "judging" someone to disagree with a personal decision, whatever that decision may be, or to decline from participating in that decision. We all have functioning consciences; we are all supposed to discern the moral goodness of any action before we take it. But it is judging someone if we allow their decisions to impact how we treat them.

Today's Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us or maybe even actively dislike us. Much is said these days of the "culture wars." I certainly don't disagree that it can often feel like you're fighting a war when you're trying to live as the Church teaches. The forces against you often seem overwhelming and nefarious. And guess what? They are.

But we need to remember who the enemy really is. The enemy is not other children of God, even if they are children of God who are actively promoting ideas that are wrong. Perhaps these people are misguided and mistaken. Perhaps they are misled by the devil. Have we not all been misled by him at some point?

We must interact lovingly with people who think differently and live differently from us. The Christian life absolutely demands it.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman, ©LPI



## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

- 4pm - Roland Fornataro, 3rd Anniversary of Death

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

- 7am - James "Jimmy" McClean, 3rd Anniversary of Death
- 9am - Robert Leopoldino, Rest in Peace
- 4pm - Jack Derzay, 1st Anniversary of Death

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

- 7am - Patty Jo Hart, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Dorothy M. Lacey, 13th Anniversary of Death

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

- 7am - Cynthia Taylor, deceased, Birthday Remembrance
- 5pm - Juliet Elizabeth Suman

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

- 7am - MISSA PRO POPULO

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

- 7am - Frances Acol, 40th Anniversary of Death, May she Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Charles Perez, Rest in Peace

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

- 7am - Sean, Lorraine and David Wilkinson, May they Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Bill Kunisch, Rest in Peace

## SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST

- 7am - Lonnie Shewcraft, deceased, Rest in Peace

## Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771**.

*Mass cards are available.*

**"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."**

—Matthew 25:35

## The Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from **9 - 9:45am** at **Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.**

# "Do Unto Others..." Tough Teachings

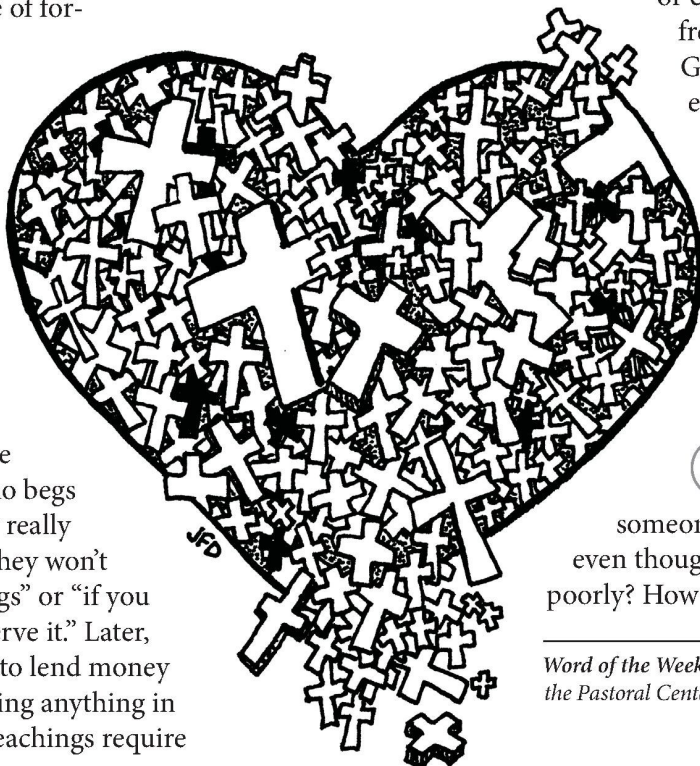
*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- ▶ 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 - Saul's life spared
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 - The natural and the spiritual body
- ▶ Luke 6:27-38 - Love of enemies

The Gospel passage today is a long one, and it is packed full of instructions for those who want to live like Jesus. We can group the teachings here into several categories: how to treat enemies or those who provoke you, how to respond to those who ask things of you, and how to relate to others with whom you disagree or disapprove.

Some people may be fortunate enough to be in a place in life where they don't feel that they have enemies. Jesus' teaching to "love your enemies, do good to those who hate you... pray for those who abuse you" might seem like a non-issue. Perhaps these lucky ones can bring greater love into the world by spending effort and energy on loving, blessing, and praying for the "enemies" of those in their families, churches, or nation who have been hurt but haven't come to a place of forgiveness yet.

Jesus' words about giving to those who ask something of us calls for a disciplined generosity. Notice that he doesn't say "give to everyone who begs of you—if they really need it" or "if they won't waste it on drugs" or "if you think they deserve it." Later, he instructs us to lend money without expecting anything in return. These teachings require



I HEAR GOD'S VOICE!

IT'S SAYING 'LOVE YOUR ENEMIES.'

MAYBE IT'S JUST A FIGMENT OF YOUR OWN IMAGINATION.

I'M SURE IT'S GOD.

MY OWN IMAGINATION WOULD GIVE ME AN EASIER FIGMENT!

© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

"Love your enemies and do good to them ... be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

**Sheepish Question:**  
Why is it so hard to love my enemies? How must I pray about this?

a stance of openness, generosity, non-judgment, and trust that God will work with our giving even if we can't see how.

Finally, several verses focus on how to relate to those we encounter. Jesus says we should not judge or condemn; we should forgive and give freely. It is another way of teaching the Golden Rule, with the promise that eventually "what goes around comes around."

## Questions of the Week

- 1 What line in the Gospel reading challenges you the most on a personal level? How so?
- 2 When have you enacted the Golden Rule, stretching to treat someone as you would want to be treated, even though your instinct was to treat them poorly? How did the situation turn out?

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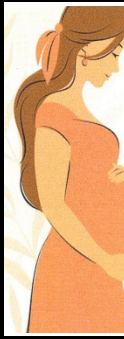
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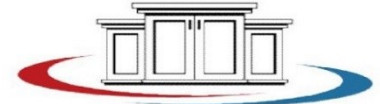
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