

iRev. Chad Grennan, Pastor
 Email: frchadgrennan@gmail.com
 Rev. Deacon Jim McLaughlin
 (phone office for appointment)
 Liliansa Haynes



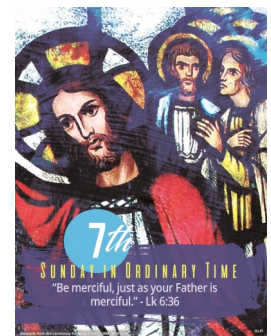
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday, Jesus continues his challenging Sermon on the Mount. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you? Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back." Words like these are challenging! Many of us have grown up in a culture of independence and retaliation against those who harm us. Today's Gospel reminds us that the way of the world is not necessarily the way of the disciple.



In many spiritual texts, saints describe the first stage of the spiritual life as mercenary love of God. That is, we love Him because he "pays" us with graces and good things. Consider for a moment, why do you do the good that you do? Take volunteering, for example. How often do we talk about the good feelings service evokes and how you "get so much more than you give." This is still based on an attitude of return on our investment. Would we volunteer if we knew it was good to do, but we didn't "feel" good afterward? What if the people we helped seemed ungrateful, or if someone at the food pantry stole \$20 out of our purse? It can be difficult to love people when we think we might not get anything back. "For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to work?"

As Christians, we are called to imitate God. We follow a God who loves not only His closest friends, but who loves betrayers, deniers, and crucifiers. The Christian walk is one of perseverance and sacrifice. What does your love look like?



However, I know I am not alone. We all can easily find ourselves acting in this manner. This is why it struck me to listen once again to the words of Jesus when he says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." The words are reminiscent of another of Jesus' phrases, "Love your neighbor as yourself." The problem is that too often I would like for others to fulfill my wants instead of needs, and I can seemingly love myself by doing what I already mentioned above.

Stewardship way of life means that I wisely steward what I have, and I cannot give what I do not have. Have you ever given someone a present you couldn't afford and think that was love? It wasn't. We don't show love by giving what we do not possess. We show love by meeting another's needs and by sharing our very self with them. At our core, what we long for from others more than anything else is love. Would I have others give me lavish gifts and shower me with empty compliments or would I have them give to me something much more valuable: the love in their hearts? In turn, I need to love myself more by realizing that no purchase will offer fulfillment more than the love of God shown to me in Christ Jesus.

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

Prayer and Action Are Inseparable

On World Day of Prayer, people all around the world will unite to:

- affirm their belief and faith in Christ;
- be enriched by the experiences of other Christians, their countries & cultures;
- pray for and/or with others for the burdens of others;
- become more aware of their own talents, and to be encouraged to use them in Christian service;
- develop awareness of the world as a whole, and to understand and appreciate that God loves all people everywhere.

World Day of Prayer takes place internationally on the first Friday of March every year. **In 2019 that will be March 1st.** The host country for WDP 2019 is Slovenia. The program was written by women in Slovenia, one of the smallest countries in Europe and a pretty young committee in the WDP movement. The focus is on Jesus' parable of the Great Dinner (in Lk. 14:15–24) with the theme "Come – Everything is Ready". One phrase in the worship service especially captures the ideas we will explore: "Welcoming God, in your love, you have prepared a table for all, and you inspire us to open our hearts and our homes to offer a place to the ones who are not yet at the table." Who isn't at your table yet? Who isn't at your World Day of Prayer service . . . yet? The women of Slovenia challenge us all to widen our circles, to expand our communities.

Throughout the worship service, we hear the stories of those who are coming to the table of bread, wine, water, and salt. Their stories reflect the political and economic situation from the time Slovenia was a socialist-communist state to today. Their stories are the voices of the refugee and migrant workers, the mothers, the grandmothers, the wives, and the Roma people. While listening to their stories, we ask for forgiveness for being silent in the face of injustice, and we pray that God open our hearts to compassion and understanding. And we leave with a blessing prayer to mutually support one another on the path of freedom, justice and peace. May the welcoming God enable us to set the table and fill the communities with hope, love, and joy!

Our parish will host the event this year for our local area. The service begins at 2pm followed by a reception in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome to attend the service. Donations of baked goods—cookies, squares etc. for the reception would be greatly appreciated. They can be dropped off at the parish on the morning of March 1st. We ask that you arrange the baked items on a plate or tray ready for serving. Please put your name on the back of the tray and we will be sure to return it to you.

Countdown to Lent.....Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th, 2019. Prayer, penance, fasting and almsgiving are the main Lenten works. "Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Joel 2:12. During this season of Lent, let us reveal our hearts, whole and entire, to God's loving eye.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS will be celebrated by **Most Rev. Gerard Paul Bergie**, on **The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord Monday, March 25, 2019, 7pm, The Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, 67 Church Street, St. Catharines. Let us pray together for the protection of life in all its stages; for greater respect for God's gift of life: for those wounded by abortion. Reception to follow.**

Parish Calendar

February.....
Feb 27th..... Liturgy Committee meeting **6:30pm.**
Feb 28th..... Syrian Refuge Resettlement Committee meeting at the Lions Club in Fenwick, 7pm.
March.....
March 1st..... World Day of Prayer. **St. Ann will be the host parish this year.** Service begins at 2pm.
March 1st.....
March 6th..... **Ash Wednesday. Masses 9:30am & 7pm.**
March 10th..... First Sunday of Lent
March 12th..... Lenten Day of Recollection for Diocesan priests and deacons. **Mass this day will begin at 8:30am.**
Youth Ministry—Grades 5-8 and high school students are welcome to attend. Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30pm.
Bingo: Thursday Evenings 7pm in parish hall. All welcome to attend.

Migrant Ministry

Once again, our parish will be welcoming the seasonal agriculture workers as they return to our community during the month of March. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting warm clothing for the men, as they will arrive during the cooler weather and may be unprepared for the colder climate. Items most in need are socks, warm gloves, and toques. We are also accepting donations of gently used men's sweaters and coats, as well as new toiletries. If you have any items to donate, please leave them in the church basement, with a note indicating that they are for the seasonal agriculture workers. Thank you for your continued support.

Volunteer needed to co-ordinate this ministry. Below is a description of the requirements of the volunteer position. If you want more information or the opportunity to discuss the duties of the position, please phone the office soon.

Job Responsibilities: Beginning in about February of each year, the Coordinator of this program will be responsible for the collection of warm clothing (e.g. sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, socks), as well as toiletries. The workers will begin arriving in mid March to late April, and are seldom equipped for the cooler weather. These items can then be distributed to the workers, as needed.

The Parish Priest and/or Deacon, will schedule a Spanish Mass once a month, from May to November and will communicate this to the workers. There will also be a need to organize and set up hospitality following the mass, either in the form of coffee and snacks or a meal.

The coordinator may wish to assemble a team of volunteers to assist with this. The coordinator will also liaise with other Ministries within the Parish (e.g. Catholic Women's League, St Vincent de Paul, Youth Ministry) in order to increase support for the seasonal workers and to assist with the provision of meals following the Spanish Mass.

Skills, Attitudes, Knowledge: The coordinator of this Ministry should be active members of the church community, be able to maintain confidentiality, and be respectful, compassionate and patient.

Time Commitment: Much of this work will take place beginning in February, when the collection of items will begin so that they can be distributed to the workers upon their arrival in March. While the majority of the workers leave towards the end of summer, there are some who remain here until November.

Do You Feel Alone?... Retrouvaille has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 15, 2019**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: retrouvaille.hamilton@cogeco.ca

Sunday, February 24th, 2019



Sat. Feb 23	9-10am	Confession
	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	✠ Mario Forte (Family)
Sun. Feb 24	9:30am	✠ Bruce Cook (Carolyn Botari)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
Mon. Feb 25	9:30am	✠ Louis Marshall (Mike & Anne Young)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Confession
Tues. Feb 26	9:30am	Thaddeus Jude (Teresa Walters)
Wed. Feb 27	9:30am	✠ Cornelius Vanderlee (Tina Vanderlee)
Thurs. Feb 28	9:30am	Heinrich Brothers (Teresa Walters)
Fri. Mar 1	9:30am	✠ Cornelius Vanderlee (Gloria Egert)
Sat. Mar 2	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
	5:00pm	✠ Harry Atkins (Wendy Atkins)
Sun. Mar 3	9:30am	✠ Carmen Lucchetta (Cargnelli Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.

Offertory February 16th & 17th, 2019

78 Envelopes	\$1, 907.75
Loose Collection	\$ 70.80
Total Offertory	\$1, 978.55

A reminder- Our website domain name has changed to the following: www.stannfenwick.com

