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FEBRUARY 20, 2022 VII SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Meditation OURAGE YOURSELE TO A DEE

ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE



Sometimes, Jesus' teachings don't seem to make practical sense. When we hear things like love your enemies and do good to them, turn the other cheek when struck, give to anyone who asks, do to others as you would have them do to you, be merciful, stop judging, forgive, and give to others,

we get a bit unsettled. After all, it's okay for God to do all of these things, but does He really want us to do them, too? Many good-hearted Christians really draw the line with some of these ideals and say, "No way!" They even remark that if someone did something hurtful to someone they loved, they would have no reservations seeking severe retribution. There is still this persistent thinking, even among those who consider themselves Christian, that a violent action deserves a violent response. Somehow, we continue to justify this. Yet, it is most clearly against the very grain of the Gospel. Part of our difficulty has more to do with understanding God's love. We wrongly think that sinful or hurtful actions and evil people somehow are seen as lesser in God's eyes. They are not. God loves the sinner as much as He does the saint. And, both of these inclinations exist in every human being, even those who consider themselves holy. Both the capacity for good and the disposition toward evil exist in every one of us. Viktor Frankl has this to say when reflecting on the Holocaust: "Our generation is a realistic generation because we have learned what a human being really is. When all is said and done, man is that same creature who invented the gas-chambers of Auschwitz; but he is also that being who walked upright into those chambers with the prayer 'Shema Yisrael' on his lips." If we believe in God, we have to act like God. Whether we like that idea is another issue. If we don't then perhaps, we need to reconsider our faith and whether we really believe in Jesus Christ. We are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian must, at all costs, leave resentment and the need for retaliation behind, lose defensiveness and bring into the mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world. ©LPi

Cindy Peterson Bill Grav Leonardo Cepeda Edward Manzano Elman & Socorro Martinez **Ruth Ramirez** Fran Dreis Julian Lorenzo **Helen & Buriel Smith** Brigida McInvale Isela Gonzalez **Rachel Fowler** Esperanza Villa Felipe & Anita Pedroza **Jackie Connolly**

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Maureen Rewela Margaret Barnes Dave & Lori Hoover Alan y Armando de Guzman Henry & Annette Moore



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 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 vour 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

The Year of Grace

Frist Friday M 7:00pm Adoration S:S0 am - 5:001 Wednesday Sunday K of C Breakfast fter 8:30am Mas

FEBRUARY 20, 2022 VII SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

STOCK AND IRA CHARITABLE GIFT DONATIONS

A gift of your securities, including stocks. mutual funds and IRA Charitable Rollover Distributions are an easy way to make a gift to the church. By making a gift of your appreciated securities or retirement account, you can avoid paying capital gains tax that may otherwise be due if you sold these assets. Contributions are deductible for tax

ourposes. There are no transaction fees or other costs and the ful value of the sold securities benefits the parish, school or other Catholic charities you select. For more information on making a gift, please visit the diocesan website at www.sdcatholic.org and click on Giving – Stock Donations at the top of the screen. Or call Daniel Pritchard at Merrill Lynch, the Diocese's broker, at (760) 930-3122.

REPORTING SEXUAL ABUSE

Complaints about Sexual Abuse by a member of the Clergy, a parish Catholic Employee or a Volunteer can be made at https://www.safeinourdiocese.org/ or call (858) 490-8353 misconduct@sdcatholic.org.

LEARNING ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD

On Saturday, March 19, 2022, the Diocese of San Diego is hosting an Explorer Day for those men who are interested in exploring a possible vocation to the priesthood. The event will be held at St. Francis Center on the campus of the University of San Diego from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If living a life of service for Christ and the people of God is attractive to you, take advantage of the opportunity to attend this upcoming Explorer Day. Pick up a registration form at the parish office or call Fr. Lauro Minimo at St. Francis Center at (619) 291-7446.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

All young adults ages 18-39 are invited to a Theology on Tap night on Thursday, February 24, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at Church of Saint Luke, 1980 Hillsdale Road, El Cajon, with special guest speaker Beth David from Blessed Is She. The theme of the night is Rend Your Heart: Preparing Our Hearts for Lent. The cost is \$15 for entry and includes beverages and tacos. Online pre-pay is available. Visit sdcatholic.org/event/t... For questions, please email yamsd@sdcatholic.org, or call (858) 490-8260.



200 Gold Coast Driv

WEEKLY STEWARSHIP February 13, 2022 \$1,428.00 **Envelope Giving** \$1,543.00 **Plate Giving** Online Giving \$659.72 \$3,630.72 Weekly funds needed for church \$5,000.00 operations Overage/Deficit -(\$1,369.28)





40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN

More than 20,000 lives have been saved since 2007! Help save babies by praying and fasting for an end to abortion during the upcoming 40 Days for Life Spring Campaign, Mar 2 – Apr 10, 2022. For more information and to sign up for yigil hours, please visit https://www.sdcatholic.org/office-for/life-peace-and-justice/culture-of-life/abortion/40-days-for-lifecampaign/.

LENTEN PILGRIM WALK

All young adults ages 18-39 are invited to participate in a enten Pilgrim Walk co-hosted by the Office for Young Adult Ministry and Modern Catholic Pilgrim on March 5, 2022 from 9a-2p. The Lenten Pilgrim Walk is a seven-mile, mini oilgrimage from the Immaculata Parish on the campus of USD to St. Brigid parish in Pacific Beach. The day will consist of walking, prayer, spiritual talks and opportunity for fellowship. The cost is \$20 and includes registration, snacks, water, lunch and ground return transportation back to the Immaculata at the conclusion of the event. Join us for the opportunity to offer ourselves to Christ in body and spirit at the beginning of our Lenten journey. Online registration is available at sdcatholic.org/event/1...Questions? Contact yamsd@sdcatholic.org, or call (858) 490-8260.

FEBRUARY 20, 2022 VII SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

MAMMON

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

What Is Mammon?

Question: When Jesus says, "You cannot serve both God and

mammon," what does he mean? What is mammon?

Answer: When you hear Scripture proclaimed each Sunday, remember it wasn't originally written in English. Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek — these ancient tongues were the original language of our Old and New Testaments. Most of the time, all of the words are translated into our native language. Sometimes, a word or two is left in the original language. Such is the case in this Scripture passage. Mammon is an ancient Aramaic word referring to money, wealth, or profit. Earthly wealth isn't bad in itself, nor does it

automatically exclude us from being a disciple of Jesus But what dominates our life? To serve money — that is, to seek accumulation of wealth for its own sake and to structure our lives around it — is morally problematic. What good is our wealth if it isn't at the service of others? What good is our wealth if its pursuit leads us to selfishness, obsession, greed, envy, and comparison? There are many things that can be opposed to our service of God — power, prestige, popularity. Ultimately, something in our lives will be our master. But there is only one God worth serving. ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: King David exercised great restraint and forgiveness in not taking the life of Saul. What do you think is needed to live one's life with this kind of spiritual disposition?

Second Reading: Paul speaks of believers in the present age bearing the image of the "earthly one" (Adam) and in the future bearing the image of the "heavenly ne" (Christ). What do you think bearing the image of Christ looks

Gospel: Jesus taught his disciples some very challenging moral imperatives, such as love of enemy, non-retaliation, and unconditional forgiveness. In what ways are you able to live out these ethical standards in your life?

The Catholic Church wants to listen to you.

Our parish is organizing small-group sessions, to be held in March, that are at the heart of a consultation of Catholics worldwide called a synod.

The Church needs all of us to participate fully in its mission and renewal

Our parish invites all members of our community the people in the pews, clergy, religious, seminarians to participate in the group sessions.

The insights that come from these sessions will be used to strengthen the participation of all faithful at all levels of the Church at the crucial time.

Please complete a registration form and turn it into the parish office or place it in the offertory basket.

Sessions in English will be held on March 22 and 24, 2022 at 7:00pm Sessions in Spanish will be held on March 21 and 23, 2022 at 7:00pm



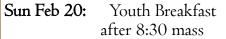
LIVE THE LITURGY

Love your enemies and do good to them." We have such a hard time with this teaching! But it doesn't end there. Jesus continues with turning the other cheek when struck, giving to everyone who asks, doing to others as you would have them do to you, being merciful, stopping our judgment of others, forgiving, and giving. We are okay when God does these things but get a little anxious when we realize that God really wants us to do them too! Secular justice and Gospel justice are definitely not the same. We need to remember that we are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian is called to act like Christ even in those situations where a more assertive or defensive response may seem more justifiable. In order to live up to this call we have to leave our resentment and need for retaliation behind, lose our defensiveness and bring into our mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world. We are not here to satisfy or promote our own well-being and agenda. We are here for God's. That's a hard nut to crack especially when it comes to loving and forgiving people who do hurtful and violent things. ©LPi



EVERY SUNDAY

I0:00am—I0:55am



Tue Feb 22: Youth Gathering



MIEN'S GATHERING

Come and join the men of the parish to make new friends and get to know your brothers in Christ.

Saturday, March 5 2022 7:30am

IASS Intentions

Feb 20	Sun	8:30am	For the Parishioners
Feb 20	Sun	11:00am	(SI) Chukuka & Roselyn Enwemeka
Feb 20	Sun	12:30pm	+Salvador Zamora Monroe
Feb 21	Mon		NO MASS
Feb 22	Tues	7:30am	For the Parishioners
Feb 23	Wed	7:30am	For the Parishioners
Feb 24	Thur	7:30am	For the Parishioners
Feb 25	Fri	7:30am	For the Parishioners
Feb 26	Sat	5:00pm	For the Parishioners

St. Polycarp of Smyrna | February 23

As a disciple of St. John, the Evangelist, St. Polycarp was able to hear about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection directly from those who witnessed it. Because Polycarp was ordained as Bishop of Smyrna by St. John, he is one of three chief Apostolic Fathers, along with Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch. During his life Polycarp defended

the Church against heresies. His important writing, the *Letter* to the Philippians, quoted the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, stressing Paul's authority in the Church and setting out clear arguments against the gnostic heresy that denied Christ's divinity. The early period of the Church was a dangerous time to be a Christian and like many, St. Polycarp

was martyred. He was captured by Romans and sentenced to burn at the stake. However, the fire did not touch him, instead rising up like sails around him. Seeing that the flames would not injure Polycarp, the Romans stabbed him instead.

The Martyrdom of Polycarp is perhaps the earliest fully preserved account of a Christian martyr.



ADORATION

THURSDAYS 8:30aunn - 5:00punn OF GRACE

THE YEAR

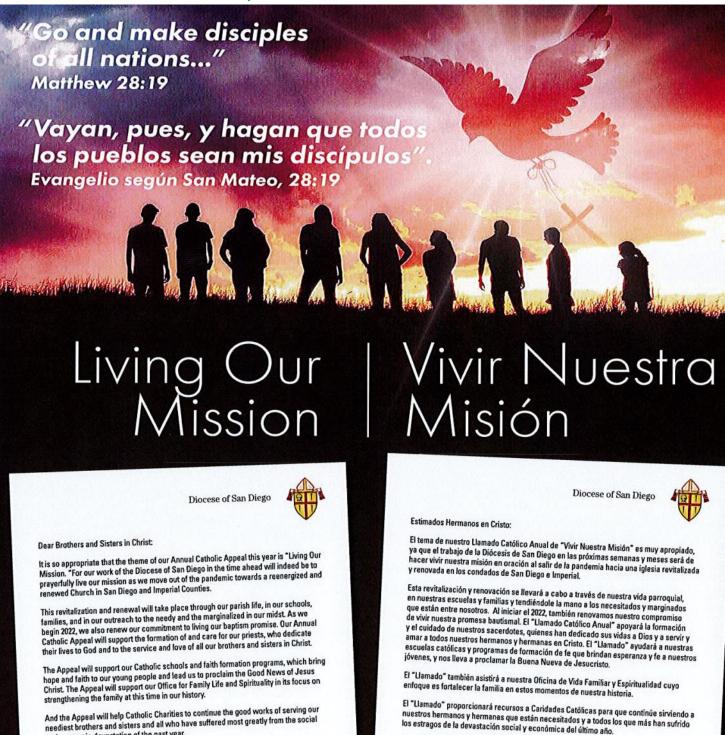
Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." — L k 6:38



Observances for the week of February 20, 2022

Mon: Presidents' Day; St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Tues: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle Wed: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr





El tema de nuestro Llamado Católico Anual de "Vivir Nuestra Misión" es muy apropiado, y a que el trabajo de la Diócesis de San Diego en las próximas semanas y meses será de hacer vivir nuestra misión en oración al salir de la pandemia hacia una iglesia revitalizada y renovada en los condados de San Diego e Imperial.

Esta revitalización y renovación se llevará a cabo a través de nuestra vida parroquial, en nuestras escuelas y familias y tendiéndole la mano a los necesitados y marginados que están entre nosotros. Al iniciar el 2022, también renovamos nuestro compromiso de vivir nuestra promesa bautismal. El "Llamado Católico Anual" apoyará la formación y el cuidado de nuestros sacerdotes, quienes han dedicado sus vidas a Dios y a servir y amar a todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo. El "Uamado" ayudará a nuestras escuelas católicas y programas de formación de fe que brindan esperanza y fe a nuestros jóvenes, y nos lleva a proclamar la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo.

El "Llamado" también asistirá a nuestra Oficina de Vida Familiar y Espiritualidad cuyo enfoque es fortalecer la familia en estos momentos de nuestra historia.

El "Llamado" proporcionará recursos a Caridades Católicas para que continúe sirviendo a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que están necesitados y a todos los que más han sufrido los estragos de la devastación social y económica del último año.

Al apoyar nuestro "Llamado Católico Anual," no solo estaremos dando una esperanza a nuestros jóvenes adultos, familias, personas de la tercera edad, y comunidades parroquiales, sino que también estaremos viviendo nuestra misión en el mundo. Les pido que en oración consideren apoyar este trabajo esplendido del Señor.

Sinceramente en Cristo,

+ Row W. M'Ely Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy

Obispo de los condados de San Diego y Valle Imperial

2022 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

By supporting our Annual Catholic Appeal you will be delivering hope to our youth, young adults, families and seniors, to our parish communities and living our mission in

the world. I ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this splendid work of the Lord.

and economic devastation of the past year.

+ Row W. M'Ely

Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy



2022 LLAMADO CATÓLICO ANUAL