

ST. JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER

24 February 2019

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Gospel-Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: “To you who hear I say, 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. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. 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.”

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Eucharistic Celebrations

Weekdays: 7:45 a.m., 12 noon & 6:00 p.m.

Anticipated Sunday Masses: Saturday 6:00 p.m.

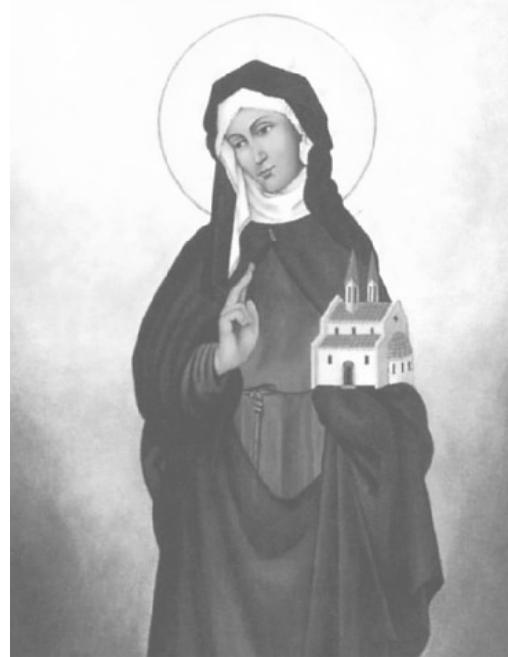
Sundays: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Tagalog Masses: 1, 2:30 & 4:00 p.m.

Sunday School Mass at St. Joseph's College, 7 Kennedy Road, Hong Kong 9 a.m.

Saturday, March 2: Saint Agnes of Bohemia

Agnes was born in 1200 in Prague. She was betrothed to Emperor Fredrick II of Germany, but she refused this marriage which angered Fredrick, but he said: “If she had left me for a mortal man, I would have taken vengeance with the sword, but I cannot take offense because she has chosen the King of Heaven.” Agnes became a Poor Clara nun.



Special Mass Schedule of Ash Wednesday (6 March 2019)

Mass will be held at 7.45am, 6pm and 9pm
on Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019.

Ashes will be given out during **6pm & 9pm.**

All faithful aged 14 are to abstain from meat,
and those aged between 18 and 60 are obliged to fast.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASS

Jesus affirms that only by being compassionate, forgiving, and loving can Christians break the shackles of violence and revenge that imprison the soul. His challenge may seem to be beyond our human capacity. But he reminds us that our model and strength is the heavenly Father who is compassionate not only to the just but to sinners as well. May the Spirit of mercy and compassion help us to live as sons and daughters of the Most High by following the teachings of our Lord Jesus. For the times we have not been merciful and forgiving we ask God for forgiveness... *I confess...*

HEADINGS FOR READINGS

1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23 - Given the chance to kill King Saul, David spares his life.

1 Corinthians 15: 45-49 - Through obedience, Jesus the new Adam, is the source of spiritual life for all.

Luke 6: 27-38 - Love your enemies and do not judge others.

SCRIPTURE NOTE

The story of David and Saul in today's First Reading functions almost like a parable. Showing mercy to his deadly foe, David gives a concrete example of what Jesus expects to become a way of life for His disciples.

The new law Jesus gives in today's Gospel would have us all become "Davids"—loving our enemies, doing good to those who would harm us, extending a line of credit to those who won't ever repay us.

The Old Law required only that the Israelites love their fellow countrymen. The new law Jesus brings makes us kin to every man and woman. His kingdom isn't one of tribe or nationality. It's a family. As followers of Jesus, we're to live as He lived among us — as children of the Most High".

As sons and daughters, we want to walk in the ways of our heavenly Father, to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." Grateful for His mercy, we're called to forgive others their trespasses because God has forgiven ours.

In the context of today's liturgy, we're all "Sauls"—by our sinfulness and pride we make ourselves enemies of God. But we've been spared a death we surely deserved to die because God has loved and shown mercy to His enemies, "the ungrateful and the wicked," as Jesus says.

Jesus showed us this love in His Passion, forgiving His enemies as they stripped Him of cloak and tunic, cursed Him and struck Him on the cheek, condemned Him to death on a cross. "He redeems your life from destruction," David reminds us in today's Psalm.

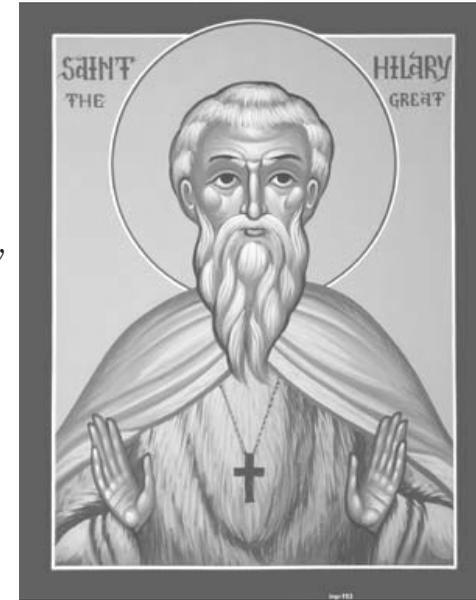
That's the promise, too, of today's Epistle: that we who believe in the "last Adam," Jesus, will rise from the dead in His image, as today we bear the image of the "first Adam," who by his sin made God an enemy and brought death into the world. (Scott Hann)

The
WORD
by name
is Jesus Christ

Calendars

Thursday, February 28: Saint Hilary, Pope

He was Pope from 461-468, and was a guardian of Church unity. Hilary was present at the Council of Ephesus in 449. He was used by Pope Leo the Great on many assignments. When Leo died, Hilary was elected Pope. He worked to strengthen the Church in France and Spain.



Friday, March 1: Saint David

He was ordained a priest and was involved in missionary work founding a number of monasteries. David was consecrated archbishop while on a visit to the Holy Land. He is revered as patron of Wales.