



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 8, Issue 29

February 16, 2020

Dates to Remember

- February 16: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30 AM
- February 22: Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
- February 23: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time — Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30 AM

Did You Know?

The Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle (February 22) commemorates the teaching authority of the Pope, the Vicar of Christ. St. Peter, chosen by Jesus as "the rock on which I will build my Church" (Matthew 16:18) was the first Vicar of Christ, and given supreme authority to be the spokesman and leader among the apostles. The Chair of St. Peter celebrates not a piece of furniture, but the role of St. Peter and all his successors to lead and guide the Universal Church. On this feast today, we recognize the teaching authority of Pope Francis, who acts, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to unite and continue to build the Church, calling us to be missionary disciples of Jesus.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 5: 20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.* But I say to you, whoever is angry with brother will be liable to judgment.

"You have heard that it was said, *You shall not commit adultery.* But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.* But I say to you, do not swear at all. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Build My Church

Jesus wants us to continue building his Church, this house with solid foundations but also with cracks and in constant need of repair. The Church always needs to be reformed, repaired. We certainly do not feel like rocks, but only like small stones. However, no small stone is useless. Indeed, in Jesus' hands the smallest stone becomes precious because he picks it up, gazes at it with great tenderness, fashions it with his Spirit and positions it in the right place that he had always had in mind and where it can be more useful to the whole structure. Each of us is a small stone, but in Jesus' hands we participate in the building of the Church because when Jesus takes his stone in hand, he makes it his own.

— Pope Francis

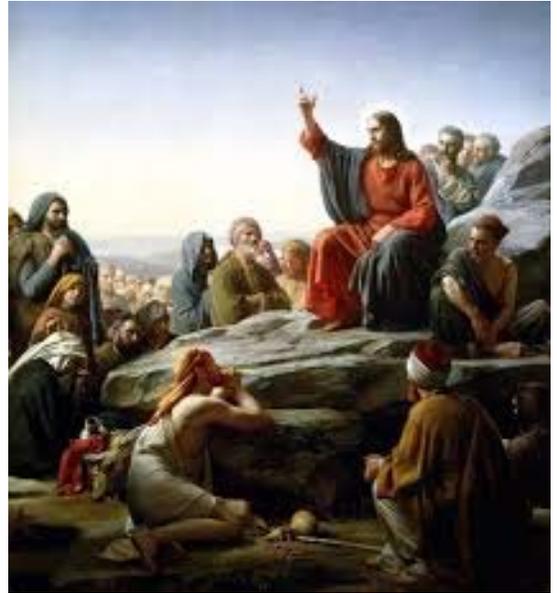
Sunday Gospel Connection: February 16, 2020

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Matthew 5: 20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37

Gospel Background: Matthew continues the Sermon on the Mount with a three part instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life in the kingdom of heaven. Today's reading is part one and deals with the Law. Part two deals with worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer. Part three deals with trusting God and deeds of loving service to our neighbor.

When Matthew speaks of "the Law and the prophets" he means the whole Scripture. When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled. Matthew's Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses, nor does he set his followers free from the Law. He requires his followers to go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.



The Law condemned murder. Jesus condemns anger. The Law condemned adultery. Jesus condemns even lustful looks. As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made. They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "the Law and the prophets." But God's work goes beyond that to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.

Family Connection: Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos. As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together. Think about rules for play time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on. Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of showing love and respect for one another. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law. Say: ***God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another.*** Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17-37. Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family. Conclude by praying for the grace to overcome anger and to show respect for one another as a family by following God's Law of love.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/sixthsundayinordinarytimeasundayconnection>

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