

BULLETIN 02-23-2025
7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Pastor's Message

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today's gospel summarizes something new for the religious leaders of Jesus' day. Their old law decreed "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." In other words, they were expected to strike back at those who harmed them in any way. On the other hand, the new law of Jesus presented to us can be seen as a revolutionary teaching: "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."

The main theme for this Sunday's readings is the power of Christian love and forgiveness. People can see the presence of God when we, as a community of faith, exercise our faith in unconditional forgiveness and compassion. The readings also teach us about our right and wrong choices. The right choices lead us to God, and the wrong ones break our relationship with Him and with one another. For Jesus, love is a fundamental attitude that seeks another's good. Jesus orders us to love our enemies and to be merciful as God our Father is merciful. Jesus also challenges us to do for others what God has done for us: "Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate."

What makes Christianity distinct from any other religion is to realize that God is working within us, enabling us to treat others, not as they deserve, but with love, kindness and mercy. Remember, God is good to the unjust as well as to the just. Therefore, our love for others, even those who are ungrateful and selfish towards us, must be marked by the same kindness and mercy which God has shown to us.

Hatred is destroying the world. Jesus came to give life to the world. To follow Him demands that we fight off hatred in the world, beginning with that anger that is within us. People can see the power in forgiveness and love. Just as we are impressed by the power of forgiveness shown by characters like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, we are called to be merciful to anyone. We pray today for the courage to put love over our anger and our hatred no matter how justified we might feel. Together with Jesus, we can transform the world.

May God bless us all!

— **Fr. Joe**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. There will be a membership drive conducted by the Knights of Columbus next weekend, March 01 and 02. Joining the Knights of Columbus offers the opportunity for you to grow in faith and strengthen our parish. We encourage men in our parish to join this organization.**
- 2. Please continue to support our parish DSA campaign this year. Our parish DSA assessment is \$25,012.00. Thank you!**
- 3. Ash Wednesday Mass schedule: 7:00am and 12:00 noon in English; 7:00pm in Spanish and 8:30pm in Vietnamese.**
- 4. The Knights of Columbus are selling tickets for the North Carolina State Raffle! Tickets are \$5.00 each. The top prize will be \$5,000.00. The drawing will be May 17th, 2025. Please see a Knight for tickets.**
- 5. If you need a financial statement regarding your contributions of 2024 to**

our church for tax purposes, please call the church office. We are glad to do it for you.

MASS INTENTIONS

02/22 Saturday 5:00 pm + Mario Staub
02/23 Sunday 7:00 am + Ralph May
9:30 am + Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Painter
12:00 pm + Elvira Flores Sanchez

02/24 Monday NO MASS
02/25 Tuesday 7:00 am + Ann Phero
02/26 Wednesday 7:00 am + Maria Then Vu
02/27 Thursday 7:00 am + Lonnie Angel
02/28 Friday 7:00 am (SI) Thanksgiving to God from the Luis' Family

NEXT WEEKEND

03/01 Saturday 9:00 am + All Souls
5:00 pm + George Lautz
03/02 Sunday 7:00 am + Rosa Smith
9:30 am + Masha Barfield
12:00 pm + Maria de Jesus
Fernandez

(+) Deceased (SI) Special Intention

ASH WEDNESDAY

MASS TIMES

7:00AM - *English*

12:00PM - *English*

7:00PM - *Spanish*

8:30 PM - *Vietnamese*

Fridays during Lent

Stations of the Cross 5:45pm

Followed by Fish Fry

planted in faith, destined to blossom in God's perfection

Fr. Bill Lesak, state Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus will be celebrating the English Masses on the weekend of March 1st and 2nd. All eligible men, 18 years of age and older, are encouraged to join the Knights to help support our priests, the pro-life cause, and our parish activities such as our Lenten Friday fish fries. Induction into full Knighthood with an exemplification ceremony will be held on Thursday, March 6th, at 6PM in the parish center for all men registering during the membership drive that weekend.

Let Us Pray For Our Parishioners...

Johnny Apodaca
Tracy Barber
Joseph Carter
Angel M. Cuellas
Marie Forbert
Theresa French-R.
Amanda Garcia
Mario Garcia
Willa Graham
Myles Harris
Maria Hdz.
Aber Johnson
Jorge Lagueruel
Deacon Larry Lisk
Daysi Martinez
Rosario Martinez
Michael Messengler
Linda McKinney
Felicia Murphy
Nancy Nkwokolo
Gladys Ozor
Rosemary Peterson
Hector SanchezMaria G.Sanchez A.
Gricelda Sanchez
Paula Rodriguez
Andrew Royster
Mariane Smithh
Venuste Tuyikunde

The Diocesan Support Appeal (DSA) provides annual funding to help carry out our mission: to "grow ever more perfectly into a community of praise, worship, and witness, and to become a leaven of service and sign of peace through love in the Piedmont and western North Carolina." The DSA provides funding for over 50 ministries and programs. . Every act of kindness, no matter how small, is a seed

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Regular Offertory: \$ 4,016.00

2nd Collection DSA: \$ 6,644.00

Mass Intension: \$ 20.00

Total: \$ 10,680.00

THANK YOU!

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Catholic HealthCare Ethics Conference: March 29
Marriage Encounter weekends: March 21-23, May 2-4

Retrouvaille—offers struggling marriages hope that it is not too late, that healing & joy can be restored. Next weekend April 25-27. helpourmarriage.org

Catholic Charities Elder Ministry

Spring Fling - Save the Dates—Mark your calendars for the 37th Annual Spring Fling. Join us on either Tuesday, May 6 at St. Matthew or Tuesday, May 27, at the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory.

DE PAUL ACADEMY - NC PRE-K PROGRAM ENROLLING NOW!!

* Applications for the 2025-2026 school year open January 13, 2025 for Guilford County children age 4 on or before August 31, 2025

* Program starts in September 2025

* Program is free to all who qualify

* We encourage families to apply in early Spring 2025!

* Apply online at GuilfordChildren.org

UPCOMING

March 1,2 Knights Membership Drive
March 5 ASH WEDNESDAY
March 7 **Stations of the Cross; Knights Fish Fry**
March 9 Daylight Savings time begins
March 22 **Rite of Election, St. Pius X**
March 25 ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
Mar 29 Health Care Ethics Conference,
Charlotte
April 13 HOLY WEEK BEGINS
April 20 EASTER SUNDAY
Apr 26-30 Spring Furniture Market
April 27 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

"The Light of Revelation" shines more brightly with each Sunday of Ordinary Time, exposing our need for conversion through the penitential Season of Lent. We prepare to accept the cross of blessed ashes on **Ash Wednesday** and ready ourselves for the major exercises of Lent—**fasting, prayer, almsgiving**—laying our thoughts and prayers on the heart of our Mother Mary. She, who offered her Son in the temple and on the Cross, will teach us how to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow after her Son.

PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR MARCH!

- Ramen Noodles - Canned Fruit
- Canned pork & Beans - Cookies
- Cereal - Boxes or bags (regular size, not large)

No glass containers,

No fresh food or outdated food, please.

As always, we are grateful for monetary donations.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!