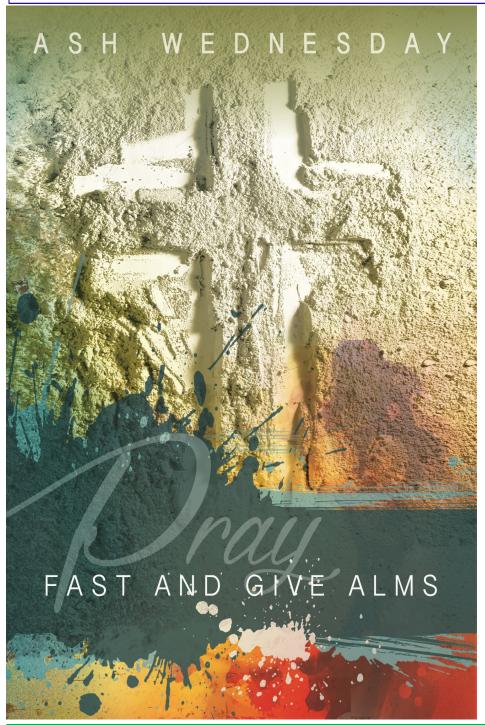


SERVED BY THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CONGREGATION—LIVING THE EUCHARIST IN LOVING SERVICE

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — FEBRUARY 19, 2023



Ash Wednesday Masses will be at 8:30 AM, 4:00 PM, and 8:00 PM. This is a day of penance, fasting from food and abstaining from meat. Each year, the readings for Ash Wednesday call us to a change of heart and teach us about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines do not ask us to 'give something up.' The 40 days of Lent is a time to take something on.

Catholic Ministry Appeal Prayer More numerous than the stars in the sky are your blessings, O Good and Gracious God. You have called us to spread the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ, through our words and actions.

Strengthen our faith and open our hearts to care for all of our brothers and sisters, especially those who need us the most.

Help us to understand the difference we can make, the love we can share and the lives we can bring to Christ through the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

We pray that your grace, O Lord, will lead us to be your loving heart and hands today. *Amen.* 

**MASS TIMES** Saturday Vigil Sat 4:00 pm. Sun: 7:30, 10:00, 11:30. (Vietnamese), 8:30. Daily Mass: 8:30 a.m.

Confession Thurs, 3:00-4:00 and 7:00-7:30 pm.

The church is open 7:30 am to 9:00 pm to visit the Lord for quiet prayer.

Morning Prayer: 8:05 a.m. Exposition: 9:00 a.m. with the rosary, Divine Mercy chaplet. Benediction: 11:55 a.m. Call the parish for any need, anointing of the sick or home visits for communion. Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Dates to Remember**

Our next Youth Group meeting will be Sunday, Feb.26th after class in Fr Farrell Hall. All are invited. Faith Formation will be burning Palms, This Sunday, Feb. 19th. In preparation for Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, Please bring your old palms from last year. Bins will be in the Social Hall and the Education Bldg. to collect them. Thank you.

FISH IN A BOX Place your order for Pickup on Ash Wednesday. Enjoy a fish dinner from Fr. Farrell Hall prepared by Chef Mark. Call the parish office to place your order. Price is \$8. Fish, fries, slaw. Let us know the time you will pickup between 5 and 7 PM



to take home. Begin these 40 days of prayer and fasting as we walk with Jesus along the road of our Salvation. Ash Wednesday and Fridays are days of abstaining meat or other enjoyments in keeping with the sacrifice Christ made to open the way to everlasting life.

### The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

Be sure to pick up a CRS Rice Bowl to take home. Lenten Alms Change Lives. During Lent we find the example in Jesus who did the Father's will and taught his disciples the power of prayer, the denial of fasting and the generosity of caring for others in their need. We need to do the same.

The meaning of tracing a cross on our foreheads with ashes is a summary of our death to sin and finding new life in Christ. The ashes remind us of



our origin and our death. In the words of the prayer said when we receive ashes: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return." We die to self so that Christ might live in us.





Parish Staff—Pastor, Fr. William Fickel, SSS; Parochial Vicar, Fr. Dominic Long, SSS Parish Administrator, Christine DeLieto; Stewardship, Laura Worhacz; Faith Formation Director, Charlene Vassalli; Choir Director, Tierra Carson Booth; Secretary, Anabella Batista; Maintenance, Rocky Hieu Nguyen; Chef/Hall Rental, Mark Brose

### PARISH GIVING FEBRUARY 6, 2023

Sunday Offering \$ 7,208.00 Candle Money \$ 323.00

Total (Thank You!) \$7,531.00

Visit www.svdpfl.com for online giving.

#### **Mass Attendance 833**

4:00 p.m.	226	\$1584.00
7:30 a.m.	108	\$ 867.00
8:30 a.m.	126	\$ 730.00
10:00 a.m.	237	\$1730.00
11:30 a.m.	136	\$132500
Mail In		\$ 530.00
Additional		\$ 115.00
Viet. Mass Jan 23/24		\$ 853.00
Catholic Ministry Appeal \$1428 00		

Catholic Ministry Appeal \$1428.00

Thank you for sharing your time with us.

God bless your sacrifices.

The Mass is live streamed on Sat. at 4:00 p.m.



MAKE YOUR PURCHASES WITH GIFT CARDS BY ORDER FORM OR SELECT GIFT CARDS ON-SITE & WE BENEFIT



VISA \$50 TARGET \$ 25

AMAZON \$25 WALMART \$25

LOWE'S \$25 PUBLIX \$25

**CRACKER BARREL \$10** 

NEXT ORDER: March 6, 2023



### Thank you for worshiping with us!

Sanctuary Candle Intention for the week, Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament

Sunday	February 19
7:30am	Geraldine Velez+ (Anita McMahon)
8:30AM	Marty & Mary McCutchenon+ (Jean Flyn)
10:00am	Eva Mary Nessler+ (Ed Nessler, brother)
11:30am	Ernesto Santaniello+ (wife and children)

Monday February 20

8:30am June Lettie+ (family) and

Terry Sangalang+ (Cecilia, wife & family)

Tuesday February 21

8:30am Ray & Margaret Flanders (friend) and

Thomas Luyster+ (Yvonne Schubiger)

Wednesday February 22

8:30am Denise LeBrun+ (Cindy Spanos) 4:00pm Robert Arch Ward+ (K.C. Drez)

8:00pm Dr. Leoncio Tena+ (Dr. Rudy & Rose Dy)

Thursday February 23

8:30am Antonio Cabral+ (family) and

Bob Hammond+ (Dick & Sue Combeta)

Friday February 24

8:30am David Alexander Munchinski+

David Joseph Munchinski+ (Raina Kousaleos)

Saturday February 25

8:30am Tony Grifka+ (Jean Grifka, wife) and

Tony Degatano+ (Diann Bimmerle)

4:00pm Holy Souls in Purgatory (Uranie Laplace)



#### Readings for the week of February 19, 2023

Sunday:Lv 19:1-2, 17-181 Cor 3:16-23/Mt 5:38-48

Monday: Sir 1:1-10/ Mk 9:14-29 Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/ /Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: JI 2:12-18//2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20//Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a//Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14//Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/)/Rom 5:12-19,Mt 4:1-11

# Finance Corner

# Where does the money go? A WORD OF APPRECIATION

Thank you for your support in paying these bills: Candles \$609.00, Pest Control \$248.78, Internet Church \$247.78, Votive Candles \$123.99, Hospitality \$73.64, Saturday Evening Musical \$300.00, Office Supplies \$49.99, Catholic Ministry Appeal \$1347.00, and Needy \$2200.00.

We are open seven days a week and serve many people in the area with our prayers and outreach. To those who are homebound, keep us informed of your needs. Thank you and God Bless you!



Preparation is underway for our Spring Arts and Crafts show on **Friday March 31 9:00-2:00 and 4:00-6:00 and Saturday April 1st 9:00-2:00.** 

We meet every Tuesday in the Education Building from 9:30—11:30. We will also be doing wreath decorations. **Come join the fun!** 

Calling all Men to come together for the *13th Annual* Tampa Bay Men's Conference.

Saturday Feb. 25,2023, 6:30 am to 3:00 pm.
This is a life changer brought to you by
Suncoast Catholic Ministries.

The theme of the conference is

Spiritual Warfare. "For though we live in the world, we are not carrying on a worldly war." 2 Corinthians 10:3. St. Paul knew that behind his visible opponents lurked powers that were invisible and demonic, but he was confident that he was aided and protected by an even greater divine power through the weapons of spiritual warfare - Prayer, Scripture, Sacraments, and Evangelization.

contact us <a href="mailto:info@suncoastcatholicministries.com">info@suncoastcatholicministries.com</a> or call us direct: Jim (813) 951-2134 | Jeff (813) 927-2484 | Dimitre (727) 403-8060 | Terry (813)240-0554 |

# **Gospel Reflection**

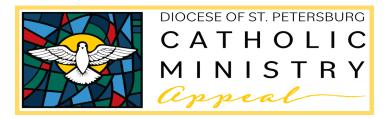
"I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and he good, and causes rain to fall on he just and the unjust ... Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Jesus sets for a new command, "...but I say to you." He challenges us with a new moral code of behavior. Jesus is teaching us that two wrongs don't make a right. It is clear that Jesus is trying to tell us that you cannot fight evil with evil. Evil is defeated by God's Goodness and Love. Today, Jesus is teaching us about the power of love.

You know, love is a very powerful thing that pacifies all evil thoughts in human beings. When I say all, I mean all. Jesus tells us that if you want to solve all problems with your neighbor use love. He means, speak with love, caution with love, rebuke with love, etc. It means if your neighbor has wronged you, don't let your anger overcome you, make sure you communicate your displeasure but leave the situation solved with no hatred or hard feelings between you both.

Next time there's a conflict, tell the person with the problem that you handed it over to God. He'll be the judge. Your right, that doesn't work for him or her. You have taken a path to put person face to face with the truth. You refuse to be an enemy for them. When you respond in kindness, you may find more anger and hatred begins to build up and can spiral out of proportion. At this point, your prayer helps you to use a more positive attitude with compassion to the suffering seen in the person.

Today strive to embrace love in all your actions, communications, judgements and thoughts because love conquers all evil. Let us not try to solve evil with evil because, as Jesus says, the whole world will be full of evil. Let us counter evil with good and as we all know good will always prevail over evil. Lord Jesus Christ, fill our hearts with Your love so that we can spread this love throughout the world to annihilate all evil. **Amen.** 



Please do not delay in making your pledge or gift to the Catholic Ministry Appeal. Soon we begin the time of Lent in preparation for the Paschal Mystery of Christ's victory over sin and death leading to the eternal life of Easter. Our thoughts are directed to the person of Jesus and the example of being his disciple. Great sacrifices are made by many people to live as Jesus calls us to live with compassion and humility.

Please take the time this week to help our parish respond with a high level of participation in the ministries of the diocese. Send the information needed to show you are counted. As you can see we have fewer people coming to church, but you make up the difference when we hear from you.

Each week I what you to understand the good works taking place throughout the diocese. One are supported by Catholic Ministries is that of our Deacons. How often do you get the chance to know a man who stepped forward accepting to be ordained to this ministry of service in the Church?In simple terms, a Permanent Deacon is a man who is called to a ministry of service to God's people. Like priests, and bishops, he is ordained into the Sacrament of Holy Orders and is a member of the clergy. Also, he is "one among us," a man who has been called forth to live the Christian life visibly in the community. The Deacon's service is threefold; Word, Liturgy, and Charity.

In the Diocese of St. Petersburg there are over 100 Deacons serving by assignment in 61 parishes. Aside from assisting at Mass they also celebrate baptisms, marriages, wakes or burials and adoration and benediction. Deacons minister within the parish, commonly in Christian Initiation, marriage preparation, annulments, homebound ministry and in areas of liturgy planning that may include altar servers, lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

You can be certain that 100% of your gift of the Catholic Ministry Appeal will go directly to ministry, programs, and outreach affecting people, communities, parishes, and schools. This includes pastoral outreach and service, formation, worship, discipleship and vocations. Consider becoming a Deacon.



# Lent begins soon. Please join with others to Notice God in Our Everyday Lives.

Lent begins next week. It is time to decide how to make this the best Lent you can by taking on a practice that will make a difference in you daily life. What will you do?

Well thanks for asking. Here is a suggestion to consider. Join a weekly book sharing group to keep you on track with others. The book we will be reading this Lent/Easter season is entitled, "And That Got Me to Thinking..." with the subtitle, "Noticing God in Our Everyday Lives." The author is Ellen Shadle and she is excited to guide us along the way.

What to do is drop and index card with you name and phone# or email, the day of the week and the approximate hour of the day you are available. We will try to gather the group and give you a location. If you already have a small group, just send us the names and info contact along with time, day and place. The cost of the book is a contribution of \$10.

Any questions call the parish office, we are happy to work with you in getting our parish Lenten practice of noticing God in our daily life.

This is a book of personal ordinary experiences that invite time for reflection, a prayer and activity. The chapters are just 1 to 3 pages. Each week your group will meet on a day and time of your choice. Reading a story a day will give you seven lessons to share. Each person is asked to speak about the story highest or lowest on their list. Take time to learn from one another without comment. After all have shared take a look at the activities and decide on a Lenten practice for the coming week. These will change week by week from Noticing God in Our

## Everyday Lives.

Please take a moment and let us know you will join us in this adventure to simply notice God in new ways that will bring a lasting impact.



In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us by saying: "You must be perfected as your heavenly Father is perfect."

This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to assist 322 families,

providing 16484 pounds of food, \$3477.70 for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank You!

God's love is witnessed by the charity given through our care for others in need. Every gift is given to express the love God has shown to us in Jesus his Son. Jesus was incarnated of the virgin Mary and born in a manger. He came as food to nourish a hungry human family of his brothers and sisters. All of us.

Thank you for your support, the SVdP Society is made possible by your participation in serving this ministry.

It is amazing to see what takes place at the St. Vincent de Paul Church Spring Rummage Sale. This past week and on Friday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, Feb. 18th the hours of



volunteers service in setting up, selling, and clearing



out. Thank you to everyone who came out to drop off and found a treasure to take home. Your assistance makes these events both possible and successful.

# SUMMIT: Adoration, Confession, Mass for Tampa Bay Young Adults

**SUMMIT** is a monthly gathering of those in their 20's and 30's to worship and let their hearts be transformed by our Lord! **SUMMIT** is held on the second Thursday of the month at Our Lady of Divine Providence, 711 S. Bayview Ave., Clearwater, and begins at 7:00 PM with an hour of Adoration (Confession available) followed by a Mass at 8:00 PM. Our next gatherings are: March 9th; April 13th, May 11th. June 8th and July 13th. Promotional graphic at



Carry the Word of God in your heart this week. "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy." Lev. 19:2. "... you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you." 1 Cor. 3:16.

"My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors." Matt. 5:42.

With love of enemies, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God's kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil.

In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that love of God and love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God's love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word telos, which is probably better translated here as "complete." We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges his listeners and us to evaluate constantly the messages we receive from our society and culture. He tells us that being his disciple requires us not to settle for what everyone else does, but to go beyond what society expects of us and do what God expects of us.

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Friday Nite**

**Dinners** Come see us on Friday to enjoy an "ALL YOU CAN EAT" dinner for \$12.95. Spread the word and help us to put a flyer in your

club house. Richard will give you one when you come to dinner. Join the Knights of Columbus. We thank all the Knights for showing up for our monthly meeting on the **Third Monday** of each month.



We are here to open and share with you during a Year of Eucharistic Revitalization. You will enjoy and are welcome to join our First Friday Book Study, beginning March 3, 2023. Join us in prayer and an option of dinner followed by an hour and half Book

#### Study, held every First Friday.

The book title; A Eucharistic Spirituality, Inspired by Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Apostle of the Eucharist. The Congregations of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament, take a walk with Fr. Paul Bernier, S.S.S. and Jim Brown, chapter by chapter to deepen your love for the Eucharist. Read a chapter a month, offered by the Associates of the Blessed Sacrament. **Sign Up** on the website or contact Gloria Jung, Margaret Flanders, or Marge Harris, info@aggregationblessedsacrament.org Website: www.aggregationblessedsacrament.org Evening Prayer 4:40 pm. ~Benediction ends at 5 pm, Dinner Option ~ from 5 pm to 6 pm, Book Study Time ~ from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, SIGN UP NOW-Limited Books for sale in the parish office or order a book on line.



Bishop Gregory Parkes added a new weekly video program to his prolific social media presence. The program is titled, *Take Five, Conversations on Faith and Life*. It's a talk show format to feature interesting guests from Florida and around the country. The segments are designed to easily fit into people's busy schedules. Video segments can be seen on the diocesan YouTube Channel (@DioStPete) or visit www.dosp.org/bishop.