



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

February 12, 2023 ▪ The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Why Jesus thinks you're useful and necessary for this world



By Fr. Peter John Cameron, OP

"Start being brave about everything. Don't look at your weakness, but realize that in Christ crucified you can do everything."

When someone you love recognizes a potential in you and names it, everything changes. A new horizon opens up. Possibilities you never imagined. That is what happens when Jesus proclaims to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth" (Mt 5:13).

Ancient spiritual authors were fascinated with this verse. The great medieval Bible commentator, Fr. Nicholas of Gorran, O.P. (+1295) wrote:

For what is salt? It sterilizes soil, seasons food, cures meat, prevents putrefaction. It is made from fire and water. It is offered in every sacrifice. Similarly, the example of a holy life tempers worldly desires, rendering them unfruitful. It adds spice to holy longings, it cures the flesh by mortification, it keeps our desires from rotting. Holiness comes from tears of devotion and fire of love heated in the furnace of repentance. It is offered when it guides and moderates every work.

The 14th-century Carthusian Ludolph of Saxony observes that salt can lose its savor "on account of fear of persecution or adversity, or love of pleasures and wealth, or pride and vainglory, or the desires of the flesh, or neglect of responsibilities, or erroneous doctrines imparted by word or example."

An intriguing question is posed by Jesuit Scripture scholar Fr. Cornelius a Lapide (+1637): "Why does Christ call his Apostles the salt of the earth rather than the gold, or silver, or precious stones of the earth?" His answer: because salt is a thing universally useful and necessary. That is what Jesus Christ is saying about *you*.

Through the image of salt, Jesus wishes to pass on to his disciples "the meaning of their mission and their witness. Wisdom sums up in itself the beneficial effects of salt and light: in fact, disciples of the Lord are called to give a new 'taste' to the world and to keep it from corruption with the wisdom of God. Christians can diffuse the true wisdom that gives meaning to human life and action" (Pope Benedict XVI).

For "Christians," writes Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis, "are to raise the level of flavor of every human activity and thus transform it. A thing is wisest when it is most fully itself, when it tastes most like itself, in keeping with its nature. It is 'foolish' when it forgets to be what it is."

A priest I live with was talking at breakfast about parishioners he has known who went out of their way to make their profession their ministry. One was the owner of a shoe store who, upon spying a customer eye-



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

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Deacon Lionel Roberts,
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Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM
Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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... Continued from cover

ing a certain pair of shoes—but passing on them because of the price—would nonchalantly mention to the shopper that *that* particular pair of shoes had just “gone on sale.” Another was a florist who secretly supplied flowers to a funeral home for any family who could not afford flowers for a funeral. Even the man’s own daughter was unaware of this life-long mission of her father until she learned about it at her father’s own funeral. These people are the salt of the earth.

St. Catherine of Siena gives us this encouragement:

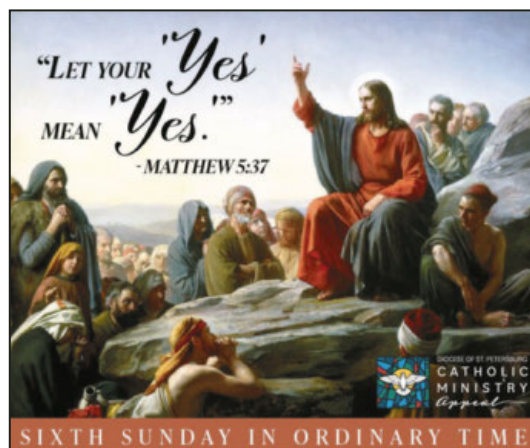
With tremendous desire my soul longs for you to be so seasoned with the salt of true knowledge and wisdom that you may zealously drive sin and demons from people’s darkened souls. [You can do this] by conscientiously uniting yourself ever more closely with the true light and wisdom, fire and warmth, of divine charity, revealed to us in God’s union with humanity. Start being brave about everything. Don’t look at your weakness, but realize that in Christ crucified you can do everything. Reprinted with permission from Aletea.org

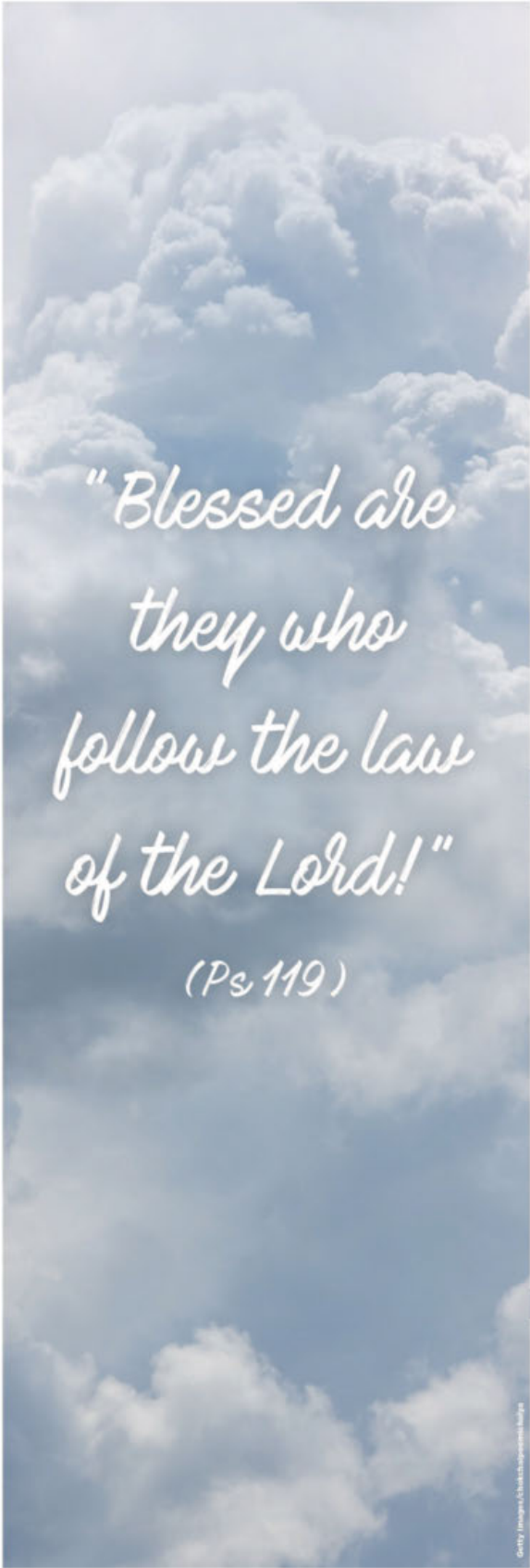
Catholic Ministry Appeal

God doesn’t un-say anything. Today, Christ asserts that for those hoping for a ‘free pass,’ “Not... the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law” *Matthew 5:18*. The law is God’s unchangeable word, and all will be judged according to His law. Yet, inasmuch as God will not recant his law, neither will he recant his mercy. Technically speaking, our hope should abound because, according to Saint Thomas Aquinas, “It is more proper for God to spare and to show mercy than to punish. For the former belongs to him by reason of his nature, the latter only by reason of our sins” (*Summa Theologica II, II, 21, 2*).

Yet some people don’t know his law. While God’s mercy may account for this, they will still suffer judgment under the law. Jesus gave our parish the task of sharing the good news that he came to save us from the law. Our Catholic parish is the most direct local route for our community to reach Him and our Catholic Ministry Appeal seeks to help more people get access to Him.

Please support our Catholic Ministry Appeal today. We need your generosity, prayers, and advocacy. Let’s bring souls from our community to his merciful feet!





*"Blessed are
they who
follow the law
of the Lord!"*
(Ps 119)

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20 | 1 Cor 2:6-10 | Mt 5:17-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Just the other day some of my friends agreed on a new way to approach the new year: Select one word, a kind of mantra for 2023. Ironically, even though I am indecisive to a fault, I had no trouble deciding on mine: "Choose." I often get stuck, whether it's deciding which online clothing purchases to return, what to order on the menu ... and don't get me started on major life decisions. Today's reading from Sirach reminds us of the choice that matters most: If we *choose* to keep the commandments, they will save us. "Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him." We are well into 2023, but it bears reminding that each day we have an opportunity to choose anew: To follow God's law, fulfilled in the words and example of Jesus. He will show us the way. "If you trust in God, you too shall live."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We've probably all heard the term "quiet quitting" by now. It's a workplace phenomenon where employees do the bare minimum rather than going above and beyond. I thought of that phrase when reading Matthew's Gospel today. How many of us Christians have "quietly quit," doing the minimum required – going to Mass on Sunday, being faithful to our spouse, not resorting to violence when we get angry with someone. Jesus challenges us to go above and beyond the Ten Commandments. You shall not kill, but you should not stay angry either. You shall not commit adultery, but you shall also love your spouse with your whole heart. Today's readings challenge us to rediscover God's law and challenge ourselves to go "above and beyond" in our daily lives.

PRAY Pray today's psalm (119): "Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!" How might you specifically follow the law of the Lord just a little bit better, or above and beyond, today? Each day?



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 11, Vigil for Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. James Lawler (Dec) and Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, February 12, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Edward and Marge Anglovich (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (Dec)

Monday, February 13, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Ann Deakins (Dec)

Tuesday, February 14, Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop

8:00 a.m. Thanksgiving from the Beddoe Family

Wednesday, February 15, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, February 16, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Joshua Dottino (Dec)

Friday, February 17, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Dottino Family

Saturday, February 18, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Dennis Dutilly (Dec)

Saturday, February 18, Vigil for Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Lorraine Arie & Rita Hamilton (Dec)

Sunday, February 19, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Dennis Dutilly (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Vytas & Angela Regalis (Dec)

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

02/12 • Rev. Craig Morley

02/13 • Rev. Leonard Piotrowski

02/14 • Rev. Timothy Sherwood

02/15 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

02/16 • Rev. Arthur J. Proulx

02/17 • Rev. Bill D. Wilson

02/18 • For All Seminarians

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.





Regulations on Fasting and Abstinence

Fasting and abstinence have a long history in the Church. The custom of self-denial is meant to simplify one's lifestyle so that freed from all distractions, we may hear and respond to God's continued call to conversion and holiness.

- ♦ Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 to 59 years (inclusive). On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but together should not equal another full meal. Liquids are allowed.
- ♦ Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age or older. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence.
- ♦ Pastoral Note: Persons unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, may practice other forms of self-denial that are suitable to their condition.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Don't Live a Lie

One day, my son was explaining to his mother that he felt she had lied to him. It was nothing very important, but he wanted to take this opportunity to share how important telling the truth is to him. He explained that he simply tells it like it is in all aspects of his life. But an hour later, we caught him in a lie! Again, it was not about a matter of life and death, but it was a lie. When confronted with his own previous words on how important the telling the truth was to him, he just smiled. Yes, the guilty often have no words of defense.

Jesus said it best in Matthew 5: "Let your 'yes' mean 'yes' and your 'no' mean 'no.'" He was warning his disciples about false oaths and then instructing them on the fullness of the Hebrew laws. We may try to do what we say and say what we mean, but it can be all too easy to fall short. We call ourselves disciples yet provide evidence to the contrary by our actions (or lack of them).

Even if we feel that we have lied to no one, we may have lied to ourselves. We portray ourselves as generous, thankful, and loving people, yet fail to answer God's call in a situation because we perceive the cost to be too great. Jesus did not simply mean for his message to be about two words. He also meant that when you say you are a disciple, make sure you are a disciple as well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

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Record Update Help!

We need your help to update our parish records. Many folks have disconnected their landlines or changed their cell phone number. If you have moved or changed your phone number, please fill out and return an information card as soon as possible. The cards can be found in the entryway of the church and returned to the parish office or dropped in the collection basket.



Remembering the Good Times

Sock Hop / Sadie Hawkins Dance

Knights of Columbus Council 15862 invites all cool cats to a:

50's to 80's Sock Hop / Sadie Hawkins Dance

February 18th Parish Hall

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Tickets \$15 a piece

Tickets are available for purchase from your friendly, neighborhood Knight of Columbus, or by visiting the gift shop or parish office.

Light Refreashments included



The proceeds of the 50/50 lottery will be donated to Mary's Outreach for Women, a pro-life help center for pregnant women who choose life



FEBRUARY 14

SAINTS
CYRIL AND
METHODIUS

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Men: Seize this opportunity and bring others with you!

As you enter a new year, take the opportunity to learn from others and grow in virtue. Stand with other men in the battle to reclaim our families and culture for the glory of God!

"For though we live in the world, we are not carrying on a worldly war."

2 Corinthians 10:3

Are You Ready?



13th Annual Tampa Bay Men's Conference

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Higgins Hall at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Tampa

\$60 per person with a special 2 for 1 Father/Son combo ticket
Tickets include lunch and free parking!

For tickets or more information visit: suncoastcatholicministries.com



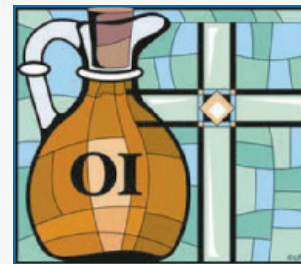
Bishop
David L. Toups



Father Dwight
Longenecker

Arnold, Barbara
Barr, Bill
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Christ, Kathryn
Comeau, Teresa
Congui, Mario
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
Feldes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt & Carole
Irvin, John and Marsha
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew

LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Parmigiani, George
Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Privitera, Sandy
Roberts, Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Shelby, Ron & Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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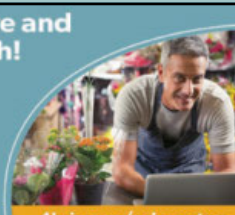
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