



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME— FEBRUARY 19TH, 2023

“I say to you, love your enemies”



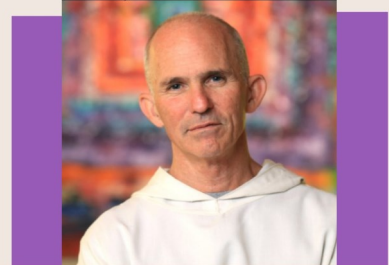
The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks his followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. 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.

Loyola Press

*Lenten Talk: Preparing for Easter
Sat. March 4th,
5:30pm in the Church.*



By Fr. Cyprian Consiglio O.S.B Cam.

Fr. Cyprian is a Benedictine/Camaldolese monk. He is the author of three books. The latest of which is *The God Who Gave You Birth* and a large discography, including *Awakening, Compassionate and Wise, and In the Heart of the Desert*

Fr. Cyprian will preside at 4:30pm Vigil Mass
The Lenten Talk won't last more than an hour



EVENT CALENDAR

LENTEN SEASON 2023

Wed. Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday

12:00 pm Mass w/ ashes

6:30 pm Bilingual Mass w/ ashes

Confessions Fridays During

Lent: 4:30 – 5:15pm

Bilingual Stations of the Cross Fridays during Lent

5:30pm.

VII DOMINGO ORDINARIO– FEBRERO 19, 2023

“Yo les digo: Amen a sus enemigos”

Las dos últimas antítesis ofrecidas en el Sermón de la Montaña tienen que ver con el amor a los enemigos. No debemos pagar el “ojo por ojo” como un castigo excesivamente estricto. En realidad, está destinado a limitar los actos de venganza asegurándose de que el castigo no sea excesivo sino que se ajuste al crimen. Sin embargo, Jesús les pide a sus seguidores que adopten un enfoque diferente al resistir las represalias por completo. La respuesta a una persona más fuerte que nos da una bofetada en la mejilla, nos lleva a juicio o nos exige un servicio es no resistir. De manera similar, para una persona más débil, como un mendigo o un prestatario, debemos darle lo que pide. Aquellos que son llamados al Reino de los Cielos deben ir más allá de la forma en que el mundo suele funcionar y servir al reino de Dios aquí en la tierra.

La otra exigencia difícil de los que son llamados al reino es amar al enemigo. No hay mandamiento en el Antiguo Testamento para odiar a las personas de manera personal o vengativa. Pero hay una postura religiosa que llama a odiar el mal ya distanciarse de los que participan del mal. En contraste, Mateo enfatiza que el amor a Dios y el amor al prójimo son los mandamientos fundamentales de los que depende todo lo demás. Debido a que el amor de Dios es incondicional, debemos esforzarnos por amar como Dios lo hace, aunque, por supuesto, es un desafío. ¿Es posible?

THE LENTEN SEASON

The Lenten season is a time of preparation for the liturgical celebration of the suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. Many Catholics spend that time on the three practices of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is also a time to participate in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The season of Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday until the evening of Holy Thursday. If Sundays are excluded from the count, the season lasts forty days. The forty-day length of Lent is rooted in the biblical usage of the number forty.



Forty is typically indicative of a time of testing, trial, penance, purification, and renewal. In the New Testament, forty days is the length of Jesus’ time of trial in the desert in preparation for his public ministry, proclaiming the Gospel.

1. It’s a time of prayer. Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him. **2. It’s a time to fast.** With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that’s why it gets all the attention. “What are you giving up for Lent? Hot dogs? Beer? Jelly beans?” It’s almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ. **3. It’s a time to work on discipline.** The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. “I’m going to exercise more. I’m going to pray more. I’m going to be nicer to my family, friends, and coworkers.” **4. Reach out in charity.** As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering, or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It’s about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it’s about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God’s unconditional love.

USA Catholic Bishops

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year we again have purchased a Lenten companion book from Bishop Robert Barron's "Word on Fire Institute". It includes poems, songs and reflections to aid us as we begin the spiritual forty-day journey from death into the light of the risen Christ. We are asking for a \$10 donation to offset the cost. The books are available in the rear of the church.

Next Saturday, March 4th we will welcome Fr. Cyprian Consiglio. He is a gifted speaker and writer and will be presiding at the 4:30 Vigil Mass after which he will give a presentation at 5:30pm about our spiritual preparation for Easter.

SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass

Wednesday — Friday, 12 noon

Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil at 4:30 PM

Sunday at 9:00 and 11:15 AM in English, 5:00 PM in Spanish

Reconciliation

Saturday at 3:30 PM and by appointment

Office Hours

Wednesday — Friday:

10 AM - 12 PM; 2 - 4 PM

The church is open Wednesday — Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM for personal prayer.

“At the heart of silence is prayer. At the heart of prayer is faith. At the heart of faith is life. At the heart of life is service.” St. Teresa of Avila

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions February 18th – 24th 2023

Sat. Feb. 18th Vigil: 4:30pm: + **Jill Taylor**

Sun. Feb. 19th 9:00 : + **Ernie Cornehl**

11:15: + **Al & Ruth Compton**

Ray & Pat Lucido

Blessing on 60th Wedding Anniversary

5:00: + **Adam & Consuelo Solano**

Wed. Feb. 22nd : (ASH WEDNESDAY)

12:00: Mass w/ Ashes

6:00pm: Bilingual Mass w/ Ashes

Thurs. Feb. 23rd 12:00: + **Joseph & Ethel Costello**

Fri. Feb. 24th 12:00: + **Ramon & Audrey Oriol**

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 17-18 2023

General Fund and EFT: **\$2,167.80**

Thank you for your generosity to our Parish Community

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Jhonnatan Flórez Carmona

Parish Priest

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Gail Quinnan

Assistant to the Pastor (Volunteer)

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Richard Carr

Music Ministry

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Angelica Lozano

Custodian

PARISH VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

Pastoral Council

- Dede Woodhead (chair), Alondra Klemek (vice chair), Jeff Hawkins (secretary), Tess Arthur, J Concepción Jara, Tom Rowland, Trini Resendiz

Finance Council

- Alex Gray (chair), Jim Rice (secretary), A.B. Introcaso, Jack McAleer, Ed Quinnan

Faith Formation

- **First Communion:** Jennifer Bodner (1st year), Marilyn Morgadinho (2nd year)
- **Confirmation:** Tess Arthur (1st year), Alondra Klemek and Brisa Cabrera (2nd year)
- **RCIA / Adult Faith Formation:** John Condon

Bereavement Ministry:

Trudy Dowd

Manna Ministry:

Janice Hawkins

Human Trafficking

Brendan Cook

Parish Hall & Kitchen Rental: A.B. Introcaso

Social Media:

Lorraine Yglesias

Website:

John Finn

Lectors:

Dede Woodhead

Ministers of the Eucharist:

Lorraine Ring

Coffee Hospitality Ministry:

Rosemary Ellis

Sacristans:

Richard Ring

Ushers:

Mary O'Neil and

Marcia Tybroski



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