THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 23, 2020

“Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.”

(Matthew 5: 42)
Jesus said to his disciples:
“You have heard that it was said,
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.
But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.
When someone strikes you on your right cheek,
turn the other one as well.
If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic,
hand over your cloak as well.
Should anyone press you into service for one mile,
go for two miles.
Give to the one who asks of you,
and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.
“You have heard that it was said,
You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But 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 the good,
and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.
For if you love those who love you, what recompense
will you have?
Do not the tax collectors do the same?
And if you greet your brothers only,
what is unusual about that?
Do not the pagans do the same?
So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

PRAY FOR THE SICK
Beverly Cawley, Kathy Nebel, Sylvia Ho, Conception Huezo, Ray & Alice Conner, Connie Trias, Claire Luna-Fernandez, Mario & Emma Dolor, Bertha Baldauf, Amy Kueck, Jovita Domingo, Carol Wagner, Julian Martinez, Virginia Cabaddu, Nena Davi, Danny Muly, Michelle McLaughlin and all those in the Parish who are sick, and all those listed in the Book of Intention.
If you would like a name added to the prayer list, please call the rectory 458-4718.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE
Sunday Plate February 16: $5,372.00
Maintenance Fund: $2,202.00
Thank you for your contribution support to sustain the ministries & ongoing needs of our parish.

Please make all checks payable to either “OLQW” or Our Lady Queen of the World for both first and second collections. Also please put your envelope number on the Memo line.
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.

Gospel Reflections

Ash Wednesday Gospel Reflection

Gospel Reading:
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
Jesus teaches that almsgiving, prayer, and fasting should be done in secret.

Today we celebrate Ash Wednesday, the first day of the liturgical season of Lent. In this season, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the high point of our Christian life, Easter. Each year, the readings for Ash Wednesday are the same. They call us to a change of heart and teach us about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines are to be part of the Christian life during every season, but during the season of Lent, we renew our commitment to them.

The meaning behind tracing a cross on our foreheads with ashes (the liturgical sign of Ash Wednesday) is a summary of our Christian life. On one level, 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 shall return.”) The ashes are also the sign of our victory: the cross of Christ. In his death and resurrection, Christ conquered death. Our destiny as Christians is to receive the victory over death that Christ won for us. We acknowledge that victory when we “[t]urn away from sin and [are] faithful to the gospel,” words from the alternative prayer when we are signed with ashes.

Today’s reading is part of the Sermon on the Mount. In the sermon, Jesus warns his followers against acting for the sake of appearance. When Jesus’ disciples give alms, pray, and fast, they are to do so in such a way that only God, who sees the heart and knows what is hidden, will know. Although our Lectionary reading omits the Lord’s Prayer, we can recall that Matthew presents that prayer as a model for the disciples’ prayer (Matthew 6:9-15).

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

February 26th is Ash Wednesday which starts our Lenten season. There will be services at 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 7:30 pm in English. There will also be a 7:00pm Spanish mass in Father Palis Hall.
**PARISH EVENTS**

**BIBLE CLASS**
Father Peter will be offering a Bible class for all adults interested in refreshing your knowledge of Scripture. Classes will be on Third Tuesday night from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The next Class will be on February 18th, 2020. For more information, contact Rene Asuncion or the Parish office.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Our Lenten tradition of praying The Stations of the Cross will continue every Friday during Lent at 7:00 pm in the Church. All are invited to come and enter into the Passion of our Lord.

**HISPANIC COMMUNITY**

Tenemos estudio de la Biblia cada tercer jueves del mes. La próxima clase es el jueves, febrero 20, de las 7 a las 8:30 pm, en el portable #2.
El Sabado, Marzo 21, el Padre Luis Lopez nos dara una clase para Lectores y Ministros Extraordinarios de la Comunion aqui en la iglesia, de las 9 de la mañana a las 12 pm. Toda la comunidad estamos invitados, no tienen que ser lectores o ministros para recibir esta informacion.
Tambien se les invita a una Charla de Cuaresma con el Padre Luis Lopez, el Miércoles, Marzo 25, de las 7 a las 9 de la noche.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**BIBLE CLASS**
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**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

**FOOD DRIVE**
We will maintain a donation barrel for non-perishable foods in the church foyer; please be generous. Our groups of volunteers are here every Monday, and they always need groceries to help the needy in our community. The demand has been much greater!

**LEGION OF MARY**

The Legion of Mary meets to say the Rosary for the souls on the first Saturday of each month at Holy Cross Cemetery in Antioch, followed by Mass. We welcome all who would like to join us.

**WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE**

**Monday, February 24**
7:00 pm Religious Education

**Tuesday, February 25**
7:00 pm K of C Meeting

**Wednesday, February 26**
9:15 am CH: Legion of Mary

**Thursday, February 27**
7:00 pm P#2: Divine Mercy

**Friday, February 28**
7:00 pm P#1: Hispanic Choir
8:00 pm Hospitality Movie Night

**Saturday, February 29**
9:00 am Religious Education
3:30 pm Confession

**Sunday, March 1**
1:00 pm Hall: VN School
2:00 pm P#2: Vietnamese Choir

Contribution statements are now available.

On your contribution envelopes, please indicate that you need a statement or come by the rectory to pick up a copy.
2019 MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Marriage Preparation is an intense time for engaged couples. Our programs include periods of deep couple conversations, reflection and prayer. Presenters share their faith and marriages, addressing important real-life topics from a Catholic perspective.

Register online for Marriage Preparation Programs at www.EastBayCatholic.com or call Laura Windham at 510-267-8395.

2020 BISHOP’S APPEAL

The 2020 Bishop’s Appeal has begun. Bishop Michael C. Barber, S.J. decided to continue with the theme, Rebuild My Church, a phrase inspired by St. Francis of Assisi. By sharing our talent and treasure with our sisters and brothers, we are making a sacrifice and returning to God a small portion of the many gifts he has given to us.

By embracing Rebuild My Church, you are contributing greatly to building up the Kingdom of God here in the East Bay. We are asked to pray for our fellow parishioners, clergy, leadership, and those served by the ministries offered by the Church, and for the success of the 2020 Bishop’s Appeal. All gifts to the Appeal are equally important. As stewards of our faith we are asked to make a sacrificial, proportionate and thoughtful gift. Those who are blessed with more are challenged to give more, but everyone is asked to respond.

Imagine what can be done in the name of our local faith community if every parishioner were inspired by Rebuild My Church and participated in our annual Bishop’s Appeal. While parishes rely on the financial support of parishioners through weekly offertory collections, the diocese also relies on these same parishioners to make possible the many services it provides to literally thousands of individuals each year.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD
February 28 – 29, 2020

All members of the Faithful are invited to this 24-Hour opportunity to spend time with our Lord in Adoration and Confession throughout the Diocese of Oakland.

Please visit one of these participating parishes near you:

St. Bonaventure, Concord
Friday 9:00 am – 9:00 am Saturday

St. Joan of Arc, San Ramon
5:00 pm Friday – 5:00 pm Saturday

St. Elizabeth, Oakland
Friday 5:00 pm – 5:00 pm Saturday

St. Mark, Richmond
12:00 noon Friday – 12:00 noon Saturday

Holy Spirit, Fremont
Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
(break for Stations of the Cross and Mass)
Saturday 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Most Holy Rosary, Antioch
5:00 pm Friday – 5:00 pm Saturday

Please join Bishop Michael J. Barber, SJ for our bilingual (English/Spanish) CLOSING MASS at Most Holy Rosary Parish
February 29, 2020, 5:30 PM
1313 A Street, Antioch, CA 94509

oakdiocese.org
13th Annual Parish St. Patrick’s Dinner
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

**Saturday March 14th**
Doors open at 6pm Dinner 7pm
Our Lady Queen of the World Parish Hall
3155 Winterbrook Dr. Bay Point, CA 94565

**The Menu Includes**
Corned Beef or Chicken, Potatoes, Cabbage
Beer, Wine and soft drinks will be available
Raffles Prizes and a Cake Auction

**Tickets for sale through March 8th**
No tickets sold at the door
Adults $12.50 Youth 10 and under $6.00

Everyone’s Irish
On March 17th.

Tickets sold after all masses
Starting Feb 22th 2019
Spring Festival Queen
(Our Lady Queen of the World Solar Project)
Spring Queen Festival Candidates

Happy New Year! 2020 Is here! Our four beautiful ladies has been working hard the last few months of 2019 selling their respective raffle tickets. Below is a chart that shows the status of each candidate as of the first counting and the chart on where we are in meeting our goal for our "Solar Project".

Help your favorite candidates win by purchasing the raffle tickets, Souvenir ads or coronation ball dinner tickets. Souvenir ad forms are available from each candidate and on the table by the door of the church. The second counting will be held on March 5, 2020 and the 2nd Early Bird Drawing will be drawn on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Make sure to get your raffle tickets from your favorite candidates. All proceeds will benefit the "Solar Project".

SOLAR SYSTEM
The Maintenance Fund 2nd collection will be for the Solar System. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Thank you.