

FEBRUARY 19, 2023  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY  
 IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré**

Living the faith is acting with love and mercy.

Today's reading from the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew can be very challenging for us. The first part of this passage speaks of the familiar, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. This is often misinterpreted to mean that if someone hurts you, you should hurt them back. The actual point of this passage is about justice, not revenge. God is a just God, which explains why, at times in the Old Testament, when it sounds like God is being mean to people, in actuality, he is keeping his word – fulfilling his promise. If God told the Israelites what they should do and what the consequence would be if they did not do it, he would provide the anticipated punishment out of justice if they did not follow his command.

In the “Love your Enemies” verses, we are given one of the most difficult tasks – to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Jesus tells us in today's passage that the greatest response to any situation is love. It is a direct imitation of the way God treats us – his children – in his great mercy. When we come to realize that our worthiness is not the cause of God's loving us – that his love and mercy are pure gift – our response should be one of gratitude, which brings about a transformation in our relationships with others. Quite simply, it may feel counter-intuitive to be kind to those who are unkind to us, but that is what we are called to do. Living out the Gospel in a radical way is essential to spreading the Good News. Of course, praying for others and treating them lovingly does not mean we have to endure disrespect or abuse from others.

At the end of this passage, Jesus tells us to be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect. Here, he is not literally calling us to be perfect. This is impossible due to our human weakness and sin. But, we are called to perfection in the sense of striving each day to be all that God has called us to be – to love without limit, to be generous beyond measure, to show mercy to those in need. We work at these and, with the grace of God, we are transformed, and transform the world around us. Jesus did not say that doing this would be easy, but clearly, we are called to go the extra mile as we serve him and work to build up the kingdom of God here on earth.



REV. M. J. BERNARD DORÉ, PASTOR  
 DEACON FERNANDO BOTELHO, DEACON ASSISTANT  
 116A DANIELSON PIKE · FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND 02825  
 PHONE (401) 647-3664  
 EMAIL: CHURCH@STPAULSFOSTER.ORG  
**STPAULSFOSTER.ORG**

OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM      10:00 AM
HOLY DAY MASSES	9:00 AM      7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS	4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

**ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 18</b>
8:30 AM	Men's Coffee & Gospel
5:00 PM	Mass: Arthur Robillard (RIP)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 19</b>
8:00 AM	Mass: Shiloh van Wyk (RIP)
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Joseph Hawkins & Jennie Petrucci (RIP)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 20</b>
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Grandchildren of Mary O'Reilly
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 22 Ash Wednesday</b>
7:00 AM	Mass: Forgotten Souls
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Margaret J. Forrest (RIP)
7:00 PM	Mass: Earthquake Victims of Syria & Turkey
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 23</b>
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Healing for Jackie Aloise
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 24</b>
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory
9:30 AM	Stations of the Cross

**NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS**

5:00 PM	Open for your Intentions
8:00 AM	Mass: Thanksgiving Mass
10:00 AM	Mass: Mildred D'Antuono (RIP)

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING  
 A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
TURN AWAY FROM SIN  
AND BE FAITHFUL  
TO THE GOSPEL

This Wednesday, February 22, we will offer Mass with Imposition of Ashes at 7 AM, 9 AM and 7 PM.



Take advantage of these ways in which we can meet God's mercy this Lent at our parish:

### Daily Mass & Rosary

Daily Mass will be celebrated from Monday through Friday at 9 AM.

Rosary before Mass starting at 8:35 AM.

### Stations of the Cross

This traditional Lenten devotion will be prayed every Friday at 9:30 AM.

### Fasting During Lent

As a sign of regret for sin and rededication to God, Catholics observe two simple obligations about fasting during Lent: First, if we are 14 years or older, (and in good health), we don't eat meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. Second, those of us who are between the ages of 18 and 59 have the special obligation to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: we eat only one full meal that day and take no solid foods between meals. That means our other regular meals are of much smaller portions, with no snacking in between.

(But remember, health issues excuse a person from these obligations.)

### Saturday Morning Coffee & Gospel

Join other men on Saturday mornings to share coffee and their take on that weekend's Sunday Gospel. Come earlier for silent prayer with the exposed Blessed Sacrament at 8:00 AM.

Saturdays / 8:30 – 9:30 AM

### Upcoming Catechism Classes

Confirmation—Sun. Feb 26 @ 9AM

First Communion -Sun. Feb 26 @9AM

Families— Sun. Mar 12 @ 9AM

### GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – Feb 11/12

**\$2,886.00**

**Thank you for your support!**

### 2023 Catholic Charity Appeal

Dear Parishioners,

Last weekend was our parish's Catholic Charity Appeal in-pew weekend.

This year the diocesan goal is \$7,000,000 and our 2023 Goal at St. Paul's is \$15,813.

As a parish family, we have an opportunity to make our pledge in support of those less fortunate. Won't you be a part of your larger family?

Thanking you and God Bless,

Rev. Bernard Doré

### May 2023 Calendar Raffle

St. Paul's is once again having a Calendar Raffle FUNdraiser.

During the month of April we will be selling Calendar Raffle Tickets for \$10 each. There will be a drawing every day during the month of May. All winning tickets will go back into the pot for another chance to **WIN!**

To make this fundraiser a success we are asking for \$25 gift card donations to help fill the calendar.

**Take a reminder card there are 7 left and return by March 7 and as always, we thank you for your support.**

### Earthquake Relief for Turkey and Syria

On February 6, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake devastated large areas of central Turkey and northwest Syria.

The death toll has surpassed 36,000 and continues to climb. The earthquake is the worst to strike Turkey this century.

Later that day, the region experienced a second magnitude 7.7 quake.

Catholic Relief Services will support emergency relief efforts led by local partners in both Syria and Turkey with Caritas Turkey, Caritas Syria in Aleppo and Lattakia—where extensive damage has been reported—and other local partners. Already in Turkey, Caritas Anatolia, in coordination with authorities, is bringing displaced people to safe, open spaces and distributing hot meals and clothing.

Next weekend, February 25/26, we will take up a special collection to help with this effort. .

### The Wonders of The Mass *The Wonders of Holy Mass*

The Saints never speak so eloquently as when they speak of the Mass. They can never say enough on this sublime subject, for St. Bonaventure says that the wonders of the Mass are as many as there are stars in the heavens and grains of sand on the seashores of the world.

The graces, blessings and favors granted to those who assist at this Divine Sacrifice are beyond all comprehension.

The Mass is the greatest wonder in the world. There is nothing on Earth equal to it, and there is nothing in Heaven greater than it.

**The next greatest wonder** is the indifference and ignorance of Catholics regarding Holy Mass. How is it that so many Catholics do not go to Mass?

The Great Sacrifice of Calvary is offered near to their homes, almost at their very doors, and they are too slothful to assist at it.

The Sacrifice of Calvary?! Yes, for the Mass is really and truly the very same as the Death of Jesus on the Cross. [See footnote on p. 8.]

Why do not mothers, why do not catechists, why do not teachers instill into the minds and hearts of those in their charge the wonders of the Mass? Priests are bound by the Council of Trent to do so.

Protestants may well ask those Catholics who neglect hearing daily Mass if they really believe that God is born on the altar and that God dies on the altar as He did on Calvary? [See footnote on p. 8.] If they do believe, why do they not assist at Mass?

St. Augustine tells us that pagans and Gentiles of his time asked tepid and indifferent Christians with bitter irony if they sincerely believed that the God of all mercy and goodness descended on their altars! You Christians, they continued, accuse us of adoring false gods, but at least we believe they are gods and we honor them; whereas, you despise Him whom you call the True God!

No intelligent, no enlightened Christian would fail to attend Mass if he only knew what it was.

~Father Paul O'Sullivan, O.P.