

February 23, 2020
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Once again we share some reflections about our family life given by Pope Francis in his Apostolic letter, "Amoris Laetitia"



FOOLISHNESS

Sometimes the idea of repentance seems old-fashioned, naïve, even foolish. But if you're looking for real foolishness, you'll find it in today's readings.

We begin with Leviticus and the admonition, "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge" (Leviticus 19:18). We've heard that message before, of course, so we might forget how far it is from the so-called "practical realities of life." Saint Paul warns us about being practical, though. Whoever considers oneself wise had better "become a fool," because "the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God" (1 Corinthians 3:18, 19).

This "foolishness" continues in the Gospel: "Offer no resistance to one who is evil" (Matthew 5:39). In fact, offer the other cheek when you've been slapped. Hand over your coat as well as your shirt.

Be like God, who sends sunshine and rain on the bad as well as the good. "So be perfect," says Jesus, "just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (5:48).

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Take no revenge and cherish no grudge; love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18).

Psalm — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103).

Second Reading — You are the temple of God, and holy (1 Corinthians 3:16-23).

Gospel — Offer no resistance; love your enemies (Matthew 5:38-48).

Love forgives.

Once we allow ill will to take root in our hearts, it leads to deep resentment.

The opposite of resentment is forgiveness, which is rooted in a positive attitude that seeks to understand other people's weaknesses and to excuse them. As Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). Yet we keep looking for more and more faults, imagining greater evils, presuming all kinds of bad intentions, and so resentment grows and deepens. Thus, every mistake or lapse on the part of a spouse can harm the bond of love and the stability of the family. Something is wrong when we see every problem as equally serious; in this way, we risk being unduly harsh with the failings of others. The just desire to see our rights respected turns into a thirst for vengeance rather than a reasoned defence of our dignity.

When we have been offended or let down, forgiveness is possible and desirable, but no one can say that it is easy. The truth is that "family communion can only be preserved and perfected through a great spirit of sacrifice. It requires, in fact, a ready and generous openness of each and all to understanding, to forbearance, to par-don, to reconciliation. There is no family that does not know how selfishness, discord, tension and conflict violently attack and at times mortal-ly wound its own communion: hence there arise the many and varied forms of division in family life".

We ourselves have had the experience of being forgiven by God, justified by his grace and not by our own merits. We have known a love that is prior to any of our own efforts, a love that constantly opens doors, promotes and encourages. If we accept that God's love is unconditional, that the Father's love cannot be bought or sold, then we will become capable of showing boundless love and forgiving others even if they have wronged us. Otherwise, our family life will no longer be a place of understanding, support and encouragement, but rather one of constant tension and mutual criticism

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## Masses for the Week

February 22, 2020 – February 29, 2020

Saturday, February 22

6:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Sunday, February 23

9:30 a.m. People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. +Nelso & Gabriella Luppino Giglio

+Umberto Bordonaro

+Mary Cimmarusti by Janie Costantini

+ Ennio & Socorro Capra

For the deceased members of **Padre Pio Society**

For the deceased members of **ICF br 67**

6:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Monday, February 24

6:00 p.m. No Mass

Tuesday, February 25

6:00 p.m. People of the Parish

February 26 Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Liturgy of the word with ashes

Noon: Liturgy of the word with ashes

6:00 p.m. Mass with ashes

Thursday, February 27

6:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Friday, February 28

6:00 p.m. People of the Parish

Saturday, February 22

6:00 p.m. **People of the Parish**

Did you know we have **Vespers** at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday – Friday

**Adoration:** Thursday 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

*Offerte Della Settimana Scorsa*

**Last week's Offering: \$793.00**

*\*\*Offerta settimanale necessaria per far fronte alle spese  
ordinarie*

*Weekly offering needed to meet ordinary expenses*

**- \$2,950.00-**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Visiting clergy members are VIRTUS® trained**

A priest who is visiting the Archdiocese to minister

for more than 15 days is required to complete a

VIRTUS® Protecting God's Children Adult

Awareness Program, or present certification that

states they have already completed a safe

environment program. Archdiocesan officials will

review alternative safe environment programs to

ensure that they meet the standards held in our

archdiocese for content and training protocols.

These requirements are not just for priests — any

bishop, deacon, religious brother or sister

ministering in the archdiocese, must be cleared

before beginning their ministry. For more

information, visit [http://handbook.la-](http://handbook.la-archdiocese.org/chapter-9/section-9-4/topic-9-4-1)

[archdiocese.org/chapter-9/section-9-4/topic-9-4-1](http://handbook.la-archdiocese.org/chapter-9/section-9-4/topic-9-4-1).

## February/March Society

### Dates to Remember

*February 23, Padre Pio rosary at 10:30 am*

*February 26, Ash Wednesday*

*6:00 pm mass with ashes*

*March 1, Feast of Costantinopoli*

*Mass 11:00 followed by procession.*

*Dinner and dancing at Casa Italiana.*

*Contact Dino: (818) 843-1477*

*March 3, Feast of St.. Joseph volunteer meeting*

*Contact Mike Foschetti, 323.257.0302*

*March 6, San Trifone meeting after 6:00 pm mass*

*March 9, Padre Pio Meeting 7:00 pm*

*March 11, St. Anthony meeting 7:00 pm*

*March 12, Scalabrini Seminaries fundraiser*

*meeting. Please come early to help prepare mailing.*

*March 18 & 19 Feast of St. Joseph*

*Mass at 11:00 am each day, followed by*

*blessing of the table at noon. Doors close at*

*8:00 pm.*

### Mark your calendar

**Feast of St. Joseph March 18 & 19**

### Lenten Crab fest fundraiser

**Friday, April 3, 2020.**



*This year's theme "Our Story is Alive"*

***Our parish has been asked to raise \$9,194.00***

*Our goal is 100% participation.*

*No gift is too small*

*If you and your family have not had the opportunity to make your pledge, we ask you to complete a pledge card found in the pews, or make your pledge online by visiting:*

[www.ourmissionla.org/give](http://www.ourmissionla.org/give). Please choose:

*St Peter Italian Parish (Los Angeles) 517*

Visit St. Peter's website: <http://stpeteritalianchurchla.org>

Visit us on facebook: "St Peter's Italian Church Los Angeles"  
"Casa Italiana L.A."

