

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



**Tri - Parish Contact Information**

**8 St. Clair St. Devon, AB T9G 1J3**  
Phone: (780) 987-2858 Fax: (780) 987-2837  
Parish E-mail : dcc2006@telus.net  
www.smgparish.ca

<https://olvthorsby.wordpress.com/>

Pastor: **Rev. Luan Vu**  
Pastor's E-mail: Luan.Vu@caedm.ca  
Assistant: Roger Barba

Office Hours: Mon - Wed & Fri. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM (**Thursday - CLOSED**)

**Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton—<https://www.caedm.ca>**

**PPC Chair:** Guy Giroux 780.940.2751  
**Finance Chair:** Mary Jablonski 780-789-2363  
**Liturgy:** Rosemarie Zurek 780-789-3622

**PPC Chair:** Deona Johnson 587-990-0524  
**Finance Chair:** Matt Yarmuch 780-987-5470  
**Liturgy:** Connie Schumacher 780-458-6487

**PPC Chair:** Barbara Abel 780-985-3655  
**Finance Chair:** Cheryl Hancar 780-980-3046  
**Liturgy:** Barbara Abel 780-985-3655

**Ash Wednesday - Wednesday February 22 - Schedule**

**9:00 am - Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church (Thorsby)**

**1:00 pm - Liturgy of the Word at Holy Spirit Catholic School (Devon)**

**5:00 pm - Mass at St. Margaret Mary Church (Calmar)**

**7:00 pm - Mass at St. Maria Goretti Church (Devon)**

**Sick? Shut-in?**

Would you like to receive communion? Please call the office at 780-987-2858 to arrange communion, and/or to be put on our prayer list.

**Cemetery Contacts:**

**Our Lady of Victory - Thorsby:** Mark Bendoritis - 780.985.3779  
**St Francis:** Ed Naprawa - 780.789.2195 and/or George Cygan 780 918 3412  
**St Charles - Warburg:** Jack Penner - 780.848.2293  
**Holy Trinity - Nisku:** Ron Chamulka 780.955.8031  
**St. Margaret Mary - Calmar:** Barb Abel 780-985-3655 and/or Cheryl Hancar 780-980-3046

## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 19, 2023

*1st Reading: Leviticus 19, 1-2, 17-18*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 3, 16 -23*

*Gospel: Matthew 5, 38 - 48*

### Loving Even Your Enemies

“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.” Matthew 5:43-45

Nowhere in the Old Testament does it say that we should hate our enemies. Note that Jesus did not say “It has been written...” Instead, He says, “You have heard that it was said...” So who said this? Some traditions among the scribes and Pharisees held this erroneous belief. Because some held that position, Jesus addressed it.

In this passage and in many others, Jesus calls us to a new depth of love that many thought impossible. In fact, even Jesus Himself acknowledged the height of His teaching when, at the conclusion of this passage, He says, “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Too often in life we settle for everything other than perfection. And though we may never achieve that level of holiness in this life, it must be our constant goal. In regard to our “enemies,” perfect love for them must become our daily mission.

So who is your “enemy?” Though Jesus does not define this for us, we should consider it to be anyone with whom there is some form of tension or discord. Perhaps there is someone who hates or dislikes you and speaks ill of you or treats you poorly. Or perhaps there is someone whom you dislike and find yourself angry at or even judgmental toward. So begin by trying to identify anyone with whom you have a lack of perfect affection. In truth, there might be many more people on that list than on the list of those you “love.”

Once you identify those who fall into the category of enemy to one extent or another, consider whether you love them. One Church Father says that we love our enemy “when we are not sorrowful at his success, or rejoice in his fall.” This is a very helpful definition to consider. Ultimately, this is the definition of envy.

If someone whom you dislike succeeds in something praiseworthy, how do you react interiorly? If there is an immediate visceral reaction or if you find yourself trying to figure out why they should be congratulated, then you might struggle with this sin. Or consider what you think, say or feel if you hear that someone you dislike has some problem, gets into some trouble, or encounters some misfortune. The ideal response is empathy and a desire for their well-being. If this is not the response within you, then pay attention to that.

Jesus concludes His teaching by saying that His Father “makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” In other words, God bestows His perfect love and mercy upon everyone equally. The only difference is that some people choose to accept that mercy and others reject it. As for ourselves, just like our loving God, we must offer love and mercy to everyone equally and as completely as we can. And though some may reject that love, just as they reject the love of God, it must always be offered and never rescinded. This is love of neighbor and also love of our enemies.

Reflect, today, upon those with whom you struggle to love to perfection. Perhaps that list is long. Start with those you encounter most often or those to whom you have a strong negative reaction. As you call them to mind, pray for them, for their good and for God’s blessings upon them. Try to see some goodness in them. Try to thank God for them, and try to remove any disordered feelings or thoughts you might have about them. This is the first step in your mission to fulfill Jesus’ new command of love.

My loving Lord, You love and bestow Your unlimited mercy upon all people, the good and bad alike. I pray that I may always be open to that love and receive it deeply into my own life. I pray also that Your love may shine through me into the lives of those who need it the most. Jesus, I trust in You. ([mycatholiclife.com](http://mycatholiclife.com))

# CWL FOOD BANK DRIVE

## February 25, 2023 to April 2, 2023



**Some of the items that the Food Bank is in great need are:**

- |                  |              |                          |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Hamburger Helper | Chili        | Rice or Pasta side-kicks |
| Mayo small jars  | Stews        | Instant potatoes         |
| Cooking Oil      | Chunky soups | Small jars of Jam        |
| Canned Meats     | Cake mixes   | Assorted veggie cans     |

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

Hebrews 13:15

### MASS INTENTIONS

When a priest celebrates Mass every day, he offers each celebration of the Eucharist for a particular person or intention.

By doing so, he applies special graces from God upon that person or intention.

To request a Mass intention, please visit or call the parish office.

#### Mass Intentions for the month of February 2023

Date		Intention	
4	Sat	<b>Rhodes &amp; Hills Family members, Living &amp; Deceased</b>	<b>SMG</b>
5	Sun	<b>Repose of the Soul of Doreen Fell R.I.P.</b>	<b>SMG</b>
11	Sat	<b>Repose of the Soul of Ethel Dallow R.I.P.</b>	<b>SMG</b>
12	Sun	<b>Thanksgiving for the birthday of Dionne Fajardo</b>	<b>SMG</b>
17	Fri	<b>Thanksgiving for the birthday of Connie Schumacher</b>	<b>SMG</b>
18	Sat	<b>Thanksgiving for the birthday of Fr. Arun Rodrigues</b>	<b>SMG</b>
19	Sun	<b>Al Shilling - May God grant him peace</b>	<b>OLV</b>
19	Sun	<b>Al Shilling - Health and personal intentions</b>	<b>SMM</b>
19	Sun	<b>Thanksgiving for the birthday of Maria Blanchette</b>	<b>SMG</b>
20	Mon	<b>Repose of the Soul of Fr. Ted Wesolowski</b>	<b>SMG</b>
21	Tue	<b>Repose of the soul of Leo Roth R.I.P.</b>	<b>SMG</b>
22	Wed	<b>Thanksgiving for the birthday of Rosemarie Walter</b>	<b>SMG</b>
23	Thu	<b>Repose of the Soul of Jean Belanger - R.I.P.</b>	<b>SMG</b>
24	Fri	<b>Savoie Family Intention - Living &amp; Deceased</b>	<b>SMG</b>
25	Sat	<b>Thanksgiving for the birthday of Chelsea Quaranta</b>	<b>SMG</b>
26	Sun	<b>Thanksgiving for Mitchell, Joyce and Jason Forchuk Birthdays</b>	<b>SMG</b>
27	Mon	<b>Thanksgiving for the 50th Birthday of Tammy Aguiar</b>	<b>SMG</b>
28	Tue	<b>Repose of the soul of Leo Roth R.I.P.</b>	<b>SMG</b>