

FEBRUARY 27, 2022 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass will stream live on Sunday at 10:30 am through www.caedm.ca



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World Day of Prayer - March 4, 2022

Once again we will celebrate World Day of Prayer virtually in small groups or at home alone.

This year's service is prepared by England, Wales and Northern Ireland with the theme "I know the plans I have for you" (Jeremiah 29: 1-14),

The video is now available on the website wicc.org and it is put together by our Canadian group as it was last year

Cemetery Contacts:

Our Lady of Victory - Thorsby: Mark Bendoritis - 780.985.3779 and/or Rod Kuzio - 780.789.2423

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Eighth Sunday of the Year February 27, 2022

Sir 27:4-7;

1Cor 15:54-58;

Luke 6:39-45

It is not at all unusual to hear people talk with great authority on things of which they know very little e.g. government taxation policies and other complex problems. It happens the same way in our relationships. In our relationships today we often tend to find the defects in others and criticize them. The noticeable factor is that in our fault-finding in others the focus of our own deficiencies remains hidden and this helps us to feel ever so self-righteous. Instead of criticizing others, it will do a world of good if we care for them. Then we will listen not only to what they are saying but also to what they are trying to say with or without words. If we care for them we won't impose our views, our plans, ideas, discipline, advice, correction, guidance, and our judgment. If we care for them we will show them how talented, capable, industrious, genuine, original, creative, skilled, friendly, trustworthy, resourceful, good, and lovable persons they are. In our gospel today, Jesus asks us to search as carefully as possible our own faults as we do for the faults of others.

In the first reading, Sirach says that people's faults appear when they speak, especially when they speak and aren't considering their words. We often hide behind masks – but conversation reveals our inner thoughts no matter how careful we are to disassemble. Speech is a means of testing the inner character of a person because what comes in speech betrays what's in our hearts. The climax of the reading is the last line (v. 7), saying that what a person says is clearly the test of that person. Sirach's teaching is very relevant for human integrity in today's world of public relations and image-making, the sound bite and the slogan. In this passage, Sirach advises everyone to live in accordance with divine law, which should be the highest rule and main aspiration of man's behavior.

Today we have the continuation of Luke's sermon on the plain giving us some of the teachings from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. Last Sunday's Gospel told us not to judge or we would be judged ourselves. This does not mean that we are never to criticize other people. What is being forbidden by Jesus is not judgment as such but negative, destructive judgment. There are times when we are expected to give constructive, helpful criticism. We cannot pass judgment unless we have some vision and understanding. How can the blind, those without understanding, presume to give leadership to others who are blind? Jesus asks us. The result is inevitable: "Both will fall into the pit."

Today's gospel from St. Luke follows immediately upon his beautiful explanation of unconditional love whereby we are to love even our enemies. This kind of love is not natural. It can come only with the grace of God and as a result of much work and effort. But this is precisely the challenge of today's gospel for each one of us. To be so positive of all other people that we can accept them for who and what they are, that we can overcome those occasions when we tend to misjudge others, that we can stress the good in others and hope they can do the same for us.

Jesus says that everything depends on the inner person and not on the outward appearance. Hypocrisy will not long go undetected. According to the Greek understanding, a hypocrite is an actor. The actor does the external show at a play or drama and internally he is different. He remains as before and there is no real change in him.

Jesus calls hypocrites, those who notice a tiny splinter in others but are blind to the plank in them. They are unaware of their shortcomings while they decry the faults of others. These people are often negative and hostile. They have the habit of focusing on the bad side of everything especially the bad side of people. They are quick to criticize and find fault.

It is important to emphasize that the Gospel is in no way saying we should not have opinions or that we should not express them. What it is saying is that we must avoid having such a high awareness of the shortcomings of others that we have lost the ability to see and accept our own. We ought to respond in a positive way rather than think negatively of the other or find fault in them. We personally must be in charge of my own life and stop trying to change others. We can recollect what Fr Tony de Mello used to say, "When I change, my whole world changes". And, not only that, when I change, other people are likely to change but, even if they do not, my attitude towards them will not be the same. Here we can take off my actor's mask and be fully ourselves. In the process, we can let other people to be themselves. Then we are no longer worried about planks in our own eyes or in others'. What we see is what there is. Therefore let us judge ourselves by the standards of Jesus: a good tree bears good fruit.