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**Sunday, February 19th, 2017**  
**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“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.” – Mt 5:43-45a*

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. Feb 18	9-10am	<b>Reconciliation</b>
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Feb 19	9:30am	✠ Nina Aleksiejuk (Jan & Lana)
	11:00am	✠ John Sporbeck (Mary Ann Biggar)
Mon. Feb 20	9:30am	<b>Intention Available</b>
	7-8pm	<b>Holy Hour &amp; Reconciliation</b>
Tues. Feb 21	9:30am	✠ Kelly Morellato (Rachel, Jordan & Davis Racz)
Wed. Feb 22	9:30am	✠ Armand & Betty Mei (Patti & Cyril Simek)
Thurs. Feb 23	9:30am	<b>Intention Available</b>
Fri. Feb 24	9:30am	<b>Intention Available</b>
Sat. Feb 25	9-10am	<b>Reconciliation</b>
	4-4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	✠ Ernesto Pignataro (Jim & Josephine Pignataro)
Sun. Feb 26	9:30am	✠ Louis Marshall (Mike & Anne Young)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**  
**Offertory February 11th & 12th, 2017**

90 Envelopes	\$2, 178.50
Loose Collection	\$ 101.45
Total Offertory	\$2, 279.95

**2016 tax receipts are now available at the back of the church. Please pick them up to help defray mailing costs. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.**

There will be follow up meeting on **Thursday, Feb. 23rd at 7pm** in the church hall for the parents/guardians of those receiving First Holy Communion on April 30th. This is a mandatory meeting for parents. Important information will be distributed.

**Seventh SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
*“Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.”* Today Jesus continues the powerful teaching of his Sermon on the Mount. Typical of this famous sermon, here he urges us to see things in a new way, specifically regarding situations and people who bother us. First, he tells us not to seek revenge. Instead, we are to demonstrate incredible generosity. Then, he instructs us to *“love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”*

These instructions don't come naturally to most of us. We are much more inclined to want to get even with those who cause us to suffer, and to wish ill for those who have hurt us. But Jesus proposes another way.

In truth, what good does it do to seek revenge or foster hate? It only continues the cycle of evil. Jesus encourages behavior that will stop the cycle short. He gives us a model that—although it may not change the heart of our *“enemies”*—will nonetheless change our hearts for the better. When pressed into service for one mile, if we voluntarily go two, then **we** are the ones whose attitude and experience is certain to change. Instead of spending the length of that one mile cursing and complaining, we spend the length of two enjoying a surprising kind of freedom: *“I chose to do this,”* instead of *“I am being forced to do this.”*



When we practice the generosity of giving more than we are asked, and the charity of praying for those who persecute us, we will find ourselves in a position to transcend the trouble. It sets us free to not be mastered by the evil around us. Thus, we are able to help end the cycle of evil and begin a new cycle of love and peace.

**LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**  
 In today's Gospel Jesus tells us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. It is one of the most challenging commands of the Gospel for believers. We should consider how well we fulfill this command of the Lord.

**Countdown to Lent....** What is Lent?  
 Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (**March 1st**) and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

**Please pray** for Deacon Jim as he undergoes surgery on Feb. 21st and for Stephanie Anthony as she undergoes surgery on March 7th. May Our Lord the Divine Physician grant them healing in a speedy recovery.

**40 Days for Life** – Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, March 1-April 9. We ask each church to adopt ONE DAY from 8 am – 8 pm, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign “Pray to end Abortion – 40 Days for Life”. To sign up: [www.wpcprolife.com](http://www.wpcprolife.com), or [40daysforlife.com/NiagaraFalls](http://40daysforlife.com/NiagaraFalls). For info or help, call Annette, 905-325-1251.

**Catholic Women's League News**  
 The Catholic Women's League will host the **St. Ann Syrian Family Welcome Shower on Sunday, February 19th, 2017, 2pm** in our parish hall. There will be a recently welcomed Syrian, Rana Bshara from St Kevin Parish who will share her family's experience. If you would like to bring a gift, although not necessary, we are registered at Wal-Mart Canada. First Name: St. Ann's, Last Name: Catholic Church Under Wedding Registries (Gifts do not need to be wrapped) Gift cards would be much appreciated.

**Lenten Retreat:** will take place April 5th **OR** April 8th at Gethsemane Ministries in Wellandport. Both days are the same and you may choose the day which best suits your schedule. The cost is \$30 (includes lunch) and the CWL will reimburse half the cost for all women who attend. The guest speaker will be Ann Jacobs. Topic: Mary Responding in Faith. To register, please phone the office. DEADLINE is Sunday, February 26th.

**Pierogies:** The CWL will be making pierogies on March 20th (preparing filling) and March 21st to prepare dough and assemble. If you can assist, please sign the sheet at the back of the church.

**The Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee** is eagerly awaiting the arrival of their family. Navigating their new surroundings is just one of the challenges they will face. We are looking for some more volunteers to assist with driving the families to appointments, grocery shopping, school, activities etc., when they arrive. As with all vulnerable sector/high risk ministries, police screening is required. Please contact the office and we will assist you with the paperwork. The SRRC is appreciative of any assistance you can provide.

**A Holy Season of Renewal:** Enrich your Lenten experience by joining the parish of St. Mary, Welland, for a series of 8 talks presented by Fr. Stuart MacDonald. Topics will include: Faith; Spiritual Life; Sin; Penance; Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving; Marriage; Paschal Mystery; Four Last Things. Talks will be given twice weekly—Tuesday 7-8 pm and Thursday 10-11:30am, beginning Feb. 14th—April 6, 2017. There is no fee, but please register to ensure sufficient materials are available. Contact Helen Smits 905-988-2274 or [cooj0510@gmail.com](mailto:cooj0510@gmail.com)

**Join the “Call for Conscience” – February 6 – March 31, 2017** In the coming weeks, members of Ontario's Provincial Parliament will review Bill 84 which deals with legal issues related to euthanasia/assisted suicide. At present, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is forcing doctors to participate, despite their objections, when a patient decides to end their life. No other country does this. Please visit [www.CanadiansforConscience.ca](http://www.CanadiansforConscience.ca) to learn more, join the “Call for Conscience” and write directly to your elected MPP asking them to amend Bill 84 to add conscience protection.



**The Canadian Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP)** is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Part of the celebrations include a pilgrimage across the country of a *Solidarity Quilt*. The quilt is scheduled to be present in the Diocese of St. Catharines March 8 – 14, 2017. Bishop Bergie will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria for the 50th anniversary on Sunday, March 12 at 11:30am.

**Parish Calendar**

<b>February.....</b>	
<b>Feb 19th.....</b>	CWL shower for Syrian Refugee Initiative
<b>Feb 23rd.....</b>	First Communion Parents Meeting 7pm
<b>March.....</b>	
<b>March 1st.....</b>	Ash Wednesday. Masses 9:30am & 7pm
<b>March 3rd....</b>	Visitation of Sick and Homebound
<b>March 3rd.....</b>	World Day of Prayer....more to follow
<b>March 5th.....</b>	First Sunday of Lent
<b>March 7th.....</b>	Morning Mass cancelled
<b>March 12th ....</b>	St. Vincent de Paul meeting after 11am Mass
<b>March 20/21...</b>	Assistance needed for making pierogies
<b>March 22nd....</b>	Finance Council meeting 6:30pm
<b>March 22nd.....</b>	Confirmation Class 5-6:30pm
<b>March 25th.....</b>	Respect for Life Mass, Cathedral 10am

**YOUTH MINISTRY: YM for grades 5-8, Wed. evenings 6:30-8:30pm. Registration form is on our website <http://stannfenwick.wixsite.com/youthministry>.** If you would like to volunteer, check out our website email [gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org](mailto:gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org)

**Youth Ministry bake sale/auction—A HUGE thank you** to all of you who assisted with our Winter Festival Fundraiser for youth ministry this past weekend. The fundraiser was a great success and so much fun! Thank you to all our youth who worked so hard, and to all the families for their baked goods and support. \$716.20 was raised.

**A Lifeline for Marriage** – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Retrouvaille has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 24, 2017** please call **905-664-5212** or email: [hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca](mailto:hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca) or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

**2017 Bishop's Gala:** The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education is hosting the 14th annual Bishop's Gala **April 1, 2017, 5:30pm** at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines. The event supports scholarships and students in need throughout the Catholic Schools of the Niagara Catholic district School Board. For information contact Linda Marconi, 905-735-0240 Ext 214.

**Everyday Stewardship– Reflection**  
 My pastor likes to say that his parents would always remind him to “leave a place you visited a little better than the way you found it.” I have always tried to live by those words as well. The important word here is “tried” as I am sure that I have not always been successful.

The desire to always go a step further, to give even more than is required, is truly honorable. Jesus speaks to his disciples about this when he urges them to give more than what is asked and to travel two miles in service when all that was required of them is one. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to live the same way. It is fundamental to understanding a stewardship way of life. True generosity has no limits. When we say that mature disciples are to answer the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost, we are inviting good stewards to embody this type of generosity. We can be the person who does not respond to the call, be the person who responds and gives what is required, or, finally, be the person who seeks to give above and beyond what is required. God doesn't just give us what we need, but he gives us more than we need. Made in his image, we are called to do the same. If we try to live in this manner every day, then we might just succeed in leaving this world a little better than the way we found it.  
 Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © Liturgical Publications Inc