

# Bulletin Evangelization Notices

## February, 2017



### **February 5 ~ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

We live with dark mornings and early sunsets so the theme of light and darkness in today's readings is very real for us. Isaiah gives us an antidote, reminding us that performing works of mercy can bring light to the darkness. In the Gospel, "Jesus said to his disciples... You are the light of the world... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Are you a disciple? Do your words and actions point people to Jesus and our heavenly Father? Good work! If not, why? What are you going to do to be a light in the darkness this week?

### **February 12 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

It's all about the Law this week. Sirach gives us great insight, "If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you;" The law is all about freedom - our choice: "Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him." This chapter in Matthew's Gospel has sets the bar high – it's not simply about doing good and avoiding evil, there's more: "whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven." To borrow an old-fashioned – some would say, quaint – phrase, do you set a good example? And not just in front of children, what about conversations, language, and actions with adults? Think about it. Pray for what you need: temperate speech? Greater kindness? Patience?

### **February 19 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect." Perfect? Seriously? Jesus is at it again – asking an awful lot of us: turn the other cheek, hand over your cloak as well as your tunic, asked to walk a mile?, walk two. All of this is building up to the big one: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES and PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. But don't despair, Saint Paul shows us that it is possible. We find hope in his letter to the Corinthians: "... you are the temple of God, ... the Spirit of God dwells in you.." We – you – can do anything if you are open to the power of God, the love of Jesus, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### **February 26 ~ Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Did Jesus ever have to pay rent or a monthly mortgage? Does He know the high cost of living in the Northeast in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How can He say don't worry? Jesus is telling us is to have our priorities in order and trust in Him, "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself." He is not saying quit your job or buy a Lamborghini. "Seek first the kingdom of God" means putting God in the center of our lives. How we relate to family, friends, co-workers, should flow from this. Are our words and actions ordered to what is good and true? The song "Don't worry, be happy" has a very good message. We have been saved by the Son of God. He will not abandon us now – not today, not tomorrow, not ever. Give thanks for this.