

## FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 18-19, 2023

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Gospel reading

Matthew 5:38-48

“You have heard that it was said,  
‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’  
But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.  
When someone strikes you on [your] right cheek,  
turn the other one to him as well.  
If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic,  
hand him your cloak as well.  
Should anyone press you into service for one mile,  
go with him for two miles.  
Give to the one who asks of you,  
and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.  
“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.  
For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?  
Do not the tax collectors do the same?  
And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that?  
Do not the pagans do the same?  
So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

### Intercession

That, as meek as lambs, we may respond with docility as God leads us through *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.

## **Copy for bulletin announcement**

In today's Gospel, Jesus gave a radical commandment – “When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well” (Matthew 5:39). Today, it is cliché and remains radical, because it has the power to change hearts and nations.

Ask Gandhi. Even though he wasn't Catholic, Gandhi leveraged the power of nonviolence to bring about a new kind of revolution. His peaceful tactics inaugurated a massive movement which eventually resulted in economic independence for India.

With that we might also reveal the power of such a disposition in our lives! Christ himself did not hide his face “from insults and spitting” (Isaiah 50:6). We all experience being “struck on the cheek” in various ways. We want our parish and diocese to be a haven where people can find the strength to face the evils in their lives. When you support our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, you help increase our ability to heal and sustain the bruised and weary. Through your generosity of prayer, gifts, and good words, we can continue to offer the bread of angels to the hungry and make the *Catholic Ministry Appeal* shine brightly! God bless you.

## **Copy for pulpit announcement**

Our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* can't succeed without you. We need your support to achieve great things and make the soil of our parish fertile. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

## **Social media post/content**

Photo: People holding hands

Header: “Let us find strength in one another”

Sub-header: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Copy: Our parish and diocesan communities are a haven where people can find the strength to face difficulties in their lives. Even when we may feel lost or struggle, may we remember that when we come together with prayers, gifts, and support it gives us the power to make change. The little we have is what God asks of us; nothing more, nothing less. With your help and His combined, we are confident that our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* will succeed in brightening our community.