



Owe nothing to anyone, except to

*Love one
another.*

Romans 13:8

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6, 2020

A HIGHER STANDARD

Our culture tempts us to think that any action is allowed as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else. Today's readings show us how sadly narrow-minded that thinking is. They call us to a much higher standard, one that recognizes the majestic dignity of each human person. Ezekiel reminds us that the wicked acts of one person always affect the whole human community. Even if the sin is a private one, we are all responsible for shining light into the darkness. Matthew's Gospel echoes this idea, providing practical tips for bringing healing and reconciliation to sinful or broken relationships. Today's readings also show us the deep implications of sin: a failure to love. Saint Paul urges us to avoid sin and obey the law. The best way to do this, he professes, is to love. Love leads us from mere coexistence to genuine companionship.

THE WAY OF LOVE

Although today's readings might seem drearily preoccupied with sin, Saint Paul explains why sin is important to discuss: because every sin reduces the amount of love in the world. Paul turns the focus from sin to love when he writes, "Love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10). What power that verse contains! If we begin each day by reciting that verse, we would be well on our way to a more generous life—not only avoiding sin as much as possible, but also actively seeking out ways to make life sweeter for our neighbors. Memorized verses inspire us when we face difficulties during the day, when we are irritated with someone, for example, or we need to make a decision. Remembering that "love is the fulfillment of the law" might truly help us avoid sin and do good in daily life.

THE WAY OF PRAYER

Learning a scripture verse by heart is, of course, a way of praying. In today's Gospel, Jesus encourages us to pray. Jesus firmly believes in the power of prayer, going so far as to guarantee results: "I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father." Jesus promises something else, too, something vitally important. More than a game of Go Fish in which we hope we "got what we asked for," prayer is a living encounter with Jesus himself: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Today's readings move us beyond the bare minimum and open an enormous world to us. We shun the pettiness of sin not because we fear punishment, but because we want to love others deeply. We pray to our great God not because we want to get favors from a divine vending machine, but because we want to spend time with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS

Ezekiel 33:7-9
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

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ST. DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. DAVID J. FARRELL, PASTOR

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WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., Spanish Mass 2:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES: See Mass Schedule & Intentions section of bulletin

CONFESSIONS: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A MESSAGE OF LOVE: In the final verses of today's Gospel reading Jesus says that when two or three are gathered in his name, "there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). So we understand that fraternal correction is always undertaken with Jesus present to us. Likewise, encouraging the good in others is not only the right thing for us to do, it is a necessity. The Lord tells the prophet Ezekiel that if he "does not speak out" to dissuade a person from evil, then he too will be held responsible. We live in a "do your own thing" age when moral objectivity is often ignored. Clearly when the message we share with others is one of love, our motives cannot ever be misinterpreted. As St. Paul writes, "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

WEEKEND LITURGY

First Reading: Warn the wicked and try to turn them from their ways (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

Psalm: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading: Owe nothing to anyone, except mutual love (Romans 13:8-10).

Gospel: If two agree about anything for which they pray, it shall be granted to them (Matthew 18:15-20). The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8; Ps 5:5-7, 12; Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 45:11-12, 14-17; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24; Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3-6, 12; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22; Ps 116:12-13, 17-18; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday: Sir 27:30 — 28:7; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK (9/7-9/13)

Monday 8:30 AM: Brenda Spalding

Tuesday 5:30 PM: Tony Begley

Wednesday: **NO MASS**

Thursday 5:30 PM: Charlie, Christine & Phil Hamilton

Friday 8:30 AM (School Mass Only): Freddie White

Saturday 8:30 AM: Ned Borders

4:30 PM: Dickie Abell

Sunday 8:30 AM: For the Parish

10:30 AM: Bob Goodlett

2:00 PM (Spanish Mass): Kenny & Barbara Corbett

LITURGICAL ROLES

Weekday Lectors: (Mon.) Hamilton Simms, (Tues.) Belle Sutton, (Wed.) NO MASS, (Thurs.) Mary Lynne Fenwick, (Fri.) Students, (Sat.) Perry Carrico

Weekend Liturgical Roles for September have been sent via email.

MENTIONS, MEETINGS, EVENTS & REMINDERS

St. Dominic Catholic Church Fall Turkey Dinner & Raffle, Sat., September 12, 4:00-7:00 p.m., at KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS Hall, Springfield, KY - ALL meals will be served by DRIVE-THRU only. Raffle at 7:30 p.m. via Facebook Live on our church's FB page. The cost of the meal is \$10 (turkey, dressing, green beans, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, roll & a slice of pie). The raffle will consist of: 1st prize- \$5,000.00; 2nd prize- \$3,000.00; 3rd prize- \$2000.00. Tickets are \$5.00 a chance, but notice, we've upped the ante on the prize winnings! **Each church family is asked to: sell/ buy a minimum of 20 tickets at \$5 each & make a \$5 dessert donation (instead of making a pie). For additional tickets, please contact the parish office. We ask that raffle ticket/money & donation for pie be turned in by THURSDAY of THIS WEEK.** You can drop your tickets in the collection plate, via mail, or by dropping them by the parish office. Inquiries regarding this year's event may be directed to the parish office at 336-3569; or to our chairs, Cassie Michalski 859-481-3517 & Lisa Taylor 859-481-5304. **We look forward to seeing you at the drive-thru & good luck with the raffle!** **Volunteers to help with the dinner will be needed, please see the sign-up sheet in the breezeway of church.**

Masses: Just a reminder to call ahead (Monday through Thursday) if you plan to attend Mass this coming weekend, space is limited due to social distancing requirements. Please contact us in one of the two ways, by calling 859-336-3569 or by email at stdom@bellsouth.net. Seating charts are finalized on Thursday afternoons. Peace to you all!

Altar Society Dues: Every parish family is asked to contribute \$10. Please use the red & white envelope found in your September/October tithing packet. These dues help with the cost of candles, bread & wine, linens, vestments, altar cloths,

decorations for holidays/special occasions, general laundering expenses, etc. Special thanks to the women of our parish who devote their time and talent to create an altar that exemplifies the glory to God.

Catechists Needed: Our parish RE (religious education) program is in need of two catechists, as well as substitute catechists. Classes are held in the school classrooms each Wednesday evening, September through April, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., with the first class taking place on September 9th. We are very blessed with a wonderful group of dedicated catechists who willingly share their time, talents, and faith in order to ensure the future of our church, the children. We would love to have you be part of this awesome group! Please contact Angela Young for more information (336-3569 or 481-2587).

Parish Religious Education Program classes will begin on Wednesday, September 9th from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Our RE program is open to students in grades K-8 who do not attend a Catholic school. Information packets have been mailed to all families who have children that were enrolled in last year's program. If you are a new family interested in enrolling your child/children, please pick up an information packet from the table in the narthex of the church, or stop by the parish office. Packets can also be downloaded and printed from the church website (stdomparish.org>documents). If you have questions or need more information, please contact Angela Young at the parish office (336-3569).

Safe Environment Training: St. Dominic will host SET on Monday, September 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Training is limited to 50 people and is based on first come/first served basis. Every participant must wear a mask, and no one under the age of 16 will be admitted to the training. Anyone working with children on a regular basis, as well as field trip chaperones, must attend this training and have a background check that is less than five years old. This is a one-time training, if you have attended in the past, you do not have to attend again.

St. D Prayer List: Coronavirus Pandemic, World Peace, Healthcare Workers, Victims of Abuse, U.S. Military, Unborn & Elderly, Addictions, Beth Hellman, Dennis Rust, Reba Hamilton, Glenn Mattingly, Kyle Logsdon, Sr. Mary Louise Yurik, Jeannie Hatchett, Lames Thomas, Ashton Kelly, Katie Haydon, Edwin Thompson, Tammy Harley, Jane Rudd Volz, Dennis Newton, Lucille Spalding, Mary Devine, Roberta Williams, Jerry Craig, Larry Smith, Tom Miller, Margaret Faye Martin, Charlotte Disponett, Carolyn Greene, Marian & Wade Elliott, Sue Carter, Michael & Jennifer Jarboe, Debbie Hamilton, Buddy & Charlotte Smith, Wheatley Hamilton, Frank Peters, Corbin Noel, Dorothy Mattingly, Colin Walker, Cassie Robinson, Olivia Montgomery, Audrey Edelen, Marilyn Watkins, Sueanna Graves, Helen Parrot, Christy Caldwell & Nancy Hardin. *Our church always prays for and cares for our sick sisters and brothers at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. You are always in our hearts, minds and prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist at St. Dominic. If any who are sick want to ask in faith for the church's prayers, please do not hesitate to contact our parish office at 336-3569.*

Tithing Contributions for this past week (includes contributions during the week &/or ACH contributions, etc.): \$7,163.50