

**The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time    Year C**

**Sunday, February 24, 2019**

Readings: 1) 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23    2) 1 Corinthians 15:45-49    3) Luke 6:27-38

**Sunday Liturgy**

The Focus for today's Mass is: Jesus challenges us to act with love.

Being a Christian – truly following Jesus – isn't easy. Today's Gospel is a reminder of that fact. Jesus describes what it means to act with love. He challenges us to do what seems humanly impossible: to love our enemies and forgive those who hurt us. These are not easy tasks! Only with the help of Jesus can we truly do what he commands.

In the first reading, David does not allow anyone to harm Saul when they have the opportunity to do so, and makes it clear to Saul's troops what he did. In Corinthians, Paul describes Jesus as the second Adam, the spiritual man. Jesus, in the Gospel, explains to his disciples all that the commandment "to love" entails.

**GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**

**PRIEST:**

As a people of faith, we pray for our enemies, and want only the best for all people. Faced with this great challenge, we present these prayers to God.

For Church leaders,  
may they be given the fortitude to be authentic witnesses to the Gospel.  
We Pray to the Lord.

For nations in conflict with other nations,  
may God's spirit of peace reign upon them.  
We Pray to the Lord.

For those who are sick in mind and body;  
may Christ's divine mercy bring them strength and comfort.  
We Pray to the Lord.

For our beloved dead.  
may they find peace in the loving arms of Jesus.  
We Pray to the Lord.

For all of us gathered here,  
may God's wisdom show us how to be  
compassionate and forgiving toward others.  
We Pray to the Lord.

For our own personal intentions..... ( long pause)  
We Pray to the Lord.

**PRIEST:**

Father, we entrust our prayers to you in the holy name of your son, Jesus Christ.