

Sunday, February 12, 2023

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1) Sirach 15:15-20
- 2) 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
- 3) Matthew 5:17-37

FOCUS: Jesus came to fulfill the law so that heaven could be opened to the righteous.

Jesus' teachings are not primarily about the joys and easiness of the Christian life, but rather about the commandments that our loving Father gives to us for our freedom and good. He, who is perfect love, made us in love and sent his Son out of love to teach us what it means to partake in his life – both here and forever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Sirach tells the people they can choose to follow the commandments, or not. But keeping the commandments will save them. In Saint Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, he writes of the greatness prepared for those who love God. In the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus teaches about the law. He says that he has come to fulfil the law, and that those who keep it will be called the *greatest in the kingdom of heaven*.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Together, we bring our prayers to God and ask him to hear our petitions.

- 1) For the pope and all the clergy, may God sustain them in remaining faithful to his perfect law, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For government leaders, may God give them strength in working tirelessly to uphold the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception through natural death, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may their suffering be joined with the suffering of Christ, and may they be consoled through this redemptive sharing of his cross, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For those gathered here today and for those we love, may God open our hearts to the goodness of his love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For those who have died, may the mercy of God cleanse them so they may enjoy the fullness of his kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Father, hear these prayers of your sons and daughters, we ask through your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.