

Be Perfect

Wow, that's a tall order! But what does perfect mean? The Greek word means "full" or "complete." In the first reading, Leviticus calls us to be *holy*, a word with cultic allusions—to be set apart to be used for God. Though not possessing exactly the same sense, there is a connection between *perfect* and *holy*, for to be set apart to be used for God will certainly make us perfect, fulfilled, and complete. So what does Jesus mean when he tells us to be perfect, as God is perfect?

Continuing our reflection on the Sermon on the Mount, we find Jesus telling us how we are to be perfect as God is perfect. He offers two examples of extraordinary behavior. The Mesopotamian code of Hammurabi states "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." The punishment may not exceed the crime.

This was a step forward in ancient justice.

Jesus said that this is not enough. There is to be no vindictiveness, no revenge, regardless of how equivalent it might appear. The reason for this is that God loves and cares for all, even those who do us injustice. God makes the "sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust" (Matthew 5:46). In this way, we must be like God; we must love all, no exceptions. This is what it means to be perfect. It is indeed a tall order. But it is the way to be fulfilled, to be complete.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ *Where in your life are you being called to consecrate yourself to God and God's work?*
- ★ *Where in your life are you being challenged to love more unselfishly?*



[Jesus said,] "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you....Be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect."
 MATTHEW 5:44, 48

TINNAKORN JORRANG / SHUTTERSTOCK

Assumption of Our Lady



www.ourladyofassumptionhayriver.com

February 23, 2020

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time— Year A

Hay River, NT

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 10:30 am

Weekday Masses

Mon. Tues. & Wed. 12:10 pm

Thurs. & Fri. 5:30 pm

Reconciliation time: Saturday from 4:15 to 4:45pm; Sunday, 9:45-10:15am or by appointment. Please contact Fr. Innocent for any other sacraments or funerals



Fr. Innocent Ukaegbu: 867-875-2545

father@ourladyofassumptionhayriver.com

& St. Anne, Katloodeche

Sunday Mass 1:30 PM

Date	Readers	Collection	Gift Bearers	Eucharistic Ministers	Coffee & Snacks
Feb. 02	Marie Kopp-van E. Bea Lepine	Darm Crook Gerry Engen	Liz Buckley & Family	Doris Caudron Andrew Cassidy Doug Swallow	Sharon Gauthier Marina Bloomstrand
Feb. 09	Gerry Engen Deedee Lepine	Tony Whittle Andrew Cassidy	Engen Family	Marie Kopp-van E. Theresa Swallow Bea Lepine	Nancy Makepeace Denise Desjarlais
Feb. 16	Doris Caudron Andrew Cassidy	Doug Swallow Darm Crook	Gagnon Family	Tony Whittle Shirley Gutierrez Deedee Lepine	Potluck
Feb. 23	Lexi Capulso Josee Touesnard Iga Olesinski Sophia Touesnard	Adam & Angelica Whittle	Youth-led Participation Mass	Marie Kopp-van E. Theresa Swallow Susan Bouchard	Jovy Brito Michelle Cuevas

The Announcement for 7th Sunday in the ordinary time of the year, Feb 23rd , 2019.

---- We are always delighted to welcome each and everyone who has come to worship with us here at Assumption parish. If you're a new member, please take time to introduce yourself to the pastor and fill out a registration form found at the bulletin board at the entrance of the church..

-----February 26th is ASH WEDNESDAY; the beginning of Lent. It is a period that offers Christians, especially Catholics the opportunity to reflect more deeply on the mystery of the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ; the mystery of our salvation. Our Ash Wednesday mass will be by 7:00pm. Ashes will be distributed to attendees.

----- We please request that parishioners bring old palms that were blessed during palm Sunday last year, in their possessions. They are going to be burnt for use on Ash Wednesday. Please drop them off either at the entrance of the church or the Rectory. They're expected from Sunday to Tuesday morning. They will be burnt by Tuesday evening.

----- With the celebration of Ash Wednesday, the parish will be observing Stations of the Cross every Friday. This comes up immediately after evening mass. All are encouraged to participate as it is a way of identifying with Christ in His passion.

----- Our Friday evening masses for this Lent, is moved to 6:30pm as against the usual 5:30pm. It is a way of making it much easier for those who would like to attend the evening mass and still participate in the Stations of the Cross.

-----We would like to say thank you to all who participated in the renewal of vows, CWL who helped with decorating, cake and flowers and Quick print who donated the certificates for this lovely occasion.

----- On behalf of Helen Beaudette, Tim and Sister Maggie, we are most grateful for all the prayers and love over the past two weeks. Mom has made a remarkable recovery from pneumonia. Keep the prayers coming as she still has a long road ahead getting her strength back. Thank you, Mahsi!!!!

----TICKETS FOR OUR CHURCH FUNDRAISING are still available, please approach any of the parish council for purchase.

-----Communion to the sick and home bound: Do you know of anyone who is sick and/or home bound and would like to be visited and given communion by the church, please let us know.

Rachel's Corner

I didn't protect my child and I hurt my wife with our decision. It was my job to protect them. Rachel's Vineyard helped me give that to God and He helped me re-discover the man I used to be. I know God has forgiven me, and for the rest of my days I will work on forgiving myself."

Come on a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat and let God break the chains that have held you bound in regret and shame

rachelsvineyard.nwt@gmail.com

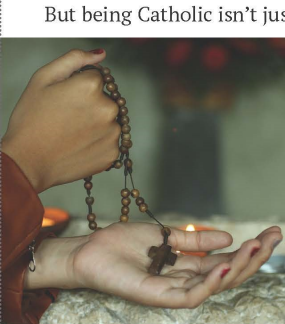
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: Weekly Revenue	
\$1,537.45	
\$1,537.45	Revenue Total
\$1,831.00	Expenses Total
-\$293.55	
Expenses are based on 2018 Q1	

Dear Padre,

A Protestant friend says all the Catholic rituals aren't necessary to get to heaven. What can I say to convince her?

Your friend is correct about heaven: God wishes the salvation of everyone—not just Catholics (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church [*Lumen Gentium*], 13). Even so, Catholics believe—and Christ taught us—that certain rituals *are* necessary to enter heaven. Baptism is one example.



BY MASHA MARGANINGSHUSHUTTERSTOCK

But being Catholic isn't just about getting to heaven. Earthly benefits abound! Take the Mass: holy Communion gives us Jesus Christ's very Body and Blood. The sacrament of reconciliation absolves our sins, bringing us peace, comfort, and a closer relationship to God. Our saints and the Blessed Mother inspire us and intercede on our behalf. Our Church leaders—ordained and religious—bring Christ to our lives. Our Catholic hymns and prayer traditions help us offer praise and thanks in a unique way. Your priest and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* can explain in detail the spiritual and temporal benefits of our rituals and rich traditions.

Once we get to heaven, the need for distinctions among those of different Christian faiths dissolves. But until then, we shouldn't follow the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church simply because it's the religion of our parents or spouse; we should follow them because we believe they show us how to deepen our relationship with God by living as Jesus wanted us to.

So while "all the Catholic rituals" do prepare us for heaven, they also enrich and inform our earthly lives in ways we can't find anywhere else. I thank God for my Catholicism every day—and you should, too.

—Fr. Scott Katzenberger, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

One of the essential characteristics of this vocation to perfection is the love of our enemies, which protects us from the temptation to seek revenge and from the spiral of endless retaliation....Those who evangelize must therefore be first and foremost practitioners of forgiveness, specialists in reconciliation, experts in mercy.

—HOMILY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC,
NOVEMBER 29, 2015

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Calendar

Monday
FEBRUARY 24
Weekday
Jas 3:13–18
Mk 9:14–29

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 25
Weekday
Jas 4:1–10
Mk 9:30–37

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 26
Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12–18
2 Cor 5:20—6:2

Thursday
FEBRUARY 27
Thursday after
Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15–20
Lk 9:22–25

Friday
FEBRUARY 28
Friday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1–9a
Mt 9:14–15

Saturday
FEBRUARY 29
Saturday after
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b–14
Lk 5:27–32

Sunday
MARCH 1
First Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:7–9; 3:1–7
Rom 5:12–19 or 5:12,
17–19
Mt 4:1–11

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