

# FAMILY PERSPECTIVES

**February 5, 2017**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Relationships die from neglect or harsh criticism. They need at least five positive to each negative interaction. *Be light and salt in your family* by saying that kind word with a note or flowers. Go the extra mile in helping with family chores. Give encouragement rather than criticism. Let those you love hear and see that love! *Let your light shine through good deeds.*

**February 12, 2017**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's Gospel is from the "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus gives strong and lofty ideals to inspire and guide our living. Today we celebrate World Marriage Day and are reminded that ideal marriages are not lived on lofty mountaintops, but in the nitty-gritty of everyday life. In their love, mutual sharing and forgiveness, couples give us a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven.

**February 19, 2017**

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jesus challenges us to be *generous* in our love. Keeping score, getting even, holding grudges, being resistant and hating enemies are not routes to holiness and the fulfilling life. Draw on God's limitless love for you to go the extra mile, seek the great good, love your enemies and see what miracles God can work in your life! You cannot out give God!

**February 26, 2017**

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

So what's it going to be? God or stuff? Do you ever wake up in the middle of the night consumed with sleep-stopping worries about job, money, clothing, shelter and more? Jesus knows we do and insists we can defeat useless worry by turning all of our concerns over to God in prayer. This makes God the master of our problems and allows his grace to empower us. We have a choice: constant, useless worry or productive trust in God. Which will you choose?

## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

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| February 5, 2017  | That all family members – single, married, divorced, widowed and remarried – will feel welcomed and inspired by our parish community to live a holy God-centered life. Let us pray to the Lord. |
| February 12, 2017 | For God's gracious blessing on all engaged and married couples. Let us pray to the Lord.  |
| February 19, 2017 | We pray for generous hearts and the willingness to go the extra mile and seek the greater good . Let us pray to the Lord.   |
| February 26, 2017 | For the grace to put God in first place above our worries and before our wants; to seek first his ways. Let us pray to the Lord.  |