

Prayer Gathering for Sixth Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Creator of Life,
every moment of our living is your handiwork,
every gift we possess comes from you.
Help us to face the choices we will make today with wisdom
and use each moment of our lives to bring peace to the world.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

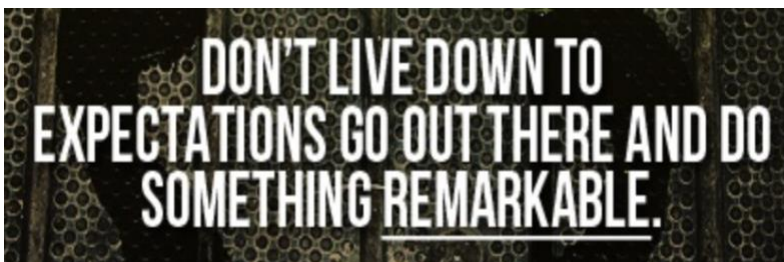
GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

“[God] has set before you fire & water... to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand. Before (you) are life & death, good & evil, whichever (you) choose shall be given you.”
When you’re having a hard time knowing what would be the best choice in a certain situation, what “lens” or “criteria” do you usually use to make your choice?

“No one does [God] command to act unjustly; to none does [God] give license to sin.”
Many people think that war is one example of an evil thing that is at times necessary. Jesus says that God gives no license for sin, even when some might think the end justifies the means. What examples come to mind of this? Where do you stand?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

*"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors:
'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.'
But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment."*

"Your righteousness (must surpass) that of the scribes and Pharisees..."
Jesus calls us to aim for a higher standard than the generations that came before his teaching. What is something we hold ourselves to a higher standard today than we did in past generations?

LITANY

When I feel the itch to speak in anger, but have not yet loosed my tongue...

May we choose goodness... may we choose life

When I want to talk over the others, but first, have a moment's pause...

May we choose goodness... may we choose life

When a white lie could make things a bit smoother, but the truth is an option too...

May we choose goodness... may we choose life

When going with the crowd feels tempting, but I know what my heart wants to say...

May we choose goodness... may we choose life

When my wandering mind starts comparing me to others... but I catch myself as it begins...

May we choose goodness... may we choose life

When I avert my eyes from someone who needs connection, and realize that's what I'm doing...

May we choose goodness... may we choose life

When *fear* and *faith* are two options, side-by-side on the shelf...

May we choose goodness... may we choose life

When kicking the can a little further feels appealing, but I realize that I could also begin now...

May we choose goodness... may we choose life

When I could choose what is easy, convenient and fast, and pause to consider the other options...

May we choose goodness... may we choose life

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.

CLOSING PRAYER

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from the book of Sirach

If you choose you can keep the commandments,
they will save you;
if you trust in God, you too shall live;

he has set before you fire and water
to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand.

Before man are life and death, good and evil,
whichever he chooses shall be given him.

Immense is the wisdom of the Lord;
he is mighty in power, and all-seeing.

The eyes of God are on those who fear him;
he understands man's every deed.

No one does he command to act unjustly,
to none does he give license to sin.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

*"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses
that of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.*

*"You have heard that it was said to your ancestors,
You shall not kill; and whoever kills
will be liable to judgment.*

*But I say to you,
whoever is angry with his brother
will be liable to judgment.*

*"You have heard that it was said,
You shall not commit adultery.
But I say to you,
everyone who looks at a woman with lust
has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*

*"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors,
Do not take a false oath,
but make good to the Lord all that you vow.*

*But I say to you, do not swear at all.
Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.'
Anything more is from the evil one."*

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ

Matthew, chapter 5