**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**“To you who hear, I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”**

 **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, February 19, 5:15 Mass - For World Peace, the Poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's**

**Sunday, February 20, 9:30 a.m. Mass + For the Soul of Elen Teclu by Hagasa Gebremeskal**

**Thanksgiving Mass for Chelsee Pierre - Jerome**

**10:45 a.m. Mass + For the Soul of Mendel Gonzales by Ropert and Garcellanosa**

**Monday, February 21, No Mass**

**Tuesday, February 22, No Mass**

**Wednesday, February 23, 8:00 a.m. Mass**

**Thursday, February 24, 8:00 a.m. Mass – Memorial of St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr**

**Friday, February 25, 8:00 a.m. Mass**

**Saturday, February 26, 5:15 p.m. Mass - For World Peace, the Poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's**

**Sunday, February 27, – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:30 a.m. Mass – For World Peace, the Poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's**

**10:45 a.m. Mass - For World Peace, the Poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter's**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME REFLECTION: Once again, this weekend we continue reading from Luke's collection of the teachings of Jesus known as the 'Sermon on the Plain'. The essence of this reading is found in verses 27 and 28. There is a radical new commandment here, given to all the disciples of Jesus, that we should love our enemies. This commandment is found in Matthew and Luke, in their respective collections of Jesus' teaching, and in both gospels this new precept challenges the opinions of the contemporaries of Jesus: 'I say this to you.' The commandment is elaborated in the following verses, and repeated in verse 35. We are called to be like God, because we are children of God. Throughout Luke's gospel Jesus reveals the compassion of God, and the call is for us to 'be compassionate as your Father is compassionate'. The vocation of the Christian is not to 'treat others as you would like them to treat you', but, in a far more demanding manner, to 'do as God does'. To what extent do we live the gospel command to 'love your enemies'? Is compassion a guiding factor in our dealings with others?**

**Let us here at St. Peter’s pray that we may truly imitate the love of Christ.**

**Let us pray for generosity of heart in all we do.**

**Society of St Vincent de Paul for the Poor Initiative: We thank all parishioners for your steadfast and generous support for the St Vincent de Paul Ottawa South Conference For the Poor initiative. St Peter&#39;s parishioners donated $2670 in 2021, $1980 received in our December SSVP special collection and $690 through the year. Donations fund the purchase of food gift cards for those in need across our parish communities. Your support is key as many families continue to struggle amidst the pandemic. In 2021, your Ottawa South Conference made 152 home visits, providing $11,500 in food cards and $3815 in SSVP store vouchers to families. We count on your ongoing support in 2022. St Vincent de Paul donation envelopes are available in the church entrance. Together, through Christ may we continue to serve the poor in all possible ways, with joy, respect, justice and love. St Peter Social Action Committee**

**SPECIAL NOTICE: His grace Archbishop Marcel Damphousse has decided to remove the requirement from the Worship Safe Guidelines that called for the collection of names and contact information of those who attend religious services (effective immediately). Indoor or outdoor Meetings and Gatherings are also no longer required to collect names and contact information You are required to still wear a mask and to social distance when entering the Church.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY: Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 and marks the start of Lent. A special Mass with the Imposition of Ashes for the parish community will be held 7:00 p.m. here at St. Peter’s. All parishioners, Families and friends are invited to attend. Please note that there will be No 8:30 am Mass that morning. We hope to see many of you in attendance. Abstinence from eating meat is to be observed and applies to persons 14 and older. The law of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and on the other Fridays of Lent as well, applies to persons 18 or older and younger than 60.**

**2021 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS:** **The 2021 income tax are available for pick up at the back of the church this weekend. They are in alphabetical order. Also, if are using collection envelopes they are available for pickup at the back as well. Many thanks for your generous donations towards keeping our beautiful Church up and running!**

**SOCIETY OF ST-VINCENT DE PAUL ‘CATCH THE ACE’ FUNDRAISER: The Ottawa Central Council (OCC) of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is working with the Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) to build a housing complex, called the Anchor, to be located at 7 Rossland Ave., Nepean. Through various fundraising activities, the OCC aims to raise sufficient funds to cover the down payments of 4- 6 apartments for Indigenous and Inuit families in need. Studies have shown that Indigenous and Inuit people are overrepresented in the homeless population in Ottawa. Supporting this project contributes to the Archdiocese of Ottawa - Cornwall’s commitment to supporting initiatives for healing, truth and reconciliation. The SSVP will provide ongoing support to those tenants according to its mission. When their housing is affordable, people can pay for other basic necessities such as food, clothing, health needs and transportation. They can then achieve health and dignity and participate more fully in the life of the community with employment and education. Affordable housing is an investment in the future of our community. Info: www.ssvpottawa.ca. Cost: $10 per ticket. Winner of the First draw is Jennifer Heal who won $444.00. Next draw Tuesday, Feb. 22nd**

**GIVE TILL IT HURTS: We all like to think of ourselves as generous. Whether we’re giving to family, friends or charity, each of us feels warm and fuzzy when we donate. And we should. Scripture says God loves a cheerful giver. The problem is, God’s standards are a little higher than ours. He wants us to be cheerful not just when we give to good people. God calls us to give joyously to the underserving as well. Jesus said we should give to everyone who asks of us, everyone. We’re to be open handed and open hearted to the ungrateful, the slow re-payers, the grudging givers and the debt defaulters. It’s not a financial decision, it’s a spiritual choice. God wants us to give and He’ll sort out what happens after we open our hands. We’re just called to loosen those fingers to begin with. It isn’t an easy step to take. It’s hard to see money, time or gifts be given where they’re misused or denigrated. But God stands beside us, encouraging us to give anyway, no matter the cost. He did. He gave His Son to a world that rejected, reviled and crucified Him. He paid with blood for the gift of mercy to be given to people who deny He exists. God gave till it hurts and He calls us to do the same.**