

Pulpit Announcements for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 23, 2025

**Welcome to all who are here today to celebrate this
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time with us.
Whoever you are or wherever you find yourself on the journey.
Know that here at St. Matthias, ALL ARE WELCOME!**

- **(Only for the 5 PM Mass)** This Mass, presided by Rev. Joseph Kabali, is in celebration of Black History Month. There will be a reception after Mass in the cafeteria. All are welcome.
- We are planning for Ash Wednesday. Besides four services in the church, we offer a drive-thru distribution of ashes. We ask for volunteers to help with this annual tradition. Kindly enter your name in the Sign Up Genius on our parish website.
- Lent is the best time to join a small faith-sharing group. Why not grow in the Word of God like so many of our parishioners who enjoy small group sharing during Lent? See the bulletin for more information.
- Our Parish Retreat will be on Saturday, March 15, from 9 am to 12 noon. Everyone is invited to come and be spiritually renewed.
- The Empty Bowls is on March 9. St. Matthias parishioners are all out supporting this annual event to raise funds for the Franklin Food Bank. See page 8 of the bulletin for more details for details.
- Today's second collection is in support of the Catholic Press Month. Our donations will help the free distribution of the Catholic Spirit.
- We remind you to join the Eucharistic Adoration this Monday any time between 6 - 8 pm.

In today's Gospel Jesus presents us with a string of wisdom sayings that are also very challenging. This calls for a radical change of heart to accept every person as our brother or sister. It asks us to stop judging others and treat everyone as we expect how others should treat us. This requires the grace of God. Let us ask for this grace during this Eucharistic celebration...

Music for Our Assembly
February 23, 2025
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

*O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me...Psalm 13*

Gathering Hymn – Love Divine All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us your humble dwelling;
All your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, source of all compassion,
Love unbounded, love all pure;
Visit us with your salvation,
Let your love in us endure.

2. Come, almighty to deliver;
Let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Nevermore your temples leave.
Lord, we would be always blessing,
Serve you as your hosts above,
Pray, and praise you without ceasing,
Glory in your precious love.

3. Finish then your new creation,
Pure and spotless, gracious Lord;
Let us see your great salvation
Perfectly in you restored.
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we sing before the almighty,
Lost in wonder, love and praise!

Text: 87 87 D; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887.

Prayer of the Faithful

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 23, 2025

Our response is: “*In your name, O God, we pray.*”

1. For Pope Francis and all church leaders . . . strengthen them to preach your gospel message to manifest the unbounded mercy of God through acts of forgiveness, we pray. . .
2. For global, national, and civic leaders, especially those of our own country . . . remove any self-centered thoughts of power or prestige and plant, instead, the seeds of understanding and reconciliation, we pray. . .
3. For a response to the challenge of today’s Gospel to reach deep into our hearts, calling us to changes of attitude and behavior, for the openness to accept the differences God fashioned in those we judge or condemn because they are not like us, we pray...
4. For those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit . . . may they be comforted, and led to healing, by the unselfish devotion of all who minister to them, we pray. . .
5. For those who have died, especially ***Leslie Allen and Anthony Stone*** . . . bring them into the eternal perfection of their heavenly home to rejoice with you always, we pray. . .
6. For the silent intentions we hold deep in our hearts this day, we pray. . .

The PRIEST now mentions the Mass intention and says the JUBILEE PRAYER as the concluding prayer:

- 5 PM:** 75th Anniversary for Marie & Mauro DeFeo
8 AM: Lauren Salvi
10 AM: Jean Elguicze
12 PM: Intention of Parishioners

Preparation of the Gifts - Hold On To Love

1. There is a place for the sadness. Hold on to Love.

There is a season of gladness. Hold on to Love.

When pain and confusion seem endless, hold on to Love.

We cultivate healing through kindness. Hold on to Love.

Hold on to Love, where hope is found.

Hold on to Love, where joy abounds.

Hold on to Love, where grace and mercy's overflowing.

Hold on to Love.

2. When terror and fear overwhelm us, hold on to Love.

Courage and faith will sustain us. Hold on to Love.

When violence seeks to destroy us, hold on to Love.

Acts of compassion restore us. Hold on to Love.

3. When hatred is used to divide us, hold on to Love.

Wisdom and truth reunite us. Hold on to Love.

When prejudice poses as freedom, hold on to Love.

Dignity means "all are welcome!" Hold on to Love.

Communion Hymn – Ubi Caritas

**Ubi caritas est vera, est vera:
Deus ibi est, Deus ibi est.**

1. The love of Christ joins us together.
Let us rejoice in him,
and in our love and care for all
now love God in return.

2. In true communion let us gather.
May all divisions cease
and in their place be Christ the Lord,
our risen Prince of Peace.

3. May we who gather at this table
to share the bread of life
become a sacrament of love,
your healing touch, O Christ.

4. For those in need make us your mercy,
for those oppressed, your might.
Make us, your Church, a holy sign
of justice and new life.

5. May we one day behold your glory
and see you face to face,
rejoicing with the saints of God
to sing eternal praise.

Closing Hymn - Lord You Give the Great Commission

1. Lord, you give the great commission:
'Heal the sick and preach the word.'
Lest the Church neglect its mission,
And the Gospel go unheard,
Help us witness to your purpose
With renewed integrity;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.
4. Lord, you show us love's true measure:
'Father, what they do, forgive.'
Yet we hoard as private treasure
All that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us
To a just society;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.
5. Lord, you bless with words assuring:
'I am with you to the end.'
Faith and hope and love restoring,
May we serve as you intend,
And, amid the cares that claim us,
Hold in mind eternity;
With the Spirit's gifts empower us
For the work of ministry.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b.1934, © 1978, Hope Publishing Co.

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Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.

He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion.

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he put our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.