

# Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Scripture

*Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18*  
*Psalms 103:1–2, 3–4, 8, 10, 12–13*  
*1 Corinthians 3:16–23*  
*Matthew 5:38–48*

## Focus



**UNIVERSAL CALL  
TO HOLINESS**

## Reflection

### PART I

*Directions: In this week's gospel reading, Jesus calls us to love even our enemies. Reflect back over your life. Who are the people who in some way have been an enemy to you? What would you have to do or to let go of in order to love them? Write your thoughts here.*

### PART II

*Directions: This gospel reading also states that we are to be perfect as God is perfect. In the left column, list all the attitudes you think Jesus might include in being perfect, whole, or holy. In the right column, list behaviors that you think Jesus might consider whole, or perfect. Consider whether these attitudes and behaviors seem possible for you to live.*

Attitudes

Behaviors

## Quotable Quotes

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*“There are two ways, one of life and one of death:  
and great is the difference between the two ways.  
The way of life is this: first, you shall love God, who created you;  
second, your neighbor as yourself.”*  
(Didache 1:1)

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## Did You Know?

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The Church document *Justice in the World* (November 30, 1971), is the first on social teaching to derive from a synod of bishops. One of its great contributions is the linking of the gospel message of loving one's neighbor to the pursuit of justice. The mission of the Church, and thus of individual members, is not only a striving toward a spiritual wholeness and holiness, but working in the world for a holiness of right relationships.

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## The Church Says

All people are called to holiness. Before the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) the Church emphasized the call to holiness that belongs to priests and women and men in religious life. In a rather radical reorientation that goes back to the New Testament and the understanding of the early Church, the Council taught that *all* people are called to holiness by reason of their baptism. This means that married couples, parents, single persons, all the baptized—are called to holiness. All the baptized express God’s love in their particular way and situation.

To grow in holiness we need the strength and support of the Christian community. Prayer, participation in the sacraments, ascetical practices, looking to Mary and to the witness of the saints as examples are all helps in living a life of holiness, the call of love.

The call to holiness is given as a gift from God. This call requires a response in action. Making moral choices, living the commandments, loving our enemies, and practicing the Beatitudes are ways of cooperating with God’s grace and call to holiness. In cooperating with God’s grace through actions, believers are united with Christ and with the entire Trinity.

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## For This Week

I want to remember:

I want to put my faith into action by:

### Questions to Explore

### Prayer for the Week



*God of love, I want to love you and  
all of my sisters and brothers.  
Yet, at times, I get hurt  
or I see real harm that is done  
and I find it hard to love.  
Help me when love is beyond  
my understanding.  
Give me your eyes  
to see as you see those persons,  
who feel like enemies to me.  
Give me your grace to love myself as well.  
Teach me to treat my body well,  
since my body is your temple.  
Let your love wash over me  
and over all of your people  
just as your sun shines on all. Amen.*