

## 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:14-15  
Psalm 62:2-3,6-9  
1 Corinthians 4:1-5  
Matthew 6:24-34

### Monday February 27

Sirach 17:20-24  
Ps 32:1-2,5,6,7  
Mark 10:17-27

### Tuesday February 28

Sirach 35:1-12  
Ps 50:5-8,14,23  
Mark 10:28-31

### Ash Wednesday March 1

Joel 2:12-18  
Ps 51:3-6,12-14,17  
2 Corinthians 5:20--6:2  
Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

### Thursday March 2

Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
Ps 1:1-4,6  
Luke 9:22-25

### Friday March 3

Isaiah 58:1-9a  
Ps 51:3-6ab,18-19  
Matthew 9:14-15

### Saturday March 4

Isaiah 58:9b-14  
Ps 86:1-6  
Luke 5:27-32

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives advice on how to live in the holiness that he has been teaching and modeling. Interestingly, today's reading follows the same guidelines that Jesus set forth in the "Our Father" prayer, starting with "give us this day our daily bread". Both the prayer and the sermon focus our attention on trusting God for our daily needs.

In every temptation, in every challenge, and in every difficulty either we choose to trust God or else we trust our limited understanding of the situation and choose the ways of the world. We cannot do both at the same time, although we might fool ourselves into believing that we can keep one foot in heaven while the other foot walks the paths of the world. (Try picturing that!)



If that's our thinking, we're not trusting God to take care of us. We are living under the assumption that he won't be as generous with us as we are with others.

That's why Jesus went on to say, "You worry too much!" We should focus not on what worries us but on how good God is.

Jesus said, "God loves you so much, he *will* take care of you! If you seek first God's kingdom and handle daily life God's way, you'll have everything you need."

Worry is a sin when it takes our eyes off of Jesus. Worry is evil when it restrains us from giving to others what Jesus wants to give them.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What are some of the compromises you make with the world instead of imitating Christ completely?
2. What are your favorite possessions? If you know someone who could benefit from them, could you part with them?
3. Describe a time when you gave away something that was hard to give? What did you learn from the experience?
4. Why is this part of the Sermon on the Mount so difficult to accept and live?

The word "mammon" comes from the Aramaic word for "wealth" or "property." It's been said that someone once prayed, "Give us this day our daily bread" and God replied, "You already have your bread and other people's bread, too." What do we have in storage that someone else needs? We store up for the future while others barely survive as they lack what we have in abundance. It feels dangerous to give away what we've stored up; someday we might need it more than they do! (This is why many Catholics feel so uncomfortable when asked to give more to the parish and to other charities.)