

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 02-15-2026

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

We make decisions all the time, but some decisions are a lot more important than others, especially moral ones.

We were created free to make these decisions for our lives and our futures but there are always consequences.

God created us free but again as we heard in the first reading no one has been made to act unjustly - God doesn't give anyone license to sin. Strictly speaking, no one has that right.

Unfortunately in our world today, many people would disagree. People often view freedom as the ability to do whatever they want – good or evil – as long as it doesn't hurt anyone else. That might be one of the biggest lies of all.

Even if a particular sin seemingly does no harm to anyone else, it certainly harms the one who does it. And sin, without repentance, has the potential to separate one from God forever.

But not everyone wants to hear this. As St. Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians, “We speak a wisdom to those who are mature, not a wisdom of this age...”

Far too often we have to endure this lack of wisdom in our culture today.

But Jesus reminds us in the gospel that he did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill it and unless our righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, we will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Ultimately, hell comes down to a personal choice. God didn't destine anyone for hell.

So are we left with an impossible situation? I mean whose yes is always yes and whose no is always no? Not mine. I'm as weak as anybody.

And yet here we are preparing to approach the altar to receive the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist.

But how can anyone in good conscience approach the altar and think that they can worthily receive Jesus?

Who among us hasn't at one time been angry with someone or spoken ill of another or experienced lust in our hearts?

In the gospel Jesus tells us that these sins make us liable to judgment. And yet he always gives us an easy way out.

He tells us to reconcile with our brothers and sisters before coming to the altar and we do that every time we pray the Confiteor and acknowledge our sins at the beginning of Mass – Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

But that only works for venial sins. We need the Sacrament of Reconciliation to wipe away mortal sins.

We've all failed in the past and we will likely fail again in the future. But we always have recourse to the mercy of God especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

This is where our 'Yes' really means 'Yes' and our 'No' really means 'No.'

This is the place where we choose good over evil and Jesus meets us with his forgiveness, grace and mercy. This is the place where we choose heaven and reject hell.

As I said before, sin hurts the sinner much more than it hurts the one who is sinned against.

But when we repent of our sins especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we will most assuredly be among the greatest in the kingdom of heaven regardless of any mistakes we might have made along the way.

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

So let's vow to choose the mercy of God especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation today and every day of our lives.