

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we gather this Sunday, Jesus continues his Sermon on the Mount, calling us to a righteousness that goes deeper than just following rules—a righteousness of the heart. He challenges us to move beyond merely obeying the letter of the law to embodying the spirit of the law, which is love for God and our neighbor.

In the Gospel, Jesus says, “I have come not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it”. He invites us to examine our relationships, asking us to address anger, foster reconciliation, and uphold purity in our intentions rather than just our actions. Following Christ means choosing life and goodness, which sometimes requires us to stand against the "wisdom of this age" and embrace the counter-cultural path of the Gospel.

As we approach the upcoming Ash Wednesday (February 18), let us remember that true happiness is found not in possessions or status, but in being blessed in God's eyes by living with humility, mercy, and a commitment to justice. Let us reflect on where we can move from, *"What do I have to do?"* to *"How much more can I love and serve?"*

May I remind you of our Ash Wednesday Schedule:

Mass with Distribution of Ashes

8:15 AM; 6:00 PM (Our Lady of Grace Church)

8:00 AM; 7:30 PM (Transfiguration Church)

Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes

12:00 Noon (both Our Lady of Grace and Transfiguration Churches)

Fr. Luke