

Sonny Curtis, who replaced Buddy Holly in the band “The Crickets” wrote the song “I Fought the Law and the Law Won,” in 1958, and recorded it in 1959.

Even though it was covered by a couple other local bands during the next 6 years, it received no air time, and remained - for the most part - unknown.

It wasn't until 1965, when it was covered by the “Bobby Fuller Four” that the song reached the top ten.

Since then it has been performed and covered by countless bands and groups ... among them the Clash, the Dead Kennedys, Hank Williams, Jr., Bryan Adams, John Cougar Mellencamp, Johnny Cash, Bruce Springsteen, Roy Orbison, Tom Petty, Social Distortion, Green Day, Alvin and the Chipmunks, the Grateful Dead, and the Stray Cats ... to name a few.

If you mention “the Law” in regular conversation - often the image that comes to mind is an intimidating southern Sheriff ... or maybe an TV show judge ... or a commercial for a lawyer or a law firm.

Our readings today deal with “the Law” in a different sense. To the Jewish people, “the Law” is what sets them apart from other nations ... it is what makes them the “Chosen People.” For them, “the Law” meant the Law of Moses ... the Ten Commandments ... as well as the dietary and purity laws that came after that.

The law of God was intended as a way to guide people to live in a way that reflects God's justice, mercy, and goodness. Yet when lived through human effort alone ... everyone fell short.

We may find ourselves fighting God's way ... and when we fight with God ... well ... we find ourselves on the wrong side of things ... maybe even separated from His grace.

Yet with God's grace, we are able to go beyond our personal limitations ... and can move from where we are ... to live more deeply a life filled with God's grace ... a life lived through, with, and in the Person of Jesus Christ.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray that we might let God's grace and mercy ... form us into the image of His Son - Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we allow God's law ... written upon our hearts ... to be energized by His grace as poured out onto us through the Holy Spirit.