

THE BEATITUDES

It is no accident that Jesus presented his beatitudes on a mountain. God delivered the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Those commandments were laws written on stone tablets. Jesus' beatitudes are ideals that are to be written on human hearts. Jesus did not overturn the laws of Moses. But with the beatitudes, Jesus wanted to shift the focus from external laws to be obeyed to laws of love to be lived in the kingdom he came to reveal.

The beatitudes turn this world's standards upside down. Happiness is being poor in spirit? "Nonsense!" the worldly tell us. The road to happiness is found in aggressiveness, ambition and success in competition.

Happiness, Jesus tells us, is given to us by God. We don't win it, achieve it, merit it or buy it. Everyone can have it. When it comes to happiness, everyone can be a winner. Happiness and fulfillment, Jesus teaches, will come to people with open hands, humble hearts and receptive spirits. The kingdom is God's gift; it's not ours to fashion as we wish.

Blessedness for the sorrowing? The poor? The meek? The persecuted? You won't find them on TV talk shows.

Who are the Meek? They are those who have harnessed their talents and abilities to serve God's interests, not their own interests. They find happiness in serving others.

The hungry and thirsty? They continually seek a better, deeper, and richer relationship with God. They hunger for a better world in which we care for each other. The merciful? They are centered on others. They are willing to forgive and to seek reconciliation.

Now in contrast, Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche was a famous German philosopher from the nineteenth century who was instrumental in shaping the Nazi philosophy that the fittest should rise to the top, and those at the bottom should be dismissed from living. He also believed that God was dead.

Nietzsche's view is still the rallying cry of many atheists who proclaim that God does not exist, or is irrelevant to our world today. This modern perspective dismisses Christian practice and belief. But Saint Paul reminds us that when we put our faith in Christ, we cannot be deterred. As we heard in today's reading:

God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something.

The Christian belief is that Christ is our redemption and our justification, and that living a life modeled on the beatitudes leads to happiness and fulfillment. That belief is now two thousand years old, and is still strongly held by more than two billion people. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche is very much dead, and God is quite alive in this world because of those who believe in Jesus Christ and strive to live the message of the beatitudes.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Jan 30	Heb 11:32-40, Mk 5:1-20
Tues	Jan 31	Heb 12:1-4, Mk 5:21-43, Mt 18:1-5
Wed	Feb 1	Heb 12:4-7, 11-15, Mk 6:1-6
Thur	Feb 2	Mal 3:1-4, Heb 2:14-18, Lk 2:22-40
Fri	Feb 3	Heb 13:1-8, Mk 6:14-29
Sat	Feb 4	Heb 13:15-17, 20-21, Mk 6:30-34
Sun	Feb 5	Is 58:7:10, 1 Cor 2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND

CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$ 8,178.10
Nativity Elem.	\$ 140.00
Capital Improvement	\$ 112.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,151.22
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$ 9,581.22
CASH NEEDED	\$14,400.00

SPECIAL APPEAL – MAINTENANCE FUNDS

Our original goal of \$150,000 has been met. However, payments, as scheduled on current pledges, will not be completed until the end of January, 2017. Please continue to use the orange envelopes for these payments. Likewise, many of you who did not pledge are participating by weekly or monthly gifts through the orange envelopes. Please continue your generosity. The response from you, our parishioners, has been extremely gratifying and will enable us to complete all the maintenance items delineated in our original appeal letter in January 2016. After our original survey of maintenance items, additional needs have developed. We assure you all funds received will be prudently expended.

TOTAL GIFTS AND PLEDGES TO DATE	\$169,904
PAYMENTS TO DATE	\$162,419
BALANCE TO COMPLETE PLEDGES	\$ 7,485

NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Ministry continues to ask for our support with the Upcoming Diocesan Youth Celebration, which will be held March 17-19, 2017.

We are, again asking for your help in supporting our trip and we are selling Ads for the Convention book. This is a great way to supports our Parish Youth and advertise your business!

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

This is such a beautiful and holy time to come and spend with Jesus in Adoration. Won't you prayerfully consider giving the gift of your time to our savior and be pleasantly surprised to receive the gifts He will give you in return. First Friday Adoration is February 3rd, from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., in the Marian Chapel.

EOFFEE AND DONUTS

Please join us for coffee and donuts after the 9:00 mass next Sunday, February 5th. (Weather permitting)

SCHEDULED LAY MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Feb 4 4:00 pm 1. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Liz Joachim 4. Ann Kavanagh 5. Helen Languirand	Feb 4 4:00 pm Rhonda Clark	Feb 4 4:00 pm Keegan Cuevas Sabree Sander
Feb 5 7:00 am 1. Jim Shugart 2. Vicki Howard 3. Dale Dorcik	Feb 5 7:00am Jim Shugart 9:00 am Al Simons, Jr. 11:00 am Michael Kessler 5:30 pm Youth Ministry	Feb 5 7:00 am Makayla Pfarrer Alec Ryan 9:00 am Troy Fulton Trent Fulton Sofia Carreon Triston Davis 11:00 am Michael Pfarrer Hadyn Hollis Simon Randall 5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Sydney Wells
9:00 am 1. John Brauchle 2. Linda Welter 3. Barbara Ziz 4. Marianne Sherman 5. John Sherman	CANTORS Feb 4 4:00 p.m Billy Endicott Feb 5 9:00 a.m. John Welter 11:00 am Dennis Burke	
11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Nanette Burke 3. Brad Butterfield 4. Judy Steckler 5. Sandy Steckler		
5:30 pm 1. Deacon Ben 2. Kristy Arguelles 3. Teresa Ballinger		

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 30 Women of Mary 5:30 p.m.
 Jan 31 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
 - RCIA at 6:00 p.m., SHC
 - BINGO Mania, 5:30 p.m. - Bingo Hall
 Feb 1 - **Cleaning Team “D”**
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.
 CCD Classes at 5:30 p.m.
 Feb 2 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.
 Feb 3 First Friday Adoration, 8:30-9:30, in Chapel

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for January 31st. Ladnier (Amanda Bodin/Adam Ladnier), McCaleb (Robby & Shanel Williams), Naber (Kayla Owen), Nguyen (David & Thu Thuy), O’Grady (Sean & Katie), Phelps (Sally Richards) and Ramon (Missy). **REMEMBER!** If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.

WE ARE ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

As you all know, Bishop-elect, Louis Kihneman’s ordination will be on February 17th, in our Cathedral. We will have rehearsal and additional masses during that week. This will bring a lot of people into the Cathedral and we will need to have it cleaned several times that week. Please consider helping with the additional cleaning that will be required to keep the Cathedral in beautiful condition. Please call the rectory to let us know when you can volunteer your time to help. 228-374-1717.

Mass Intentions

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Jan 30	Boise Ray “Skip” Butterfield, Jr.	Cathy Krebs Truscott
Tue	Jan 31	Chester Balius Fly.	Josephine Esposito Allen
Wed	Feb 1	Collins-Sims Fly.	Boise Ray “Skip” Butterfield, Jr
Thur	Feb 2	Mary Collins Wilson	Dan Williams
Fri	Feb 3	Gaspar/Mary Pisarich	Stanley Dellenger
Sat	Feb 4	8 – Chester Balius	4 Sonny/Helen Ross
Sun	Feb 5	7 – Chester Balius Fly.	9 - For the Parishioners
		11 – Boise Ray “Skip” Butterfield, Jr.	5:30 - Collins-Sims Fly.

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Anna Jo Wentzell, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Joe Powell, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert and Gwen Gollotte.

THE FLOWERS THIS WEEKEND ARE FOR: Jackie Gilich; in loving memory from her family.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in memory of Ms. Helen Ross from the Staff and Students at Nativity Elementary.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*This weekend begins the national celebration of Catholic Schools – Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service. We thank you for your support of our school over these last 60 years!

*The annual Nativity School Science Fair will be held on Thursday, February 2nd. All are welcome to view the projects from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

*Science Fair Awards will be given on Friday, February 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

*Please remember that our school collects/saves the following: Box Tops for Education; UPC codes from Community Coffee products, aluminum beverage cans. Thank you!

*Mark your calendars! The annual Nativity BVM School Open House will be held on Sunday, February 12th from 11:00 – 2:00 p.m. All former, current and prospective families are welcome to attend!

R.C.I.A.

This week the RCIA class will be learning about the Seventh Commandment with Father James, and Ryan Canon will be leading our Prayer Service. Please pray for the Catechumens, Candidates and Sponsors as we approach the Easter Sacraments and as they continue their journey of faith together. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348.

CCD CLASS INFORMATION

CCD classes are held on Wednesdays, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTION

It is time to renew our Magnificat subscription for 2017. For those of you who subscribe through Nativity, please call or email Jackie Hewitt at the rectory to renew or cancel. jhewitt@nativitybvm.org.