

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 28-29th, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel reading

Matthew 5:1-12a

When he saw the crowds,
he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down,
his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.

Intercession

That, as meek as lambs, we may follow Jesus as he leads our parish through our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.

Copy for bulletin announcement

Today Jesus said in the Gospel, “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.” (Matthew 5:12) He commanded us to rejoice in our persecution.

Jesus doesn't ask us to rejoice in pain for pain's sake. As he faced his agony, Jesus himself asked that the cup of suffering "might pass from me." Jesus shares our very human and very good desire to avoid pain when it makes sense to do so. He commanded us to rejoice when in pain for his sake.

"If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you," he candidly reminded those following him (John 15:20). Pain comes to those who follow him. That's the bad news. The good news is it will eventually be okay—more than OK. We will possess *him* in perfect beatitude one day. It's worth anything this valley of tears can throw at us because the valley has an end. Today, Jesus entrusts our parish with the mission to help local Christians make it there. With your help, our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* will enable us to reach those Jesus asks. Jesus is meek, merciful, pure of heart, and himself persecuted like no one else. Please help us to shine as brightly as Jesus' face did when he first revealed the beatitudes. Jesus is the way, and he will show you which way to help.

Copy for pulpit announcement

In today's Gospel, Jesus told us that the clean of heart "will see God" (Matthew 5:8). Elsewhere, in Luke's Gospel, he told us to give alms so that "everything will be clean for you" (Luke 11:41). Our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* is an opportunity for us to give alms together. Together we can also enjoy the happiness of a clean heart, unencumbered by earthly attachments, working in his vineyard.

Social media post/content

Photo: Faces of various people.

Header: *We are the face of Jesus*

Sub-header: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Copy: Catechism 1717 says, "The Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ." Today's Gospel is a portrait of Jesus.

The Beatitudes then also become a list of adjectives that describe a Christian. As beautiful as the poetry of the Beatitudes is, a person fully alive with them is more radiant. Join us in striving to let each of the 8 Beatitudes become true of us through our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*.