

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JAN. 31-FEB. 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading

Mt 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. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Intercession

As Church, may we live the Beatitudes, showing mercy, giving comfort, and bringing peace through the efforts of the Catholic Ministry Appeal and similar initiatives.

Copy for Bulletin Announcement

Jesus was the genuine article, the real deal. He practiced what he preached, and the Beatitudes delivered during his Sermon on the Mount were his guide for living. Jesus lived them, offering comfort, satisfying hunger, extending mercy, bringing peace. He also lived the persecution and insults. The spiritual qualities the Beatitudes enumerate are a road map of sorts. Live according to these blessings, and you are living a life that is pleasing to the Heavenly Father, one that will lead to him. Up until now, the Jews had the 10 Commandments to keep them on the path to God. Jesus is now giving them the eight Beatitudes.

It won't be easy. Jesus warns that others will "insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me." But this is cause for rejoicing, "for your reward will be great in heaven." This life is preparation for the next. Its suffering is transient; the joy we experience with God the Father is eternal. Its blessings will pale in comparison to the blessings of everlasting life.

Let us pray that we live this life in a way that will lead us to God in the next. May we offer blessings to the poor, hungry, mourning, and persecuted among us through support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal so that they may see God's face in their affliction.

Copy for Pulpit Announcement

We live in a beautiful world, full of natural wonders and raw beauty. We live in a world that is populated with selfless, kind people who look out for their neighbors and care for those less fortunate. But we also live in a world that includes injustice, poverty, violence, and illness. It is flawed because it is populated by flawed humans. Jesus acknowledges these shortcomings in his Sermon on the Mount with the Beatitudes and provides hope in the face of trial.

He is the hope the world was waiting for and still needs today. Welcoming those on society's periphery into his loving embrace was central to his ministry. He came to serve, to care for the poor, the spiritually and physically hungry, the lonely, the sorrowful, and the persecuted. They



weren't to be avoided or ignored. They were to be embraced. They were blessed. When we make a gift to the Catholic Ministry Appeal, we continue Christ's mission through our own preferential treatment for the marginalized.

Social Media Post/Content

Photo: Child's smiling face

Header: "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God." – Matthew 5:8

Copy: Let's always keep a child-like trust in Our Lord! God made us for love. May we always keep love of Our Father foremost in our hearts, and may we share this love with those who need its solace by supporting the Catholic Ministry Appeal.