

# 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 29, 2023

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

MATTHEW 5:9



## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 29, 2023

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We, the Catholic community of St. Joseph, Placentia, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, center our lives on Jesus Christ. Together we grow as disciples of the Lord in faith and action.

### Mass Schedule:

All Mass times are in-person, Livestream is available as noted.

**Saturday:** Vigil Mass 4 PM

**Sunday:** English: 8 AM / 10 AM - Livestream / 5 PM  
Spanish: 12 PM - Livestream

**Daily Mass:** Mon - Sat, 8:30 AM (Livestream)

### Office Hours:

**Mon-Thurs:** 8:30 AM - 5 PM

**Fri-Sat:** Closed.

**Sunday:** 8 AM - 1:30 PM

### Baptisms:

Please complete the online registration form on our parish website and you will be contacted by a Deacon.

### Reconciliation:

Every Saturday at 3:00 PM  
or call for an appointment

### Anointing of the Sick and Funerals:

Please call the Parish Office.

### Marriages:

Please call the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

### Clergy

Fr. Miguel Hernandez, Pastor

[frmiguel@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:frmiguel@stjosephplacentia.org)

Fr. Carlos Luy, Parochial Vicar

[frcarlos@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:frcarlos@stjosephplacentia.org)

Fr. Don Romito, Retired Priest

[frdon@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:frdon@stjosephplacentia.org)

Fr. Eamon O'Gorman, Retired Priest

Deacon Ken Kleckner

[deaconken@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:deaconken@stjosephplacentia.org)

Deacon Jim Merle

[deaconjim@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:deaconjim@stjosephplacentia.org)

Deacon Jorge Ramirez

[deaconjorge@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:deaconjorge@stjosephplacentia.org)

Deacon Victor Valenzuela

[deaconvictor@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:deaconvictor@stjosephplacentia.org)

### Pastoral Staff

Amanda Hawley, School Principal

[ahawley@sjsplacentia.org](mailto:ahawley@sjsplacentia.org)

Nick Sherg, Business Manager

[nsherg@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:nsherg@stjosephplacentia.org)

Summer Pongetti, Liturgy/Adult Faith

[spongetti@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:spongetti@stjosephplacentia.org)

Max Montero, Facility Manager

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Henrietta Moreno, Administrative Asst.

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Eric Brunter, Youth Ministry

[ebrunter@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:ebrunter@stjosephplacentia.org)

Katherine Pallares, Youth & Media Ministries

[kpallares@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:kpallares@stjosephplacentia.org)

Liliana Duran, Children's Faith Formation

[l\\_duran@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:l_duran@stjosephplacentia.org)

Carol Koppenheffer, Adult RCIA

[ckoppenheffer@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:ckoppenheffer@stjosephplacentia.org)

Paul Nguyen, Music Ministry

[pnguyen@stjosephplacentia.org](mailto:pnguyen@stjosephplacentia.org)

## 2 Parish Life

We would like to thank JS Paluch for their many years of service and producing our bulletins. We are grateful and blessed to have worked with all of you. Moving forward we will be working with LPi Production for our bulletins.

The pandemic, losses, and life's challenges are very stressful and filled with worry for many of us. We turn to our faith in God in these moments and sometimes talking and praying with a brother or sister in faith is just what we need to ease our mind when we are struggling. The sharing of our faith and the accompaniment of one another on our spiritual journey is a core value of spiritual direction. St. Joseph's Church has two certified spiritual directors whom you can contact directly for private and confidential appointments in English or Spanish.

Dr. Ruben Barron  
rsbarron3@gmail.com  
714-321-4827

Dixie Plinski  
djplinski52@yahoo.com  
714-272-2493



La pandemia, las pérdidas y los desafíos de la vida son muy estresantes y llenos de preocupación para muchos de nosotros. Recurrimos a nuestra fe en Dios en estos momentos y, a veces, hablar y orar con un hermano o hermana en la fe es justo lo que necesitamos para tranquilizar nuestra mente cuando estamos luchando. El compartir nuestra fe y el acompañamiento mutuo en nuestro camino espiritual es un valor central de la dirección espiritual. La parroquia de St. Joseph tiene director espiritual certificado a quien usted le puede contactar directamente para citas privadas y confidenciales en español.

Dr. Ruben Barron  
rsbarron3@gmail.com  
714-321-4827

Dixie Plinski  
djplinski52@yahoo.com  
714-272-2493

### Adult Confirmation: English

Register Online: Jan. 15 - Feb. 15  
10 Week Program  
Start Date - March 14th  
Tuesdays from 7pm-8:30pm



Contact Eric today  
for more information:  
ebrunter@stjosephplacentia.org

### Confirmación Adulto: Español

Regístrese en línea: [stjosephplacentia.org](http://stjosephplacentia.org)

Programa de 10 Semanas  
16 de marzo - 25 de mayo  
Jueves: 7:00pm -8:30pm

*\*Los cupos son limitados\**



Por favor contactar para más  
información a Carmen Porter:  
(714) 222.5224 or [cwporter4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwporter4@sbcglobal.net)

### Diocesan Pastoral Services Appeal (PSA) 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Every year our Bishop Kevin Vann invites all Catholics to participate in the Pastoral Services Appeal which supports ministries throughout the Diocese of Orange. This is nothing new to us members of St. Joseph's parish. We will be launching our PSA campaign the weekend of Saturday, February 4th and Sunday, February 5th during all Masses as I have done in the past years. If you have received a diocesan pledge card, please bring it with you so we can collect it or help you fill it out. If you fill out this card at home, don't forget to write: St. Joseph, Placentia (229) as the benefiting parish on your pledge card. If this is not on your card, your financial participation may go to the OTHER St. Joseph parish in Santa Ana.

Blessings,  
Fr. Miguel Hernandez

# 3 Parish Life

## ARE YOU FEELING OVERWHELMED BY THE BUSY-NESS OF OUR WORLD?

Consider attending a Cursillo Weekend to discover how to redirect your life and find the faith-filled peace you are looking for.

Next English Cursillo Weekends will be:  
WINTER SPRING  
MEN: JAN. 19-23 MEN: APR 20-23  
WOMEN: FEB. 2-5 WOMEN: MAY 4-7

To sign up or get more information,  
contact Susan & Matt Heffron at:  
(951) 833-3142.  
StJosephPlacentiaCursillo@gmail.com



Save THE Date

Lent: A Journey of Love  
Parish Mission  
February 26, 27, 28 - English  
March 6, 7, 8 - Spanish

Magnificat

Prayer Breakfast  
in Garden Grove



Saturday, March 4, 2022  
9:30 AM- 12:30 PM  
With Guest Speaker Fr. Angelos Sebastian  
Register on our Parish Website  
or at our Parish Office

## Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

May 1-11, 2023

Priest/Spiritual Guide: Fr. Eamon O' Gorman  
Los Angeles to the Holy Land: \$3,449



For more information and  
reservations please contact  
Kim Beam: 714-932-7413 or

## Weekly Tithe Report

Sunday Collections for 01/22/23:

Basket / Envelopes: \$11,223  
On Line Giving: \$8,173  
Total: \$19,396

Thank you for your generosity!

## Mass Intentions:

### Monday 1/30

Andrew Pence –RIP

### Tuesday 1/31

Henry V. Henryson –RIP  
Darwin Wongkar –RIP  
Francisco Labor Jr. –RIP  
Teresita Cano –RIP  
John Barry Buxton –Splnt

### Wednesday 2/01

Angeles Jimenez –RIP

### Thursday 2/02

Susan & William Curry –RIP  
Andrea Gelido –RIP  
Deverell Family –RIP  
Carlos Castellon –RIP  
Jim Fitzpatrick –Splnt

### Friday 2/03

Maddox & Corey Durbin –Splnt

### Saturday 2/04

Carlos Famorcan & Family –RIP  
Perla Limjoco –RIP

### Sunday 2/05

Joseph H.S. Choi –RIP  
Connie & Michael Javier –RIP  
Matias Cicla –RIP  
Marion Rivera Peralta –Splnt

## For those who are sick:

Norm McCloud  
Jaime Gonzalez  
Linda Moore  
Terry Nieuwlandt  
Mary Preston

## For those who have died:

Victorino Lopez  
Nadine Perez

# 4 Mass Readings

## Reading 1

**Zep 2:3; 3:12-13**

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger. But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: the remnant of Israel. They shall do no wrong and speak no lies; nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue; they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.

## Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10**

*Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!*

## Reading 2

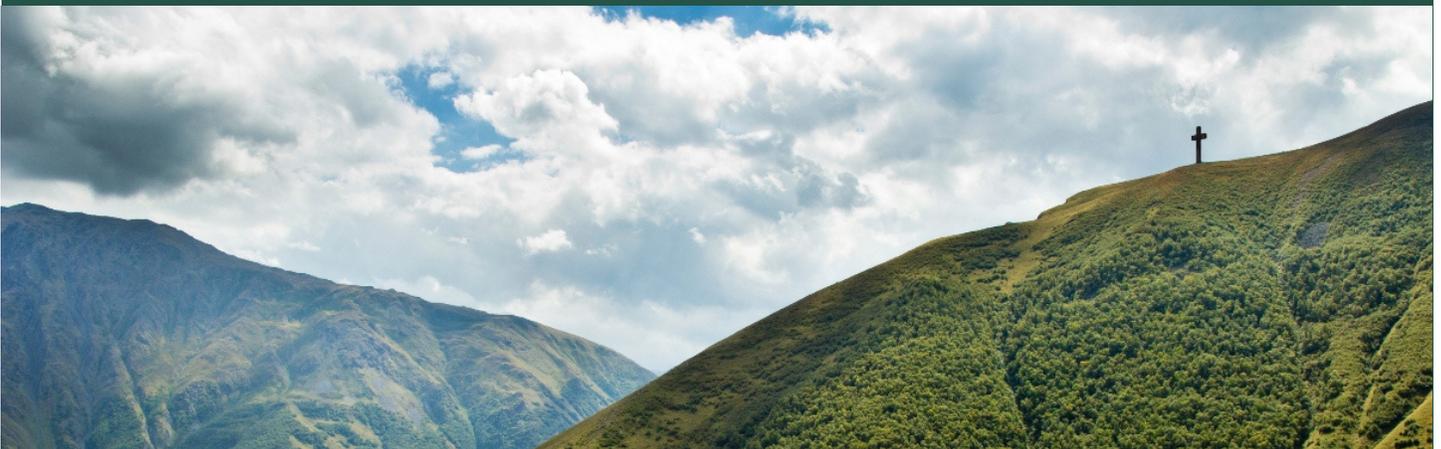
**1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, 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, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

## Gospel

**Matthew 5:1-12a**

When Jesus 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."



# 5 Lecturas de la Misa

## Lectura 1

**Sof 2, 3; 3, 12-13**

Busquen al Señor, ustedes los humildes de la tierra, los que cumplen los mandamientos de Dios. Busquen la justicia, busquen la humildad. Quizá puedan así quedar a cubierto el día de la ira del Señor. "Aquel día, dice el Señor, yo dejaré en medio de ti, pueblo mío, un puñado de gente pobre y humilde. Este resto de Israel confiará en el nombre del Señor. No cometerá maldades ni dirá mentiras; no se hallará en su boca una lengua embustera. Permanecerán tranquilos y descansarán sin que nadie los moleste".

## Salmo Responsorial

**Salmo 145, 7. 8-9a. 9-bc-10**

***Dichosos los pobres de espíritu, porque de ellos es el Reino de los cielos.***

## Lectura 2

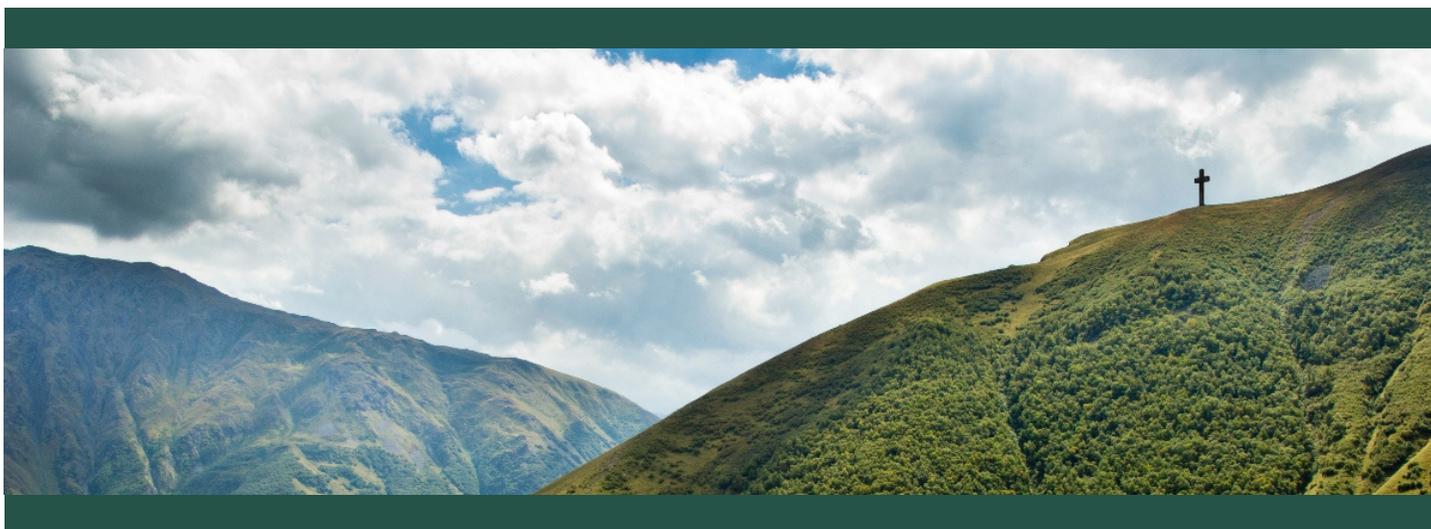
**1 Co 1, 26-31**

Hermanos: Consideren que entre ustedes, los que han sido llamados por Dios, no hay muchos sabios, ni muchos poderosos, ni muchos nobles, según los criterios humanos. Pues Dios ha elegido a los ignorantes de este mundo, para humillar a los sabios; a los débiles del mundo, para avergonzar a los fuertes; a los insignificantes y despreciados del mundo, es decir, a los que no valen nada, para reducir a la nada a los que valen; de manera que nadie pueda presumir delante de Dios. En efecto, por obra de Dios, ustedes están injertados en Cristo Jesús, a quien Dios hizo nuestra sabiduría, nuestra justicia, nuestra santificación y nuestra redención. Por lo tanto, como dice la Escritura: El que se gloria, que se gloríe en el Señor.

## Evangelio

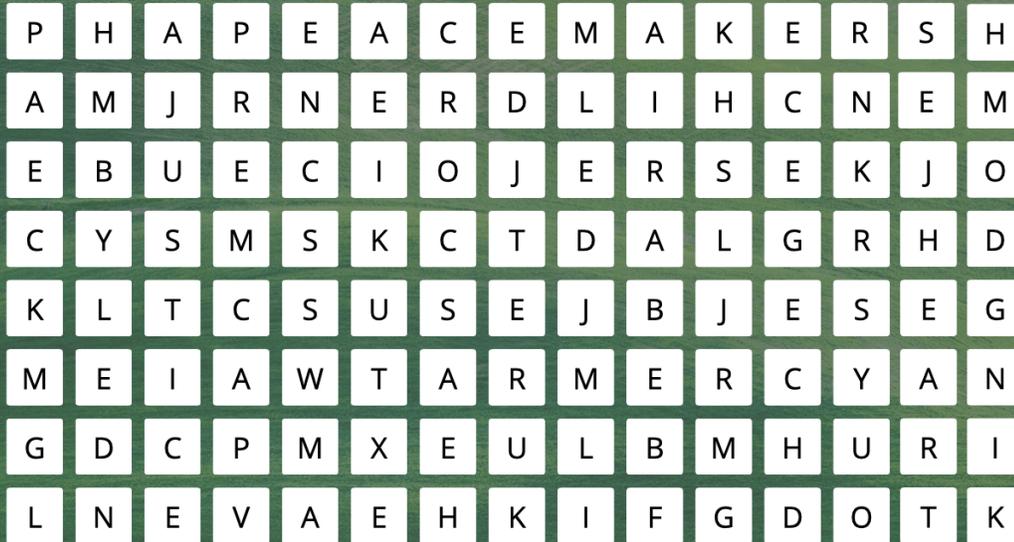
**Mt 5, 1-12a**

En aquel tiempo, cuando Jesús vio a la muchedumbre, subió al monte y se sentó. Entonces se le acercaron sus discípulos. Enseguida comenzó a enseñarles, hablándoles así: "Dichosos los pobres de espíritu, porque de ellos es el Reino de los cielos. Dichosos los que lloran, porque serán consolados. Dichosos los sufridos, porque heredarán la tierra. Dichosos los que tienen hambre y sed de justicia, porque serán saciados. Dichosos los misericordiosos, porque obtendrán misericordia. Dichosos los limpios de corazón, porque verán a Dios. Dichosos los que trabajan por la paz, porque se les llamará hijos de Dios. Dichosos los perseguidos por causa de la justicia, porque de ellos es el Reino de los cielos. Dichosos serán ustedes cuando los injurien, los persigan y digan cosas falsas de ustedes por causa mía. Alégrese y salten de contento, porque su premio será grande en los cielos".





# 6 Kid's Corner



## 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CHILDREN  
GLAD  
HEART  
HEAVEN  
HUMBLE  
JESUS  
JUSTICE  
KINGDOM  
MERCY  
PEACEMAKERS  
REJOICE



## God's Word for Children



### This week's memory verse:

**Blessed are the clean of heart, / for they will see God.**  
Matthew 5:8



### FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

At the Last Supper Jesus said to his disciples,  
"Whoever remains in me . . . will bear much fruit" (John 15:5).

What did Jesus mean when he spoke of us bearing fruit? Certainly not fruit that grows on trees. He meant that if we remain close to him and follow his teachings, we will be able to do many good things. The Church teaches that when we try to good things—to produce good fruit—the fruits of the Holy Spirit will flourish in us (see Galatians 5:22-23).

One of the Spirit's fruits is joy. Think of some of the things you do, for others and for yourself, that bring you joy. It might be sharing something, giving a gift, or helping someone who is sad or is hurt. When you do these things you produce something good that creates joy in you. Some other fruits of the Spirit are named in the circles. Write or draw a picture showing something you might do or say that would bring that fruit of the Holy Spirit to you.



# 7 SJS & Youth Ministry

## LIVE IT OUT

Think about today's Gospel reading from Matthew. Jesus gave us 8 ways to live out the Gospel by our words and actions. In the table below fill in the "In my words" and "In my actions" columns with how you can live out The Beatitudes. Take some time this week to talk to God about opportunities to put these words into actions.

### The Beatitudes

In Jesus' words:	In my words:	In my actions:
Blessed are the <b><i>poor in spirit</i></b> , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.	Let God be the center of my spirit. -----	
Blessed are they who <b><i>mourn</i></b> , for they will be comforted.		Let a friend talk about or cry about a tough situation
Blessed are the <b><i>meek</i></b> , for they will inherit the land.		
Blessed are they who <b><i>hunger and thirst for righteousness</i></b> , for they will be satisfied.	Always be ready to do what is right. -----	
Blessed are the <b><i>merciful</i></b> , for they will be shown mercy.		
Blessed are the <b><i>clean of heart</i></b> , for they will see God.	They will know I am Christian by the way I choose to love others. -----	
Blessed are the <b><i>peacemakers</i></b> , for they will be called children of God.		
Blessed are those who are <b><i>persecuted for the sake of righteousness</i></b> , for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.		Stand up for others who are not treated fairly. -----

### FEARLESS

A MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH DAY

SAT, FEB 18, 2023  
KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

EMAIL KATHERINE:  
KPALLARES@STJOSEPHPLACENTIA.ORG

FOR MORE INFO AND TO  
REGISTER TODAY



### Prayer

God Be in My Head

God be in my head, and in my understanding;  
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;  
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;  
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;  
God be at my end, and at my departing.  
—Attributed to Old Sarum Primer

## 8 Pastoral Letter

As we approach the end of January, for St. Joseph Catholic School it marks the beginning of an important week for our community...Catholic Schools Week. Starting with Open House on Sunday January 29th, this week is an opportunity for us to celebrate all the different people and groups that Catholic schools serve. From the nation, to our community, celebrating vocations and our students, and of course our families, Catholic schools touch the lives of so many. Our theme for this year at school comes from James 1:22, "Be doers of the word." As people of action, what better verse to reflect on as we go into this celebration than the Beatitudes?

In the old testament the 10 Commandments told us how to live with clear rules, but in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus gives us the Beatitudes as the way to live in discipleship. Jesus tells us that people who are poor in spirit, mournful, meek, hungry for righteousness, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers, and sometimes even persecuted, are BLESSED. Jesus understands the world and what we as humans are facing. If we are following and living God's word, then these challenges will certainly come our way. The great news, however, is that if we are humble and faithful in following the Lord, and doing so in His name, we will receive our reward in heaven. What a beautiful promise!

At St. Joseph Catholic School we teach our students that even through hard times and struggles, our Lord is always there for us. As disciples of Christ, we know that there will be difficult times in our lives, but we have the ability in our school to work through those challenges with a focus on our faith. As an educational leader I'm often humbled by the reality that from the very beginning of each day when the entire school comes together at courtyard, to the end of the day when we are ready to go home, we are brought together through prayer and surrounded by our Lord. What a blessing!

St. Joseph Catholic School is here to serve our community and build disciples. Everyone is invited to come over to our Open House and see how Christ is working in our school and our students. If you have ever considered a Catholic education for your preschool through 8th grade students, please come and talk to us about making it a reality. We truly strive to make it financially available to all who seek it. Help us to spread Christ's light and love through a Catholic education!

Love in Christ,

Amanda Hawley  
Principal

January 29, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13 | 1 Cor 1:26-31 | Mt 5:1-12a

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

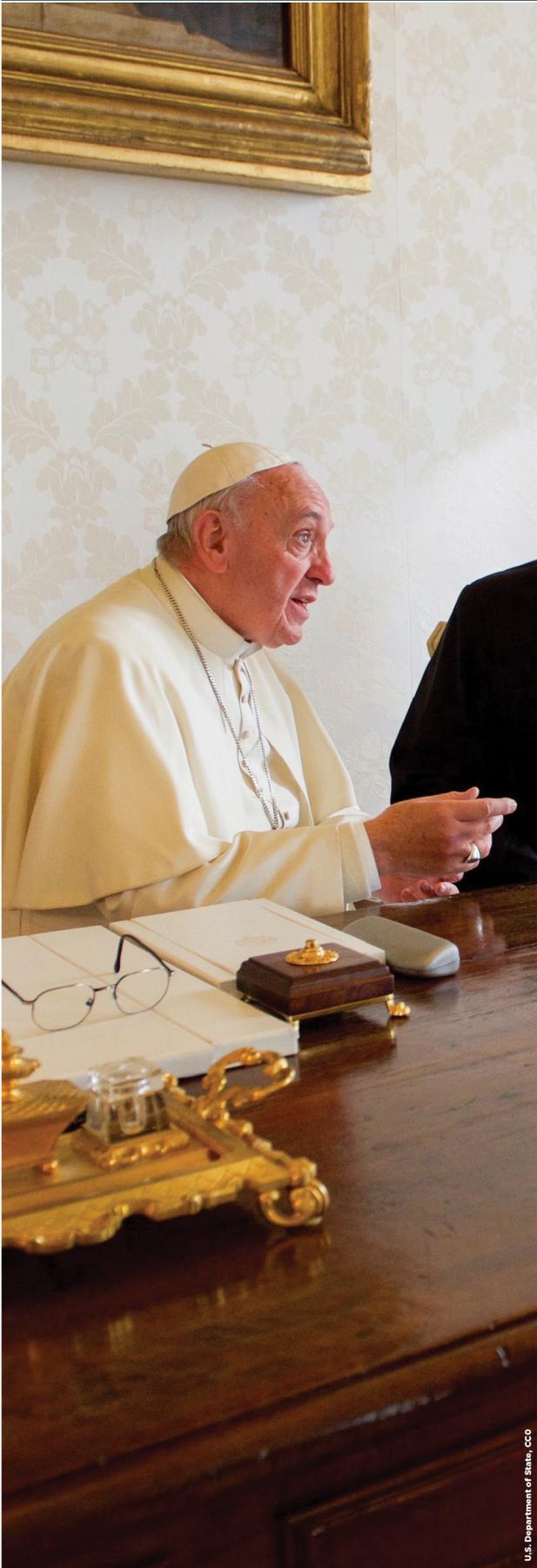
I have a competitive streak. Whether it's guessing Wordle in one try, grabbing the last Doorbuster deal at Kohl's or snagging Boardwalk early in a game of Monopoly, I like to win. For this reason, the readings today especially challenge me. In a world that values success, wealth and "winning," today's readings turn things upside down when it comes to status and justice. In Zephaniah, God chooses the "humble and lowly." In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus lays out a road map to lasting happiness that bears little resemblance to what the world tells us, and even what our own instincts may tell us, about being "happy." I'll still buy Boardwalk at the first opportunity, but Jesus' words invite me to focus on seeking righteousness, and to be merciful and "clean of heart." They encourage me to seek the happiness that only Christ can give. Through prayer and reflection on these words, we can ask the Lord to transform our hearts and lives to align with what it truly means to be blessed.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

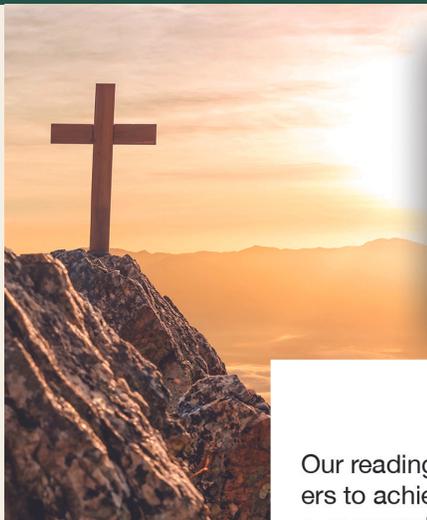
PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Pope Francis has referred to the Eight Beatitudes as a kind of Christian "identity card." (General Audience, Jan. 2020) And he had a suggestion for those of us, like me, who love to listen to the Sermon on the Mount but may not be sure where to start when it comes to living it. His suggestion is simple: "There are eight Beatitudes, and it would be nice to learn them by heart and to repeat them in order to keep this law that Jesus gives us in our mind and in our hearts." Perhaps we can place each Beatitude on a sticky note by the mirror, incorporate them into our morning prayers, teach them to our children or discuss them with friends. Practice makes perfect, yes? As Pope Francis reminds us, "the Beatitudes always bring you to joy; they are the paths to reach joy."

**STUDY** Memorize the Eight Beatitudes. Learn about each one by reading the writings of Pope Francis or another theologian such as Bishop Robert Barron. Ask God to help you incorporate them into your daily life.



# 10 Living Our Faith



**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven.”**

**Matthew 5:3**

**JANUARY**

**29**

**2023**

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

## **GOD’S REIGN HERE AND NOW**

Our readings this week all speak of the distinctive characteristics of the people God gathers to achieve God’s purposes. The deep communion of love that God envisions requires a community that is humble and lowly, as Zephaniah describes. God chooses the weak and foolish to reveal God’s strength and wisdom, as Paul says. And in the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches that a people who know their weakness and vulnerability can most fully place their trust in God and work for a just world. As Christians, we believe God will fully heal our world when Christ returns. But Christ also invites us to experience a foretaste of this future right now, through our life in Christian community, and in our work of peacemaking and justice-seeking in the world. Our poverty in spirit can enable us to be both recipients and instruments of the “kingdom of heaven” here and now.

### **THE BLESSED COMMUNITY**

We turn to the first action of Jesus’ public ministry described by Matthew — Jesus preaching to the crowds in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon begins with today’s Gospel passage, the Beatitudes. Having just called his first disciples to form a community, Jesus begins to spell out what this community is all about. The Beatitudes lay the foundation, describing the primary values and practices, and the core identity of this community.

Jesus tells his followers, first and foremost, that they are blessed by God. The community will reveal its blessed character through its humility, meekness, and hunger for justice. Knowing they are loved as God’s children, they will have open and pure hearts, free to be merciful, and they will be able to endure suffering gracefully. Listening anew to the Beatitudes, we remember how far we fall short of Jesus’ vision. But we know God has gathered us, and continues to transform us, to receive the fullness of blessing.

### **WHOM GOD HONORS**

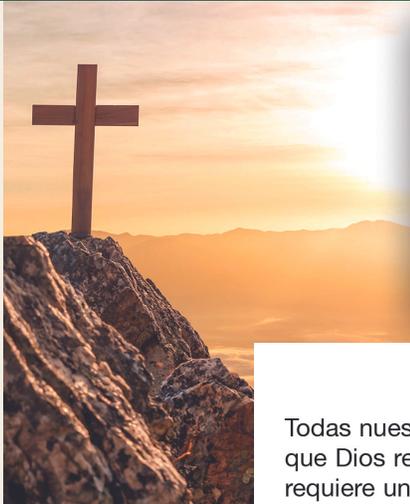
In Jesus’ time, honor and shame were key markers for who is up and who is down in their society. Typically, those with wealth and power over others were to be honored. And in our own time, often we find ourselves drawn strongly toward having more abundance, control, and options to choose from. We avoid vulnerability and limitations. But Jesus says in the Beatitudes that the poor and meek are truly blessed, that is, honorable and privileged by God. How can this be?

Perhaps Jesus is first exposing the opposites to the poor and meek, the “rich in spirit.” These develop such confidence in themselves, based on achievement or inherited privilege, that they isolate themselves from God, and either ignore or exploit others. Jesus also knew that the humble in heart realize that they cannot build an illusory self-affirmation, so they can be most open to God’s affirmation of them. They can then become more deeply empowered to participate in God’s work. God blesses and honors the open-hearted.

### **TODAY’S READINGS**

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12–13  
Psalm 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10  
1 Corinthians 1:26–31  
Matthew 5:1–12a

# 11 Viviendo Nuestra Fe



ENERO

29

2023

CUARTO DOMINGO  
DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

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“Dichosos los pobres de espíritu,  
porque de ellos es  
el Reino de los cielos.”

Mateo 5:3

## EL REINO DE DIOS AQUÍ Y AHORA

Todas nuestras lecturas de esta semana hablan de las características distintivas del pueblo que Dios reúne para lograr sus propósitos. La profunda comunión de amor que Dios prevé requiere una comunidad humilde y baja, como describe Sofonías. Dios elige a los débiles y a los necios para revelar la fuerza y la sabiduría de Dios, como dice Pablo. Y en las Bienaventuranzas, Jesús enseña que un pueblo que conoce su debilidad y vulnerabilidad puede depositar más plenamente su confianza en Dios y trabajar por un mundo justo. Como cristianos, creemos que Dios sanará completamente nuestro mundo cuando Cristo vuelva. Pero Cristo también nos invita a experimentar un anticipo de este futuro ahora mismo, a través de nuestra vida en la comunidad cristiana, y en nuestro trabajo de pacificación y búsqueda de la justicia en el mundo. Nuestra pobreza de espíritu puede permitirnos ser a la vez receptores e instrumentos del “reino de los cielos” aquí y ahora.

## LA COMUNIDAD BENDECIDA

Pasamos a la primera acción del ministerio público de Jesús descrita por Mateo: Jesús predicando a las multitudes en lo que llamamos el Sermón de la Montaña. El Sermón comienza con el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy, las Bienaventuranzas. Tras haber llamado a sus primeros discípulos a formar una comunidad, Jesús empieza a explicar en qué consiste esta comunidad. Las Bienaventuranzas sientan las bases, describiendo los principales valores y prácticas, y la identidad central de esta comunidad.

Jesús dice a sus seguidores, ante todo, que son bendecidos por Dios. La comunidad revelará su carácter bendecido a través de su humildad, mansedumbre y hambre de justicia. Sabiendo que son amados como hijos de Dios, tendrán corazones abiertos y puros, libres para ser misericordiosos, y serán capaces de soportar el sufrimiento con gracia. Al escuchar de nuevo las Bienaventuranzas, recordamos lo lejos que estamos de la visión de Jesús. Pero sabemos que Dios nos ha reunido, y sigue transformándonos, para recibir la plenitud de la bendición.

## A QUIÉN HONRA DIOS

En la época de Jesús, el honor y la vergüenza eran indicadores clave de quién estaba arriba y quién abajo en su sociedad. Normalmente, se honraba a los que tenían riqueza y poder sobre los demás. Y en nuestra época, a menudo nos sentimos fuertemente atraídos por tener más abundancia, control y opciones para elegir. Evitamos la vulnerabilidad y las limitaciones. Pero Jesús dice en las Bienaventuranzas que los pobres y los mansos son verdaderamente bendecidos, es decir, honrados y privilegiados por Dios. ¿Cómo puede ser esto?

Tal vez Jesús está exponiendo primero los opuestos a los pobres y mansos, los “ricos de espíritu”. Éstos desarrollan tal confianza en sí mismos, basada en los logros o en los privilegios heredados, que se aíslan de Dios, e ignoran o explotan a los demás. Jesús también sabía que los humildes de corazón se dan cuenta de que no pueden construir una autoafirmación ilusoria, por lo que pueden estar más abiertos a la afirmación de Dios sobre ellos. Así pueden estar más profundamente capacitados para participar en la obra de Dios. Dios bendice y honra a los de corazón abierto.

## LECTURAS DE HOY

Sofonías 2:3; 3:12–13  
Salmo 146 (145):6–7, 8–9, 9–10  
1 Corintios 1:26–31  
Mateo 5:1–12a

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