

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1 February 2026

The Sermon on the Mount

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is addressed to everyone. The basic theme of the sermon is that Jesus came not to abolish the Law and the Prophets but to fulfill them. Much of Jesus' teaching concerns how to act in the present times. Here is a breakdown of the Sermon on the Mount.

The sermon is neither a strictly individual ethic nor a blueprint for a social Utopia. Still, it does have implications for both personal and communal life. The sermon is not addressed only to a Christian elite, nor is it so impossible to practice that its only function is to remind people of their status as sinners and their need for God's Grace.

The sermon places a compendium of Jesus' teachings before a Jewish audience. The goal is to show how Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets, not to prove the superiority of his teachings to the Jewish Scriptures or Traditions.

In the Sermon, Jesus presents what is for Christians an authoritative interpretation of the Torah. The sermon is more concerned with the principles and attitudes of an individual rather than legalities.

In other words, if one is a disciple of Jesus, if one is a believer, then this is how one should be living in the world. We should be totally dependent on God. We should be thirsting for holiness, we should be showing mercy to all peoples, we should be peacemakers in the world.

The Sermon on the Mount lays out an ethic for life for the believer.

How are you measuring up to this ethic?

Pax Christi,

Fr. Dave

Pastor

Holy Family Parish, Saint Bernard Church, Concord and Saint Irene Carlisle

Very Reverend David O'Leary, VF, S.T.L., D.Phil.