

February 16, 2025 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



“Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.

Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied.”

— *Luke 6:20-21a*

BLESSED

When we think of the word “Beatitude” we think of today’s discourse from Luke’s Gospel, or the more familiar one from Matthew (which begins “Blessed are the poor in spirit . . .”). Actually, beatitudes occur throughout the prophets and Gospels. Today in Jeremiah (with an echo in the psalm) we hear, “Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord” (Jeremiah 17:7). Following his resurrection in John’s Gospel, Christ proclaims, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” (John 20:29). The evangelists placed these sayings throughout the Gospels as short reminders about the characteristics that one will find in a follower of Christ, characteristics that will help spread the Good News in this life and lead to eternal blessings in the next. In Latin, the saints are called the Beati, the “Blessed,” for they are the ones who lived the “blessed” life as described by Jesus throughout the Gospels. How blest are we, when we also strive to make our own days a living beatitude!

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REFLECTING ON GOD’S WORD

One of the memorable scenes in an English novel of some years ago describes a little boy named Bron going to church for the first time with his governess. He watches with interest every part of the service. The preacher then climbs into the high pulpit and Bron hears him deliver a piece of terrible news about a brave and kind man who a long time ago was viciously ill treated, nailed to a cross, and who feels a dreadful pain even now because there is so much that needs to be done in accordance with his teaching. Little Bron thinks the preacher is telling the story so the people in the pews will rise up and take up the cause.

The service ends and to Bron’s shock and surprise the people walk away as if they had not heard such terrible news, as if there was nothing that demanded their attention. Bron is crying as he leaves the church, and when the governess discovers the reason, she says: “You shouldn’t have taken all that the preacher said to heart.

Quit your crying, people are going to think you strange!” The story gives us pause to consider how often we fail to do the right thing, how we hold back honest and rightful emotions, how we keep silent when a prejudice is stated, how we say nothing in the face of an injustice, all because we don’t wish to be thought strange.

—Rev. Richard Zajac

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2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church." The concept of "Jubilee" has its origins in the Book of Leviticus (chapter 25) as a special year of reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home. Pope Francis has designated the 2025 Holy Year as a time to renew ourselves as "Pilgrims of Hope." USCCB

The Jubilee Prayer

By Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year 2025

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the
Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. *Amen*

Living God’s Word - The Sermon on the Mount has Jesus telling us how blessed are certain ways of living that are sure to meet with disapproval from the rest of society. Jesus also stated: “Woe to you when all speak well of you” (Luke 6:26)! We need to ponder how far we’ll go for the sake of our neighbors’ approval.

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Saturday, February 15th

5:00PM-IHM – +Louis Torres; +Gavino Martinez; +Sara Gomez, Eulalio & Sarita Olvera, Ysidro & Elvira Navarrette

Sunday, February 16th –

8:30AM– Por Grupo Misionero y en acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Andrea Aguilera, Florentino Saavedra, Jorge Chavez, Carmen Zuniga, Misael Hernandez, Yolanda Rivera;

Por la salud y bien estar de Isidro Loya
11:00AM – For the People of Nolan County

Tuesday, February 18th 9:00AM – HF

For the well-being of Tanis Moreno’s family

Wednesday, February 19th 6:00PM-IHM

+Gabino Martinez

Thursday, February 20th 9:00AM-HF

+Joe Joe Martinez

Friday, February 21st 9:00AM-HF

In thanksgiving for the birthdays of Dolores Garza, Tomas Acevedo, Nick Kelly, Tobias & Francisco Cervený
+Ezequiel, Albina, Delia y Teresa Gonzalez; Rafael y Concha Acevedo

Saturday, February 22nd

5:00PM-IHM – +Maria Morales Guerrero, Rodolfo Morales, Carlos C. Guerrero; +Daniel Grimaldo

Sunday, February 23rd –

8:30AM– Por la gente de Nolan County
11:00AM – +Martina Herrera; +Aurelia Garza;
In thanksgiving for Richie Solis’ birthday

February 8/9, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$3792.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1533.15
MONTHLY ONLINE GIVING.....	375.00
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$5700.15

Thank you for your generosity

WEST TEXAS CATHOLIC MEN - The San Angelo Diocese Men’s Conference will be held the first weekend of Lent, Friday March 8, 2025, Our Lady of Lourdes New Activity Hall, Andrews, Texas. Wonderful speakers coming from all over the country, including Dr. Dan Schneider, Fr. Sebastian Walshe, and our very own Bishop Sis. WTXCATHOLICMEN.ORG

INSEPARABLE

Faith and works are like the light and heat to a candle; they cannot be separated. —Anonymous

CCD CLASSES – Sunday - 9:30-10:40am
Wednesday - 7:00-8:30pm

OCIA (formerly known as RCIA) - Classes are held on Thursdays, at 6:00pm at Holy Family Hall, 507 Crane Street.

ULTREYA – will meet on Monday, February 17th, at 7:00pm, at Immaculate Heart Hall. You do not have to be a Cursillista to attend. Everyone is welcome!

WEDNESDAY – Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm & Adoration until 8:30pm @IHM.

GRUPO MISIONERO - Meets on Thursdays, at 7:00pm at Immaculate Heart Hall.

PARISH MOVIE GROUP – meets at Holy Family Hall, this Sunday, February 16th, from 4:00pm - 6:00pm.

BAPTISM – To schedule, please call the office

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES 2025– Please come by the parish office for your envelopes.

FOOD DRIVE

The parish will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to one of our local food pantries. You can bring your donations to any of the Masses during the month of February. Let us share what we have with those in need.

God Bless you – Thank you!

COLECTA DE ALIMENTOS

La parroquia recolectará alimentos no-perecederos para donar a una de nuestras despensas de alimentos locales. Puede traer sus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas durante el mes de febrero. Compartamos lo que tenemos con los necesitados. *Dios lo Bendiga- Gracias!*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-26; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday:	Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mk 8:27-33
Friday:	1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13
Sunday:	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

Feb. 22 – Cursillistas March 1– Finance Committee

16 – The Preface

The Greeting and Dialogue at the beginning of the Preface is similar to the one that began the Mass. The Lord be with you. And with you Spirit. Lift up your hearts. We Lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just. It is meant to animate the unity between the priest and people, thus symbolizing the unity of the Church. The words of the Preface Dialogue also encourage those present to engage in the Paschal Sacrifice which is about to happen. When the Priest says, “The Lord be with You,” and the people respond, “And with your spirit,” it signifies Christ’s presence among us, his people, gathered in his name. The mention of the priest’s spirit signifies his ordination and how he is acting in the person of Christ the priest. The dialogue between the priest and the people shows how the Church is alive, speaking to Christ, listening to Christ, and responding to Christ. We call upon the Lord to be with us as we are about to enter into the Eucharistic prayer, the heart of the celebration. The priest is praying that God’s spirit will be alive and active within you, because you’re going to need the power of the Holy Spirit to acquiesce to what you’re about to do. You are about to lay your life, hopes, dreams, fears, anxieties, your very self upon the altar, to be consumed and transformed by the God of the universe. At Mass, we give our everything, responding to our God, who gave everything to and for us.

The invitation “Lift up your hearts,” and the people’s response of “We lift them up to the Lord,” comes from Lamentations 3:41. It says, “Let us reach out our hearts toward God in heaven!” It is a reminder for the congregation that we are to be focused only on the Lord at this time. It also references the movements of the heart, how, as St. Augustine said, “Our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” In this moment, the Church is leading us to be united with the pierced heart of Christ which is open in the Eucharistic sacrifice. St Cyril of Jerusalem said: Let there be none among you who shall confess with his lips: ‘We have lifted up our hearts,’ and allows his thoughts to remain with the cares of this life.” Lifting up our hearts means transcending the present difficulties and joining the heavenly liturgy, where all our troubles will vanish. It is an invitation to truly focus on God with your whole self.

The third verse and response continue. “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,” and the people respond, “It is right and just.” The Greek word for thanksgiving is eucharistia, and this invitation goes to the heart of what the Eucharistic celebration is all about. The invitation to give thanks comes from early Christian prayer and may have its origins in Jewish prayer. In the Jewish tradition, giving thanks is the one thing we can offer the Creator that he does not already possess. The prayer continues with praising and thanking God and concludes with the Holy, Holy, Holy. This song is taken from Isaiah 6:3 when he had a vision of heaven and the angels praising God. We now sing with the angels in praising God in heaven. Then we kneel to prepare ourselves to welcome the King of the World.

El Saludo y Diálogo al comienzo del Prefacio es similar al que se utilizó para comenzar la misa. El Señor esté con ustedes. Y con tu espíritu. Levantemos el corazón. Lo tenemos levantado hacia el Señor. Demos gracias al Señor, nuestro Dios. Es justo y necesario. Tiene como objetivo animar la unidad entre el sacerdote y el pueblo, simbolizando así la unidad de la Iglesia. Las palabras del Diálogo del Prefacio también alientan a los presentes a participar en el Sacrificio Pascual que está a punto de suceder. Cuando el sacerdote dice: “El Señor esté con ustedes”, y el pueblo responde: “Y con tu espíritu”, significa la presencia de Cristo entre nosotros, su pueblo, reunido en su nombre. La mención del espíritu del sacerdote significa su ordenación y cómo está actuando en la persona de Cristo sacerdote. El diálogo entre el sacerdote y el pueblo muestra cómo la Iglesia está viva, hablando con Cristo, escuchando a Cristo y respondiendo a Cristo. Invocamos al Señor para que esté con nosotros cuando estamos a punto de entrar en la oración Eucarística, el corazón de la celebración. El sacerdote está rezando para que el espíritu de Dios esté vivo y activo dentro de ti, porque vas a necesitar el poder del Espíritu Santo para aceptar lo que estás a punto de hacer. Estás a punto de poner tu vida, tus esperanzas, tus sueños, tus miedos, tus ansiedades, tu propio ser sobre el altar, para que el Dios del universo los consuma y los transforme. En la Misa, damos todo lo que tenemos, respondiendo a nuestro Dios, que nos dio todo a nosotros y por nosotros.

La invitación “Levantemos el corazón” y la respuesta del pueblo “Lo tenemos levantado hacia el Señor” proviene de Lamentaciones 3:41. Dice, “¡Extendamos nuestros corazones hacia Dios en el cielo!” Es un recordatorio para la congregación de que debemos centrarnos solo en el Señor en este momento. También hace referencia a los movimientos del corazón, como dijo San Agustín, “Nuestros corazones están inquietos hasta que descansan en ti”. En este momento, la Iglesia nos está guiando a estar unidos con el corazón traspasado de Cristo que está abierto en el sacrificio Eucarístico. San Cirilo de Jerusalén dijo: “Que no haya entre ustedes nadie que confiese con sus labios: ‘Hemos elevado nuestros corazones,’ y permita que sus pensamientos permanezcan con las preocupaciones de esta vida.” Elevar nuestros corazones significa trascender las dificultades presentes y unirse a la liturgia celestial, donde todos nuestros problemas desaparecerán. Es una invitación a enfocarnos verdaderamente en Dios con todo nuestro ser.

El tercer verso y la respuesta continúan. “Demos gracias al Señor, nuestro Dios”, y el pueblo responde: “Es justo y necesario”. La palabra griega para acción de gracias es eucharistia, y esta invitación va al corazón de lo que significa la celebración Eucarística. La invitación a dar gracias proviene de la oración cristiana primitiva y puede tener su origen en la oración judía. En la tradición judía, dar gracias es lo único que podemos ofrecer al Creador que él no posee ya. La oración continúa alabando y agradeciendo a Dios y concluye con el Santo, Santo, Santo. Este cántico está tomado de Isaías 6:3 cuando tuvo una visión del cielo y de los ángeles alabando a Dios. Ahora cantamos con los ángeles alabando a Dios en el cielo. Luego nos arrodillamos para prepararnos para dar la bienvenida al Rey del Mundo.