

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 1, 2026



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

— *Matthew 5:3*

THE CHOSEN REMNANT

Zephaniah is one of the least-known of the Old Testament prophets. He speaks in today’s first reading of impending judgment. But the Lord will leave a “remnant” in Israel. This image of a remnant, or remainder, was to become vital to both Judaism and Christianity.

Paul’s letter to Corinth makes obvious his deep concern for the Christians there. They are too self-confident, he says, too sure of themselves. He admonishes them to remember that Christ has given them all they have.

Today’s Gospel comprises the opening of Jesus’ “Great Sermon.” As God gave Moses the law on Sinai, so now Jesus gathers his disciples on a hillside to teach them the new law. Each of these Beatitudes contrasts the humiliation of the present with the glory of the future: poverty vs. the riches of God’s kingdom, hunger for holiness vs. fulfillment in the Spirit, persecution vs. the reign of God. Jesus is here speaking to God’s chosen “remnant.” Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT - Reflection

The author of the Gospel according to Matthew was not sitting in a quiet grassy place writing furiously as the Sermon was delivered. The person who wrote this Gospel lived in a community of witnesses and believers. The community of Matthew in and around 80 A.D. knew Jesus as the one who embodied these Beatitudes. He possessed the qualities of soul his followers also could possess. That is the first thing they needed to know.

It is impossible for us to think as highly of ourselves as God thinks of us. At one time or other in our life, we have all heard someone say, “Who do you think

you are?” Well, Jesus would say that whoever we are and whatever the circumstances of birth and gender, we will do just fine. We are candidates for blessedness.

Today’s second reading reinforces this. Paul was writing to the Corinthians about the time Matthew’s Gospel was being written. The members of the church at Corinth do not possess any special wisdom or inheritance. Their parents are not influential or rich. Paul’s little litany of the privileged here is his way of reminding us that we are who we are by the mercy and grace of God, who does not owe us anything. All the little non-entities and no-counts of Corinth count in God’s eyes. We know this in the death and resurrection of Jesus and our participation in his life. That is our singular boast, Paul reminds us.

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REFLECTING ON GOD’S WORD

The Beatitudes can certainly seem illogical and absurd unless we consider the person who is speaking. It is Jesus, the one who became “lowly and despised” in order to become “our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption.” He personified the *anawim* to become the true hope of all people. Jesus is the insulted, persecuted one who relies on God alone; he is also the merciful peacemaker and source of all blessing.

To the poor, the mourning, the persecuted, Jesus says, “Everything that you are suffering, I have suffered. God did not abandon me and I will not abandon you.” To the rich, the powerful, the content, Jesus says, “I shared every blessing I had with the poor and the lowly, even my life. Do the same and you too will know God’s saving mercy.” To both Jesus says, “Trust in the Lord of infinite possibilities, who will bless you with courage and peace and true joy together.” *Virginia Stillwell*
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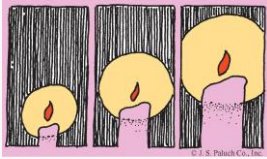
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18;
Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3;
Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7;
Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12;
Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51;
Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34
Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5;
Mt 5:13-16

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

Feb. 7 – Youth Group Feb. 14 Parish Council

Saturday, January 31st -



5:00PM-IHM – For the People of Nolan County

Sunday, February 1st - 8:00AM – IHM +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira;

En acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Yesnia Gonzales y Michael Arce; +Rene “JoJo” Martinez; +Jaime Montecalvo
11:00AM – IHM +Martina Herrera; +Vicky Soto’ +Beatriz L. Mendez

Tuesday, February 3rd 9:00AM - HF

For the Souls in Purgatory, especially the most forgotten and those close to leaving

Wednesday, February 4th 6:00PM– IHM

For the Souls in Purgatory, especially the most forgotten and those close to leaving

Thursday, February 5th 9:00AM-HF

For the Souls in Purgatory, especially the most forgotten and those close to leaving

Friday, February 6th 9:00AM HF

For the Souls in Purgatory, especially the most forgotten and those close to leaving

Saturday, February 7th -

5:00PM-IHM – For Guadalupanas living and deceased; In Thanksgiving for Lia Gunter’s birthday
7:00PM- St. Albert For our Seminarians Martin Luna, Noah Hernandez & Humberto Diaz; En accion de gracias por el cumpleaños de Mirella Solis Redwin

Sunday, February 8th -

8:00AM – IHM +Christopher Cardoza; En accion de gracias por los cumpleaños de Natalie Hernandez, Tony Mendez, Anna Basquez y Jennifer Garza
11:00AM – IHM For the People of Nolan County

January 24/25, 2026 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$1,370.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	726.00
Catholic Schools Coll.....	240.79
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$2,336.79

Thank you for your generosity!

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-percederos 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!**

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS – to all our February Celebrants

WEDNESDAY - Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm and Adoration until 8:30pm at IHM.

FIRST FRIDAY – February 6th, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 8:00pm until 10:00 pm at Holy Family. Confession is available.

RELIGION CLASSES ---

- Sunday Classes 9:30 - 10:40A.M.
- Wednesday Classes 7:00 - 8:30P.M
- **OCIA** –Thursdays, 6pm at HF Hall, 507 Crane St.

ULTREYA MEETINGS

Sunday, February 1st - 6:00pm (*English*)
Monday, February 2nd - 7:00pm (*Spanish*)
Both at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don’t have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit <http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html>

PARISH MOVIE GROUP – meets Sunday, February 1st, 4pm, Holy Family Hall.

THANK YOU for your contributions to the Special Collection for Catholic Schools last weekend. Donations will assist the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of San Angelo to offer this ministry to more children. Your gifts have truly made a difference. To make additional contributions, please contact the schools directly. Also, please remember the schools in your personal estate planning.

GRACIAS por sus contribuciones a la Colecta Especial para Escuelas Católicas el fin de semana pasado. Las donaciones ayudarán a las Escuelas Católicas de la Diócesis de San Angelo a ofrecer este ministerio a más niños. Sus dones realmente han marcado la diferencia. Para realizar contribuciones adicionales, comuníquese directamente con las escuelas. Además, recuerde las escuelas en su planificación patrimonial personal.



2026 Medical Mission to Honduras

July 1 – 8, 2026

Please Join us on our mission to Honduras this summer

Looking for Medical Professionals

Special needs for OB/GYN, General and Pediatrics

Contact us at info@sanrafalexpeditions.org or

call Jannelle O’Connell at 325- 668-3397



February 2

Forty days after Christmas, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, an event that the evangelist Luke recounts in Chapter 2 of his Gospel. In the East, the celebration of this feast dates back to the 4th century. By the year 450, it was called *The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord* because Jesus enters the Temple and “meets” the priests, as well as Simeon and Anna, representatives of the people of God. Around the middle of the 5th century, we know the feast was also celebrated in Rome. At a certain point, the blessing of candles was added to this feast to recall that Jesus is the “light to the gentiles”. Thus, this feast is also sometimes referred to as Candlemas.