



And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours."

LUKE 6:20

It's All about the Roots

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Where we put down our spiritual roots matters. For some, the old adage "Bloom where you are planted" may offer wisdom; however, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that if we find ourselves planted in a lava bed or a salty and empty land, we won't do much blooming. We'll be no more than a shriveled, barren bush. So, where we plant our inner spiritual lives makes a difference.

This week's gospel may seem to sap all the joy out of life. Woe if you have money to spend, a banquet to feast on, fun and laughter to dress up your days. Woe to you, it seems to caution, because when you die, the opposite will be your lot. What's so wrong, we wonder, with having cash in our pockets, food on our tables, and a good time once in a while? Life can be downright dreary otherwise.

The answer, of course, is that there is nothing wrong with any of that—unless that's where we put down our roots. In other words, if that's what life is all about, sooner or later, we are likely to discover we have become a barren bush standing in lava waste. Jesus didn't come to suck the joy out of life but to give us a heads up on how to live a life that is full. He hoped we might avoid the lure that can become a wasteland. He hoped we might become "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream" (Jeremiah 17:8). ●

Reflect

Where are your roots? Are you growing and thriving?

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) Feb. 16, 2025

Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in [Matthew 5:1-7,11](#) that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these gospel readings.

When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the [Ten Commandments](#). As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us.

Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the [Beatitudes](#) in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel—Luke uses the article "you" whereas Matthew uses "they" or "those." There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning.

The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God. The word *blessed* in this context might be translated as "happy," "fortunate," or "favored."

The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God.

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of Feb 17, 2025

Mon.	Feb	17	7:00	AM	SJ	Todd Walz
Tues.	Feb	18	7:00	AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Feb	19	5:30	PM	SA	No Mass
Thurs.	Feb	20	4:00	PM	SB	Nursing Home: Clara Riddert†
Fri.	Feb	21	8:30	AM	SJ	Jim & Kristy Opela
Sat.	Feb	22	6:00	PM	SJ	Norma Schacher†
Sun.	Feb	23	9:00	AM	SA	Sue Beshaler†
Sun.	Feb	23	11:00	AM	SB	People of the Parish

HAPPY
Birthday Happy
Anniversary

Rex Hanna Feb 17th
Todd Walz Feb 19th
Kaysen Welch Feb 19th
Lucy Kimball Feb 23rd
Elizabeth Phelps Feb 23rd

Ministry Schedule

Date: Feb 22-23	St. Agnes	St. Boniface	St. John's
<i>Time</i>	<u>Sunday 9:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Saturday 6:00 PM</u>
<i>Hospitality</i>	Ann G.	Confirmation Candidates	Jon & Molly W.
<i>Lector</i>	Ann G.	Dyahn P.	Toby K
<i>Server</i>		Amelia P. & Olivia F.	Kelsey A. & Avery B.
<i>EMHC</i>	Evan B. & Gary M.	Mike P. & Diane P.	Rex & Kristie W.
<i>Communion to shut ins or Music</i>		Mike P.	Music: Jenny & Cayson

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Agnes</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church Feb 9 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$1922.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$2345 of \$4014 Donor Goal: 5 of 16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thrift Store Open Feb 21st from 9AM to 4PM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCD Class Feb 19th <p style="text-align: center;">Mass Feb 23rd will be at 9:00 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. Boniface</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church Feb 9, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$1013.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$6820 of \$7306 Donor Goal: 15 of 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCD Class Feb 19th <p style="text-align: center;">OCIA: February 18th at 6 PM Topic: The Eucharist</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Confirmation is Feb 23rd at 11:30 AM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>St. John's</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Our Gifts to God & Church Feb 9, 2025</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Total Collection:</u> \$2540.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Diocesan Appeal</u> Dollar Goal = \$5500 of \$5001 Donor Goal: 11 of 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCD Class Feb 19th Supper : Zuniga <p style="text-align: center;">March 1st Mass will be at 6:00 PM . There will be no Sunday Mass at St John's on March 2nd</p>
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"FREE – Men and women, young and old, strengthen and grow in your faith for your families with five short videos produced by the *Knights of Columbus* called the "Mission of The Family". The videos can be found on the *Knights of Columbus* website for free! Here is the link "The Mission of The Family" videos: <https://www.kofc.org/en/campaigns/into-the-breach.html> The five videos are less than 14 minutes in length.

North Platte Deanery Diocesan Council of Catholic Women
Spring Meeting Saturday Feb 22nd - Registration 9 to 9:30 AM Central Time at St Boniface Church - RSVP to Kristen Berger at 308-930-1787 by Feb 18th. - \$10 registration fee

Emily Pandorf from Callaway who was featured in the recent West Nebraska Catholic will share thoughts on the wealth of background experience she has as a teacher of theology, catechist, wife, mother and a minister to the dying.

We pray for our confirmation candidates as they prepare for the sacrament next weekend .

Kelsey Amos, Kaman Dailey, Erin Fitzgerald, Harper Johnson, Cayson Johnston, Shelby Layher, Dylan Pandorf, Daniel Zuniga



Dear Padre,

I have always been an “every Sunday” Catholic. My problem is that holy Communion doesn’t feel that special. I believe that it’s the Body and Blood of Christ, but receiving feels “routine.” Sometimes I’m even distracted while receiving. Help?



SCOTT GELLINGS / GETTY IMAGES

Do you remember the story of the transfiguration of Jesus? (See Luke 9:28–36.) Jesus took his three special disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountain, and while Jesus was praying, what did they do? They fell asleep! In the very presence of Jesus, their Lord and Master.

Human beings cannot maintain feelings of awe and ecstasy for long periods of time. We would be exhausted. Feelings don’t always reflect the specialness of the moment. That is why good habits are so important. Feelings may elude us, but we can fall back on the habit of Sunday Mass. Just as two contented, long-married people don’t feel like they did on their honeymoon, they still quietly enjoy the habit of each other’s company.

Lent is coming soon. You might consider shaking up your routine a little. Attend one weekday Mass. Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures for that Sunday and praying the entrance antiphon or the psalm. If you don’t already, consider volunteering as a choir member, lector, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Meanwhile, continue to receive holy Communion, giving thanks that it is readily available, and perhaps offer a prayer for communities where Communion every Sunday is not possible. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



STUDIO ROMANTIC / PICTURESTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus says [his people] are blessed because they are poor. In what sense? In the sense that Jesus’ disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Monday

February 17

Weekday

Gn 4:1–15, 25

Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday

February 18

Weekday

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10

Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday

February 19

Weekday

Gn 8:6–13, 20–22

Mk 8:22–26

Thursday

February 20

Weekday

Gn 9:1–13

Mk 8:27–33

Friday

February 21

Weekday

Gn 11:1–9

Mk 8:34–9:1

Saturday

February 22

The Choir of Saint

Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1–4

Mt 16:13–19

Sunday

February 23

Seventh Sunday

in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 26:2, 7–9,

12–13, 22–23

1 Cor 15:45–49

Lk 6:27–38