

February 16, 2025: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Background on the Gospel Reading

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.”

As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of “woes,” those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation . . . these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness.

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.

www.loyolapress.com

February 16th, 2025
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sacred Heart Parish
A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: Fr. Lee Lainey

Office Administrator: Roseann Janes

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

<u>Weekend Masses:</u>	Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.
<u>Weekday Mass:</u>	Tuesday to Friday 10a.m.
Daily mass is cancelled & Office Closed any day schools are closed due to bad weather.	
<u>Lohnes Complex*</u>	First Friday of each month - 2 pm *Note: No mass at the church on this day.
<u>Bible Study:</u>	To be determined at a later date.
<u>Holy Hour of Adoration:</u>	Postponed until further notice.
<u>Reconciliation:</u>	By request.
<u>Marriages:</u>	Six months’ notice required. A year’s notice is recommended.
<u>Baptisms:</u>	Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.
<u>Family Connections:</u>	At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.
<u>St. Vincent de Paul:</u>	To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

January 25 & 26, 2025

Regular Sunday	1500.00
Loose Offering	95.00
Parish Dues	20.00
Building Fund	35.00
Votive Candles	19.00
Living with Christ	14.00
Mass Stipends	20.00
Indian Residential School Fund	10.00

MASS INTENTIONS Feb. 18-23

Feb. 18	The Late David McHugh
Feb. 19	The late Issac George
Feb. 20	The Late Sis. Cecelia (Nellie Promroy)
Feb. 21	The Brake Family
Feb. 22	The Keough Family
Feb. 23	The Late Thomas Griffin (Sr.) The Late Robyn Griffin

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

February 22	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
John Carroll	Eileen Moore
February 23	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Mike Leonard	Barbara Neville
Communion to the Sick – Tony Griffin	

SACRED HEART BINGO CANCELLED:

The Sacred Heart Ladies Group will be cancelling their Bingo on February 23rd due to the fact that there are a few Bingos around town on the same day and it would not be feasible to have Bingo at that time. Any donations made to February Bingo will go directly to Sacred Heart parish. Our next Bingo will be March 30th. Thanks

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS:

The 2024 receipts are available at the back of the church. They are listed by last name. If you do not see yours or have an issue, please call the office at 709-785-5025. Thank you.

Bishop O'Reilly Assembly 0624 MEETING:

The next meeting will be at All Hallows Parish Humber Road Corner Brook on Tuesday **February 18th at 7:45 P.M.** could Sir Knights please try to attend.

GRIEF & BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

NL Health Services in Western Zone will be offering an 8 week in-person Grief & Bereavement Group beginning Tuesday, March 25, 2025. The group will be held from 1:30 - 3:30 PM at Western Long Term Care – Palliative Care Education Room. Pre-registration is required by March 18th, 2025. For information or to register, please contact Sandra at 784-5224 or email sandra.lush@westernhealth.nl.ca.

GIFT CARD TREE:

This year our **Easter fundraiser** will be a **Gift Card Tree** with the proceeds going to the replacement of our oil tanks. We have already received some gift cards and ask for your help in achieving our goals. We can **accept gift cards, gift certificates or money**. Don't forget to ask relatives, friends, and the many businesses to donate also. Tickets (which will be \$5 each) are not yet available, but we will **need volunteers** to sell these tickets at various locations during March/April. Please contact the office (709-785-5025) and leave your name and phone number if you want to volunteer your time. Thank you.

SSVP MEETING:

The next meeting is **Wednesday, February 19 at 2pm** in the lower level of the Cathedral. We welcome anyone who has time to volunteer to attend the meeting.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE:

If you are planning to get married in the Catholic Church in 2025, you are required to do the marriage course. It will be held at the Holy Redeemer Cathedral on Saturday, April 5th 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There is a fee of \$50.00. Please call the Holy Redeemer Office at 634-5161 or info.hrp@nl.rogers.com to register.

PLENARY INDULGENCE:

Among the conditions required to receive a plenary indulgence is prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, a gesture of deep communion with the Successor of Peter and with the universal mission of the Church. This act is not merely a formal requirement but a privileged opportunity for the faithful to spiritually partake in the great challenges and hopes that the Pope carries in his heart for the good of humanity. To foster and encourage this dimension of prayer, **we have put a poster in the church with a QR code on it**. It is your one step way to access this spiritual tool and use it at any time of the day.

JUBILEE 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE:

The first sign of hope should be a desire for *peace* in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war.... The need for peace challenges us all, and demands that concrete steps be taken.

Excerpt of Letter from: Pope Francis

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:

The service for the World Day of Prayer will be hosted at All Hallows Catholic Church on Humber Road in Corner Brook on **Friday, March 7 at 2:00 pm**. A luncheon will be served following the service. All are welcome to attend.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SOCIAL:

The parish will be having a **St. Patrick's Day social** from **7 to 10 PM on Friday, March 14th** at Sacred Heart School. If you will be joining us, please sign your name on the paper at the back of the church and bring a tray of sandwiches with you. We will have live entertainment and great conversation. Hope to see you there!

Reflections: Beatitudes of the Heart

Blessed are the clean of heart,
they will see God.
Blessed are the humble of heart;
they will find rest for their souls.
Blessed are the warm-hearted;
they will radiate goodness.
Blessed are those who work with the
heart; they will find joy in their work.
Blessed are those who do not lose heart;
they will find strength to persevere.
And blessed are those who set their hearts
on the Kingdom of God;
everything else will be given to them.