

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.”**
Matthew 5:3

**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

We turn to the first action of Jesus’ public ministry described by Matthew—Jesus preaching to the crowds in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon begins with today’s Gospel passage, the Beatitudes. Having just called his first disciples to form a community, Jesus begins to spell out what this community is all about. The Beatitudes lay the foundation, describing the primary values and practices, and the core identity of this community.

Jesus tells his followers, first and foremost, that they are blessed by God. The community will reveal its blessed character through its humility, meekness, and hunger for justice. Knowing they are loved as God’s children, they will have open and pure hearts, free to be merciful, and they will be able to endure suffering gracefully. Listening anew to the Beatitudes, we remember how far we fall short of Jesus’ vision. But we know God has gathered us, and continues to transform us, to receive the fullness of blessing.

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WHOM GOD HONORS

In Jesus’ time, honor and shame were key markers for who is up and who is down in their society. Typically, those with wealth and power over others were to be honored. And in our own time, often we find ourselves drawn strongly toward having more abundance, control, and options to choose from. We avoid vulnerability and limitations. But Jesus says in the Beatitudes that the poor and meek are truly blessed, that is, honorable and privileged by God. How can this be?

Perhaps Jesus is first exposing the opposites to the poor and meek, the “rich in spirit.” These develop such confidence in themselves, based on achievement or inherited privilege, that they isolate themselves from God, and either ignore or exploit others. Jesus also knew that the humble in heart realize that they cannot build an illusory self-affirmation, so they can be most open to God’s affirmation of them. They can then become more deeply empowered to participate in God’s work. God blesses and honors the open-hearted.

Today’s Readings: Zep 2:3; 3:12–13; Ps 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10; 1 Cor 1:26–31; Mt 5:1–12a

PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. “Mike” Snider
Deacon John Erdag

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:
Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:
Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the

**Holy Spirit
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Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your “home away from home.”
Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!*

“Beatitudes”

By Deacon John

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them” – Matthew 5:1-2

In today’s Gospel, Jesus went up a hill and He began to teach. In this teaching, He explained ways the people could live to be truly happy. He taught them the Beatitudes. Beatitude means blessed. I like to refer to them as showing us how to “Be in our Attitudes”.

Christ’s teaching was intended to guide us on how to find the kingdom of God. Each Beatitude calls us towards holiness and commitment, and promotes positive human values. The Catechism of Catholic Church tells us that “the beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus’ preaching”.

That’s pretty much the direct opposite of how our society teaches us to live. If we were to write the Beatitudes today, I think we’d get something more like: “Blessed are celebrities, for they shall be experts of everything”, “Blessed are the beautiful and wealthy, for these bring esteem”, “Blessed is the hot topic of the day, for it shall be band wagoned”, “Blessed is the (your choice) political party, for it is omniscient”.

Unfortunately, these are the attitudes that people today rely on for their happiness. But these things are only shallow and only result in temporary and fleeting happiness. You’ve heard the term, “15 minutes of fame”? Well, it was fun while it lasted.

Jesus doesn’t teach us the world’s ideas of periodic happiness. Instead, He teaches us God’s way to happiness. Lifelong, and eternal.

He teaches us to recognize our sinful spiritual condition and our desperate need for God’s forgiveness. He teaches us that we can find happiness in mourning as we realize the comfort and gratitude we find in turning to God who can heal us. He teaches us that we find happiness in humility. He teaches us that happiness is found in our desire, our craving, to have God in our lives. He teaches us that happiness is found by showing care and sympathy for others. He teaches us that happiness can be found when we seek to live holy and righteously. He teaches us that happiness is found when we live calmly and in harmony with others. And He teaches us that we will be eternally happy when we stand up for Him. These are lessons for a full and meaningful lifestyle of happiness.

I often get asked if the Beatitudes of the new covenant are to be followed now instead of the 10 Commandments from the old covenant. The answer is, “No.”

The fact is, the Beatitudes differ from the 10 Commandments. The 10 Commandments are the fundamental laws that God’s people are to obey in their lives, where the Beatitudes are guidelines to finding hope for happiness in their lives. It’s important for us to know both what we should do and what we shouldn’t do.

So you see, they complement each other.

Together the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes direct Christians to love God and love one another, as love is the central theme in Christian values. This is what allows Christ’s kingdom to be present on earth as to love each other is what true Christianity is.

And this is what brings peace, calmness, harmony and happiness into our lives.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Fr. Francis O'Dowd. Melinda Hlavenka. Fr. Mark Kusmirek. Verna Sloan. Mike Stephens. Suzanne DiCarlo. Kathy Bowers. John & Nitja McGrane. Pat Schmeier. Ethan Cowles. Cayla Goodson. Ruth & David Barber. Msgr. Ron Diegel. Richard & Dottie Schuetz. Tom Fabitz. Jodie Woods. Doris Hoffman. Yolanda Boyd. Wanda & George Duke. Jean Hamilton. Kathleen Fleming. Jaye Anderson. Greg Mooney. Karee Haney. Charlie Parker. Jacob Stephens. Elise Sugg. Avery Boultinghouse. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially Patsy Striffler (Sister of Wanda Duke) 123 CR 3525, Hawkins, TX 75765.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REMOVE OR ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYERS OF THE SICK.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community: Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike Stephens). 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jemigan). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Staff Sergeant, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Lt. Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Petty Officer 2 Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

Mass—Intentions

- Sat. 1/28 Agnes Laudt+** (M/M Laudt)
- Sun. 1/29 John Nitja** (M/M Clymer)
- Tues. 1/31 Communion Service**
- Wed. 2/01 Communion Service**
- Thurs. 2/02 Communion Service**
- Fri. 2/03 Communion Service**
- Sat. 2/04 Agnes Laudt+** (M/M Laudt)

PARISH SUPPORT

Attendance: 1/21 Sat: 65 1/22 Sun: 82

Expenditure Changes Coming in a New Format

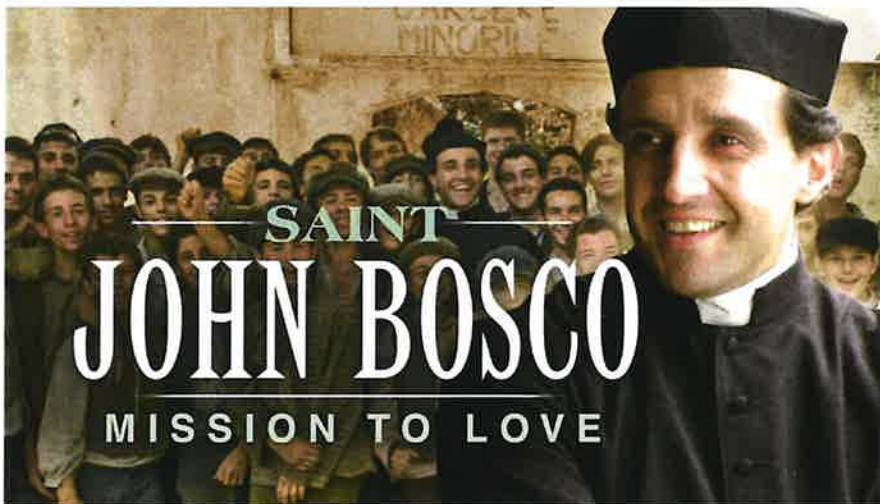
Offertory	\$ 2,664.00
Building & Maintenance Fund	\$ 25.00

One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving.

Cenacle of Life: Cenacle of Life devotion each **Wed., from 3:00 — 4:00pm.** Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. Questions call Vicki Hauck 817-637-9382



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Saint John Bosco: Mission to Love

Flavio Insinna gives a winning performance as John Bosco, the great priest and educator of youth. Beautifully filmed in Italy, this epic movie dramatizes the many challenges that he had to overcome from his childhood all the way to founding his religious order.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



January Second Collections:

- 7th & 8th: "Building & Maintenance Fund."
- 21st & 22nd: "Church in Latin America."
- 28th & 29th: "Diocese of Tyler Catholic Schools."

Pope's Intention for January:



For educators. We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fellowship rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week
- Tuesday:** St. John Bosco
- Thursday:** The Presentation of the Lord; World Day for Consecrated Life; Groundhog Day
- Friday:** St. Blase; St. Ansgar; First Friday; Blessing of throats
- Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

Anyone involved in any Ministry at our Parish, you will need to be compliant on your ethics and integrity training with VIRTUS. Please notify our contact person to get signed up contact person Justin Mahaffey 903-714-3649 or justin.mahaffey@icloud.com

Legion of Mary— Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. **There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749.** If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

JANUARY 2023 NEWS & EVENTS

Sat., Jan. 28th: 5:00pm Mass.

Sun., Jan. 29th: 9:00am Mass. **No** coffee/donuts after Mass.

Mon., Jan. 30th: Fr. Mike out of town through Friday, Feb. 3rd.

Tues., Jan. 31st: Communion Service. **No** Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm. Adoration 6:00—8:00pm.

FEBRUARY NEWS & EVENTS

Wed., Feb. 1st—Fri., Feb., 3rd: 9:00am Communion Service

Sat., Feb. 4th: 9:00am Mass of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart & Patriotic Rosary. 5:00pm Mass, Blessing of the Throats. 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Commitment Weekend begins.

Sun., Feb. 5th: 9:00am Mass with Blessing of the Throats. 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Commitment Weekend begins. **K of C Breakfast following Mass.** Adults \$ 5.00. Children through senior year in high school is free.

Tues., Feb. 7th: 9:00am Mass. Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm. 1:00pm Pastoral Council Mtg. Adoration 6:00—8:00pm.

Wed., Feb. 8th—Fri., Feb. 10th: 9:00am Mass.

Sat., Feb. 11th: 5:00pm Mass

Sun., Feb. 12th: 9:00am Mass. **No** coffee/donuts after Mass

Mon., Feb. 13th—Fri., Feb. 17th: Fr. Mike attending the Priests Retreat at Montserrat, Dallas.

Fri., Feb. 17th: **GAME DAY in St. Jude's Hall**

Sat., Feb. 18th: 5:00pm Mass

2022 TAX CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENTS

LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

GAME DAY in St. Jude's Hall

Date: Fri., Feb. 17, 2023 **Time:** 10:00am—2:00pm

Tickets: \$ 15.00 per person includes stuffed baked potato, dessert and beverage

Door prizes & 50/50 drawing

Set up your own group or join another

"Gentlemen are welcome"

Call Carol Szczepanski 903-638-9974 for tickets & info

HLVF SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

The Holly Lake Volunteer Fire Dept is having a spaghetti dinner/lunch on **Sunday, Jan. 29th from 11:00am—6:00pm to raise funds for a 15 yr veteran firefighter on the Holly Lake Fire Department. All monies will go directly to the firefighter.** He was diagnosed with Stage 4 Colon Cancer. This may be a result of using firefighting foam which has been verified as causing various types of cancer. **\$ 10.00 (spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert).** They will deliver anywhere within the fire district. Call 903-769-2659 at least 1 day in advance for home delivery.

The Holy Spirit Food Ministry would like to thank all parishioners for the food and monetary donations. The large plastic bin is located in the hallway by Bridget's office. We can always use can soups and can vegetables.

We're still feeding 15 families on a weekly basis.

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry.

Call or email Bryan Todd at 972-672-4218 or toddtalk@hotmail.com

Thank you, to our Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team!

If you are still wanting to join our **weekly Bible Study**, now is a great time to do so. We meet every Wednesday (except the first one of the month) at 10:30 am. For more info please contact Randy at 972-971-4067. God bless you.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass-February 11, 2023

All couples in the Diocese of Tyler who are celebrating their 5th, 15th, 25th, 35th, 40th, or 50th+ anniversaries in the year 2023 are cordially invited to attend the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph Strickland on Saturday, February 11, 2023. The Mass will begin at 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and there will be a reception at the Cathedral Center following the Mass. For more information and to RSVP online please visit www.stphilipinstitute.org/events or contact the St. Philip Institute at 903-630-5055 Ext. 117. Deadline to register is February 3rd.

TRUNK OR TREAT

If you are interested in helping plan a Trunk or Treat in October for Holy Spirit, please call or text Ada Choate at 318-787-3131.

SAVE THE DATE

**OCTOBER FEST CASINO NIGHT
SATURDAY, OCT. 21, 2023**

FROM THE DESK OF DEACON JOHN

Please take a look at our new Parish Prayer Wall for Active Military members. It's located in the aisle across from Deacon John's office. In line with our new parish holiness initiative, this is intended for our parish community to pray for our loved ones who have so selflessly placed themselves in harm's way to protect us and our country. So please stop by frequently and pray for these brave soldiers. Also, if you have a loved one in active duty, please e-mail a picture and their name and rank to Deacon John at jerdag@hotmail.com to be put up on the wall. If you don't do email, please leave a picture in Deacon John's folder on Bridget's door.

Are you interested in being a reader at Mass? It's such a blessed service to God to help proclaim His word during the Mass celebration. If you would like to join this liturgical ministry, please contact Deacon John who will be scheduling a half day spiritual retreat and training on March 18th for all current and new Readers in preparation for the Holy Week readings.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 25 January 2023 Edition (Submission date: 20 January 2023) Submitted by Randy Munoz

What is the Meaning and History of Shrove Tuesday? Christianity.com Editorial Staff
<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/what-is-shrove-tuesday-meaning-and-holiday-date.html>

Also known as Fat Tuesday and Pancake Day, Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and the fasting Lenten season leading up to Easter. This religious holiday is observed in many Christian countries by participating in confession and absolution, the ritual burning of the previous year's Holy Week palms, finalizing one's Lenten sacrifice, as well as eating pancakes and other sweets. ... Shrove Tuesday serves multiple purposes of encouraging Christians to repent of their sins before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday and also giving them the opportunity to partake in a last round of jubilation before the beginning of the austere Lenten season, which is characterized by making a Lenten sacrifice, fasting, praying and several spiritual disciplines, such as checking a Lenten calendar and reading a daily devotional.

According to Crosswalk.com: "The origins of Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras first began thousands of years ago as part of uninhibited pagan festivals for fertility and spring, filled with indulgences in everything. Rome's embrace of Christianity meant the interest of incorporating Fat Tuesday into Christianity becoming a goal; thus, Fat Tuesday and all its unrestricted immorality were welcomed as part of preparing for Ash Wednesday and fasting for Lent. The event quickly spread through Europe like wildfire, and then began its journey over to the Americas. Mardi Gras arrived in the United States as a small festival marking French explorers Sieur de Bienville and Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville's landing on what is now New Orleans, La. on March 3, 1699."

Those origins seem rather odd. So why do Christians take part in Shrove Tuesday? Should we avoid the holiday altogether, or is there merit to celebrating this holiday? Shrove Tuesday falls on the day before Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent). The date can range from as early as February 3 to as late as March 9. It is preceded by Shrove Monday and marks the end of Shrovetide, also known as the Pre-Lenten Season. Shrove Tuesday is precisely 47 days before Easter Sunday, a movable feast based on the computus calculation that determines the yearly date of Easter.

History of Shrove Tuesday

The tradition of acknowledging the start of the Lenten fast has been observed for at least hundreds of years. By ... the late Middle Ages, the feast of Shrovetide lasted until the start of Lent. It was customary in many cultures to eat pancakes or other foods made with the butter, eggs, and fat that would be given up during the Lenten season. The particular tradition of British Christians enjoying pancakes on Shrove Tuesday dates back to the 16th century.

Traditions of Shrove Tuesday

Pancakes are connected with Shrove Tuesday as a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting period of the 40 days of Lent. Liturgical fasting calls for eating simpler food while abstaining from meat, dairy products, or eggs. Along with its celebration of feasting, another tradition of Shrove Tuesday includes Christians repenting of their sins in preparation to start the season of Lent. Ælfric of Eynsham's "Ecclesiastical Institutes" from about 1000 AD declared: "In the week immediately before Lent everyone shall go to his confessor and confess his deeds and the confessor shall so shrive him as he then may hear by his deeds what he is to do [in the way of penance]". In many Protestant and Roman Catholic Christian churches, a popular Shrove Tuesday ritual is the ringing of the church bells (on this day, known as the Shrivings Bell) "to call the faithful to confession before the solemn season of Lent" and for people to "begin frying their pancakes". Some churches also burn the palms distributed during the previous year's Palm Sunday liturgies to make the ashes used during the services held on the very next day, Ash Wednesday. On Shrove Tuesday, the final day of the Shrovetide season, many Christians, such as Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, and Roman Catholics, have an emphasized focus of self-examination, reflecting on what sins they need to repent for, and what improvements in life or aspects of spiritual growth they need to ask God's help in edifying. Additionally, many Christians conclude their determination of what Lenten sacrifices they will make for the 40 days of Lent on Shrove Tuesday. While undergoing a Lenten sacrifice, it is helpful to pray for strength; and encouraging fellow Christians in their fast saying, for example: "May God bless your Lenten sacrifice."

Meaning of the Name 'Shrove Tuesday'

The name "Shrove Tuesday" arises from it marking the culmination of the season known as Shrovetide which includes indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice.

The word shrove is a form of the English word shrive, which means to receive absolution for one's sins by way of Confession and fulfilling a penance. Thus Shrove Tuesday was named after the tradition of Christians to be "shriven" before the start of Lent. In some countries, such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, and parts of the Commonwealth, Shrove Tuesday is also known as "Pancake Day" or "Pancake Tuesday", as it became a common practice to eat pancakes as a celebratory meal.

What is Shrovetide?

Shrovetide, also known as the Pre-Lenten Season, is the Christian period of preparation before the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. Shrovetide starts on Septuagesima Sunday, includes Sexagesima Sunday, Quinquagesima Sunday (commonly called Shrove Sunday), as well as Shrove Monday, and concludes on Shrove Tuesday. ...



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