



[If you haven't already, begin your meal with meal prayer, then take turns reading these boxes aloud, following the directions where applicable]

Ordinary Time

After celebrating Christmas, we move into ordinary time (when Fr wears green). This is the "growing time" of the Church year, when we listen to and ponder the things Jesus said and did. The Sermon on the Mount—also known as the Beatitudes—is Jesus' central teaching. While "beatitude" means "blessed," the beatitudes are not about getting rid of all suffering and hard times. Instead, Jesus is teaching us how to embrace the difficult moments of life in order to live in His peace and find wholeness while we are experiencing hard times. Living the beatitudes is challenging and counter-cultural.

But Jesus is not one teacher among many. He is THE teacher. It is common in our culture to pick and choose what we want. We take a little bit from this person and that person, from this ideology and that one! But that is not scriptural, it is not Catholic and it is not Jesus.

Instead, we need to change our way of thinking to Jesus' way of thinking. Preference or comfort cannot come before Jesus. Love

God with your whole heart, mind, soul, body and strength, and everything else comes next.

When Jesus calls us to follow and to live with Him, our response must be total. We need to be all in! It is not easy.

But following Jesus fully gives us all that we need in this life and for all eternity. The goal of the beatitudes is not earthly rewards but inheriting the kingdom of heaven! It is with this perspective that we read, pray with, and accept the

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the United States. Since that time, millions of children have lost their lives, and millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

On June 24, 2022, the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision overturned Roe v. Wade, and we praise God for the great opportunity state and federal legislators now have to protect pre-born children.

While God, in His mercy, ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, right now state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to pre-born children. So, great prayer and advocacy is very needed.

January 22 is a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children":

Consider praying a rosary for life and/or volunteering at Rachel's Hope.

Discussion

[These questions are a spark for conversation, not a strict outline. Allow the Spirit to lead.]

- If you had to summarize Jesus' teachings, what would you say they are?
- Share anything you might know about the beatitudes. Can you name any?
- Which of Jesus' teachings is a challenge to you?

Activity & Prayer

[For this activity section, you will need the additional resource provided by the parish. If you don't have it, you can download it on our website]

Read the Beatitudes aloud (see handout). Imagine yourself on the mount as Jesus gives this sermon. How would it have impacted you? What would have stood out to you?

Complete one of the Beatitudes matching activities on the weekly handout page.

Once the activity is complete, discuss - which beatitude do you find most challenging? Most hopeful?

Pray the beatitude prayer on the handout together.

Extras

- FORMED
<https://watch.formed.org/kapaun-sermen-beatitude-series-series-three>
- Bishop Barron videos on the beatitudes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHmTcxYHzy8>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQ1VCDFEkkk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHmTcxYHzy8&t=138s>
- Book of fables illustrating the beatitudes for kids
<https://smile.amazon.com/Beatitales-Fables-about-Beatitudes-Children/dp/1733204806>
- 3 minute "chalk talk" about the beatitudes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAcp9FenNow&feature=emb_logo

Sacramental Life

This week's journal prompt for first reconciliation/communion: *The scripture we reflected on at our gathering (John 15: 1-11) says to "remain" in Jesus the True Vine - What things can you do to remain connected to Jesus? How do you build a friendship with Jesus?*

This week's confirmation work: Watch Decision Point 8.5
<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/plus/decision-point/confirmation-8-5.html>
Reflection: When was the last time you felt the Holy Spirit prompting you to do something? What is your favorite part of the prayer process?

Links & information found at <https://staugustinedward.org/confirmation-preparation/>

Looking Ahead

For Next Week, Jan 25:

- See the parish or website for additional handouts and coloring pages

Coming Up:

- Confirmation AND First Reconciliation/Communion Students - your whole family should plan to attend on Feb 8 6-8 pm at St Augustine for a formation night.

