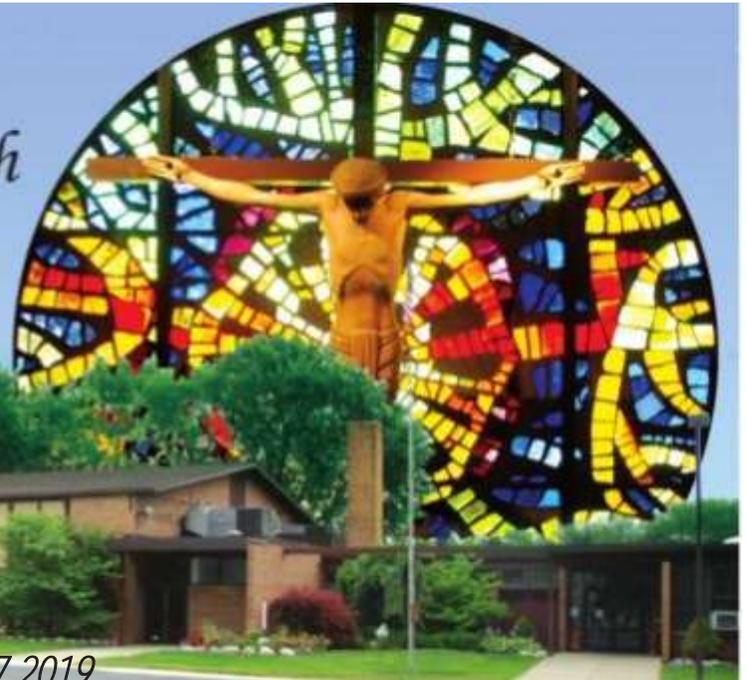


Connection
St. Cyprian Catholic Church
Riverview, Michigan
www.stcyprian.com



February 17 2019



RANDOM THOUGHTS **DIFERENTES PENSAMIENTOS** *from Father Bill Promesso*

Be Happy

In today's Beatitudes from Luke (very different from Matthew's version) we are faced with several "blessings" and a few "woes" that clearly indicate where Jesus' preference lies.

The blessed are: Poor, Hungry, Weeping, Hated, excluded and insulted.

The woebegone or cursed are: Rich, Filled, Laughing, those who are Spoken Well of.

If the blessings of God are directed toward the first group and we find ourselves in that group, then there's some consolation in our misery. But if we identify ourselves as members of the other group, then we may feel as if God is not on our side and might even be against us. But that's not the point. Rather, Jesus is reminding those who feel outcast that God is near to them and even suffering with them. The second group has no need for such comfort because they already feel like blessings have come their way. This is God's preferred method of reminding people that we are all blessed in good and bad times, whether we know and feel it or not. God doesn't abandon the poor nor walk away from the rich, which makes everyone happy.

Next week we will read the next section of Luke chapter 6 and it'll encourage us to treat all people as we want to be treated, as God does. The "Golden

Love was in the Air

Congratulations and best wishes on your Anniversaries!! Hope you enjoyed the delicious wedding cakes from Sweet Tooth Bakery (thank you very much Linda Wilson for sharing your talents with us). This is one of my favorite events of the year.





from our
Pastoral Minister

All of the readings for this weekend's liturgy express a resonating theme of trusting in God and choosing to follow the way of the just. The choices we face everyday of our lives and the actions we undertake are all vital to living out God's law of love that is written on our hearts through the Holy Spirit. Jesus illustrates this unyielding trust on the Father throughout his ministry and his embracing of the Father's will.

Through Jeremiah we hear the message to trust in God alone and not place it in idols or the passing things of the world. The symbolic image of a sacred tree that bears fruit and retains life even in the midst of trials or adverse conditions, urges us to place our trust in God alone. We are to be a people who trust in God and meditate on His law, reflecting the just who flourish under God's providential care. God's word is to direct our thoughts, desires and provide direction for every aspect of our life. In a world that promises us quick solutions to difficulties, apart from depending upon God, we can be tempted to want a challenging situation to be over with quickly. Even though the way of the wicked and trusting in human solutions seems more appealing and beneficial, it doesn't produce lasting fruit for us or reflect God's everlasting goodness.

Furthermore, in the Gospel passage from Luke we hear the proclamation of the beatitudes by Jesus, which also clearly illustrates that the values of Jesus are not of this world. Jesus is not preaching the all too familiar "prosperity gospel" that is so prevalent among many believers today, but rather He is remembering the poor, the hungry, the grieving and the outcast. Those who enjoy favor now and withhold it to themselves will not find it in God's kingdom. We hear these same truth's being proclaimed by Mary in the Magnificat which highlights God's blessing on the lowly and humble (Lk 1: 46-55). May we all be blessed with the grace to trust ever more deeply upon God, knowing that the world and time are passing quickly and that God knows our needs. May we continue to encourage and pray for each other to be strengthened in living out our faith, so that we may all choose to respond as wise, generous servants who trust in our providential God.

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him,*



Office of
Christian Service

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Sunday, March 3rd

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Social Hall

You can sign-up online or in the gathering space before and after all masses this weekend and next February 16/17 and 23/24.

If you would like to sign up online, the Red Cross offers RapidPass. RapidPass allows you to start the blood donation process from the comfort of your home and save time at the donation site. The process is simple, just visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass, read the information and complete the questions online, then print your RapidPass and bring it with you or show it on your mobile device. This way you don't have to read the booklet and answer the questions at the donation site, so the process can flow more smoothly. The RapidPass must be done the day of the drive. By sacrificing our own blood, we can bring new

Emergency Response Teams

We are beginning the process of forming emergency response teams that would be present at each mass. If you have a background as a first responder, medical experience, etc. and are interested in becoming a part



of a team for a particular mass, or have an interest in assisting with establishing procedures, please attend our first meeting on Saturday, **February 23 at 10:00am** in the Social Hall. Please RSVP to Denise Traeder at dtraeder@stcyprian.com or by phone: 734-283-1366 x113.

Let Perpetual Light Shine

†Justin Scheffler

who entered eternal life on
January 29, 2019

Human Dignity and the Beatitudes

by Jill Rauh

*Assistant Director of Education and Outreach,
Secretariat of Justice, Peace and Human Development
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven." Matthew 5:3-12

The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12 and Luke 6:20-26 are at the heart of Jesus' teaching. They describe as "blessed" those who are poor, mourning, meek, hungry for righteousness, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers, and persecuted. Who is "blessed" today?

In the 1980s, Sr. Esther Hugues, a Minim Daughter of Mary Immaculate, encountered refugees from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua who were fleeing violence caused by civil wars and political repression. "I experienced firsthand the deep desire of Central American migrants to find a better, safer life for themselves and their families." Active in the Sanctuary Movement, in which congregations and other religious institutions provided shelter, food, and legal help to these refugees, Sr. Esther recalls, "More than once these persons would share with me that once they saw the cross on our school chapel, their hope was revived, and they knew they would be safe." Blessed are the merciful, indeed!

For the Pontifical Biblical Commission, the Beatitudes are the "synthesis" of Christ's teaching. They describe ways of being and acting that are "fundamental" to followers of Christ (*The Bible and Morality: Biblical Roots of Christian Conduct* [TBM] [Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV), 2008], no. 47).

The Profile of a "Blessed" Person

What are these fundamental characteristics? What is the profile of a "blessed" person?

First, those who are **poor in spirit** (or simply "poor," in the Lucan version of the Beatitudes), "live in a precarious situation." They are "wholly dependent on God" (TBM, no. 47). It is not surprising that Jesus would call the poor blessed. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, those who are most vulnerable, including the widow, orphan, and stranger, are the ones on whom God bestows special care and concern. Who in your community is most vulnerable? What special care and concern can you share with these "blessed" ones in imitation of God's own tender love?

Next, **the afflicted** "do not turn in upon themselves but compassionately participate in the necessities and sufferings of others" (TBM, no. 47). Sr. Esther is now elementary principal at Lourdes Catholic School. Sr. Barbara Mosegur is principal of the high school. The school is in Nogales, Arizona, near the United States–Mexico border, known by locals as "Ambos Nogales," or "both Nogales." The poverty just across the border is devastating. Sr. Esther and Sr. Barbara engage students to serve at the Comedor, a soup kitchen on the border for deported migrants. There, students hear firsthand

The third Beatitude lifts up **the meek**—those who "do not use violence but respect their neighbors" (TBM, no. 47). Sr. Esther and Sr. Barbara seek to build bridges across borders, cultures, and differences. One way they do this is by accepting students at the school from *both* sides of the border. In fact, Sr. Esther, who was born in northern Mexico, first came to the United States on a student visa—to study at Lourdes Catholic School! She knows firsthand the transformation that happens when students meet their neighbors from across the border. Sr. Esther says, "We instill in [our students] the conviction that for God, there are no borders or other human-made boundaries or distinctions."

Those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness** seek to make God's vision for the world a reality (TBM, no. 47)—where "evil will have been vanquished, justice reinstated, and humanity's craving for life and peace fully satisfied" (TBM, no. 43). Sr. Barbara engages high school students in the work of the Kino Border Initiative (www.kinoborderinitiative.org) to meet with their congressional representatives to urge just and comprehensive immigration reform, and to organize and participate in events to educate themselves and

(Continued on page 4)

Human Dignity and the Beatitudes (Continued from page 3)

others about border issues. Children of a merciful God, Sr. Esther says, must always be merciful.

Next, the **merciful** "offer active help to the needy and are ready to grant pardon" (TBM, no. 47). "What we hope all of our students experience is that *all* human beings have *theright* to basic needs (food, shelter, dignity, just wages), regardless of human-made borders," Sr. Esther says. Yet, the attitude encouraged by the media—and prevalent in the surrounding community—is hostility toward undocumented immigrants, even "xenophobia." But the slow pace of change doesn't discourage her. Instead, it reminds her to imitate God, who is merciful, and to see how his vision is being realized in her students (one commented, "After listening, spending time with, and eating with migrants who have been deported, traveled part of the path they take in the desert, I now see things very differently") and in the many alumni of Lourdes Catholic School who continue to work in service and advocacy.

The **peacemakers** seek to "maintain and re-establish love-inspired fellowship among human beings" (TBM, no. 47). Through integration of social justice into the school's curriculum and bridge-crossing through service and advocacy, the sisters help students relate to their brothers and sisters on both sides of the border.

Finally, **those persecuted for righteousness' sake'** remain faithful to the will of God despite the consequent difficulties" (TBM, no. 47). Despite criticism by those unwelcoming toward immigrants, the sisters persevere, through their work, in bringing "the witness of the Gospel" to a world in need.

Are You Blessed?

Warning! This might shock you: By virtue of our Baptism, we are *all* called to be blessed! The Beatitudes "express the vocation of the faithful associated with the glory of his Passion and Resurrection; they shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life; they are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations; they proclaim the blessings and rewards already secured, however dimly, for Christ's disciples; they have begun in the lives of the Virgin Mary and all the saints" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC], 2nd ed. [Washington, DC: LEV–United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 2000], no. 1717).

The work of Sr. Esther, Sr. Barbara, and so many other holy men and women is not an "extra" or an "add-on" to what it means to be faithful. It's the call we receive at Baptism. Pope Francis reminds us, "We who are baptized Christians are missionary disciples and we are called to become a living Gospel in the world: with a holy life we will 'flavor' different environments and defend them from decay, as salt does; and we will carry the light of Christ through the witness of genuine charity" (Pope Francis, *Angelus*, February 9, 2014, w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2014/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20140209.html).

At Baptism, we become part of Christ's Body—and then we are sent on his mission. Our Baptism leads to mission in the world. We give expression to our baptismal reality, Pope Benedict XVI writes, "in our daily lives" in "the field" of the world, working to orient work and society towards the Kingdom (Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* [SC] [Washington, DC: LEV–USCCB, 2007], no. 79).

This is a call for everyone, not just priests and religious. "The baptismal call of Catholics is based on Jesus' commandment to 'Love your neighbor as I have loved you,'" Sr. Esther says. "I've always taught my students that the final exam we will each be given at the end of our life is: 'I was hungry and you gave me food . . . ' (Mt 25:34-40)."

For all of us, our communion with one another, membership in Christ's Body, and participation in the Eucharist together "leads to a determination to transform unjust structures and to restore respect for the dignity of all men and women, created in God's

"Love your neighbor as I have loved you," Sr. Esther says. "I've always taught my students that the final exam we will each be given at the end of our life is: 'I was hungry and you gave me food... ' (Mt 25:34-40)." —Sr. Esther Hugues

Religious Formation



Religious Formation Schedule

February 18 **no religious formation class**

February 25 Class Grades 1-5 at 6:15pm

February 26 First Eucharist Meeting 6:30pm

Stacey Sutowski-Shurtz,

Director of Elementary Catechesis and Youth Ministry

Liturgy Schedule for February 24
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Minister Schedule also available at www.stcyprian.com

	5:00 PM	9:00 AM	11:00 AM
ALTAR ASSISTANT	Paul Rydesky	Dan Davis	Dan DeAngelis
GREETERS	Ann DeFoe, Nora Cousino, Barbara Kubala	Ellerbrock Family, Gibbons Family	Joan Keith, Margaret Krohn, Georganne Miller, Matosh Family
LECTORS	Bev Nicholson Laura Lauer	Janie Eaton Marilyn Hibbard	Susan & Al LaCroix
ALTAR SERVERS	Rich Nicholson	Fred Stull	Ines Ucros

Readings for the Week of February 17

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 17:5-8; Ps 1:1-4, 6;
1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

Monday Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21;
Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2-4, 9c-10;
Mk 8:14-21

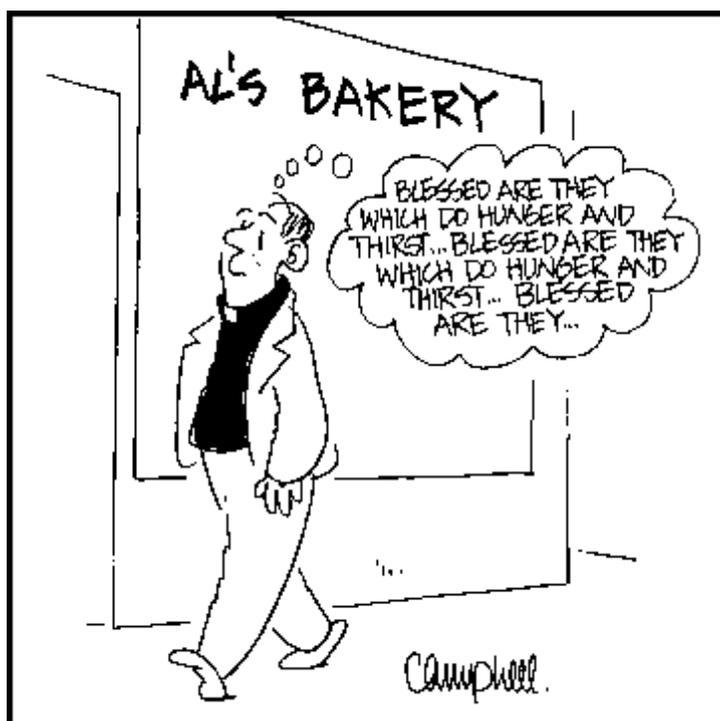
Wednesday Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-19;
Mk 8:22-26

Thursday Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-23, 29; Mk 8:27-33

Friday 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:13-19

Saturday Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13,
22-23; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 15:45-49;



This week we are in need of the following items: pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti o's and pasta-roni.

*Thank you
for your support!*

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT

Collection 2/10/19	\$11,723.70
Total Collection 7/1/18 to present	\$374,531.88
Needed Weekly	\$11,435.00
Needed 7/1/18 to present	\$376,255.00
Over (Under) for Year	\$1,723.12

Sisters of Mary Reparatrix

10065 Northway Avenue
Allen Park, MI 48101
313-383-3312 / mrretreats@comcast.net

During Lent we will meet every Thursday offering reflections on the readings of the Liturgy for the coming Sundays. These sessions will be 10:00am to 11:15am.

March 7, 2019	March 28, 2019
March 14, 2019	April 4, 2019
March 21, 2019	April 11, 2019

Free Will Donation. Register by Monday of each week for Thursday session.

Facilitated by Mary Therese Lemanek, Sr. Margaret Hoey and Sr. Ann Kasperek



Catherine Adanti, Nathan Adanti,
Catherine Auelua, Larry Brown,
Timothy Casey, Jeannie Chizick,
Rita Cook, Kenneth Crassweller,
Melinda Davis, Hudson Demick,
JoAnn DeJaeger, Carol Flanary, Geraldine Hemphill,
Lester Hodges, Tom Hoover, RoseMary Howell, Mike
Johnson, Albert Korte, Debbie Malkowski, Kevin
Mance, Mike Palazzolo, Janet Razmek, Carol Burbo
Shirk, Bonnie Smith, Martha Walsh, Judy Zilka.

Liturgy Intentions

Donations have been made for the purchase of bread and wine in honor of the following:

February 23, 5pm Liturgy

- † John & Rita Cenzer from Diane Zarosly and Dennis
- † Earl Cancilliari from Family
- † Bryce Cancilliari from Family

February 24, 9am Liturgy

- † Aldo Pannoza from Maria & Henry Preston

February 24, 11am Liturgy

- † Samuel Bartolotta from Florence Coleman
- † Danielle Shepherd-O'Brien from Family

This Week

Tuesday, February 19

- 12:00pm Staff meeting in conference room
- 6:00pm Bell Choir meet in church
- 7:00pm Liturgical Choir meet in music room

Wednesday, February 20

- 10:00am Bible Study meet in St. Nicholas room
- 10:15am Crafters meet in social hall
- 10:00am Pantry distribution in social hall
- 7:30pm AA meet in social hall

Thursday, February 21

- 7:30pm AA meet in social hall
- 7:30pm Alanon meet in hospitality room

Saturday, February 23

- 10:00am Emergency Response Team meeting in social hall

Sunday, February 24



ST. CYPRIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Hospitality Coordinator suzyqclean@msn.com

Mr. Mark Homan
Mrs. Laura Lauer
Mr. John Masserant
Mrs. Shelly Nowak
Ms. Nona Sehoyan
Ms. Stephanie Tucker

Mrs. Eileen Banchoff
Christian Service Rep.
Mr. Thomas Iacobelli
Worship Comm. Rep.
Mr. Mark Lauer
Stewardship Comm. Rep

Mr. Matthew Ray
Maintenance mray@stcyprian.com

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Mr. Clint Switzer, Chair ppc@stcyprian.com

WEEKDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Tuesday/Thursday/Friday at 9:00am

WEEKEND LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday at 5:00pm and Sunday at 9:00am & 11:00am