

## Bulletin: 04th Ord A January 29, 2017

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Parish Soft Training: I will be in Anchorage from January 31 to February 3, 2017.
2. First Communion: Bill will receive his first communion this weekend at Holy Rosary, Sunday, January 29, at the 10:00 am mass.
3. Baptism: Gabriel Clark, Friday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>.
4. Rides to Church: We have two people who need rides to mass. If you would like to pick someone up, or pay a cab for them, please let me know!
5. New Church Floor: We are in the process of raising money for a new church floor. We need about \$4,000 more. If you would like to donate, please send a check to Holy Rosary and in the description, write church floor (P.O. Box 810, Dillingham, AK 99576. Also, [www.holyrosaryalaska.org](http://www.holyrosaryalaska.org) (use the donate button for Saint Paul Mission and write in the note area "for church floor.")
6. Easter Services: Instead of trying to fly back and forth between Saint Theresa, Saint Peter the Fisherman, and Holy Rosary, I am currently trying to find another priest or deacon to fly out here to take one of the parishes.

### HOMILY

#### INTRODUCTION

Here is my interpretation of two of the beatitudes: (1) Blessed are those who are poor and (2) How blessed you are when they insult you and persecute you...rejoice and be glad.

#### BLESSED ARE THE POOR

How blessed are those who are poor. This means, "How happy are those who are not attached to material things.

#### HOTWIRED

Every one of us is hotwired to God. We are all born with a natural connection to God. We short circuit that connection by hungering for that new 2017 Polaris 600 snow machine or the latest iPhone 7.

#### BUYING CAN BE AN ADDICTION

For a while things we buy are fulfilling. They satisfy. Like a drug that new North Face Jacket gives me a high, but the drug wears off.

#### HOW THE ADDICTION WORKS

Here is how it works: I get a buzz when I get more. I panic, the buzz wears off, I want more. I am addicted. Jesus says, how lucky you are if you are not attached to material thing.

### HUNGRY FOR EARTHLY PLEASURES

When our hunger for God is hooked to some earthly pleasure or desire, we feel miserable...we are not as happy.

### SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS QUOTE

Saint Thomas Aquinas said, "You want to know what the happy life is: Love what Jesus loved on the Cross." Jesus was **detached** from all material things while hanging on the cross. This allowed him to be **attached** only to God's will. How happy are those who are poor.

### BLESSED WHEN THEY INSULT YOU

How blessed you are when people insult you...rejoice and leap for joy. Translation: How happy you are if you are not addicted to the approval of others. Ever fished for a compliment? How do you like my homilies?

### GET YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT

If you require approval from friends or family, then your priorities are not in order. Everything you do on earth should be to please God and not Alice your boss, or Frank your teacher,

### APPROVAL CAN BE ADDICTIVE

Like anything else, the approval of others becomes an addictive drug...I need more and

more and more. How fortunate you are if you are not addicted to the approval of others. You are focused on Christ. Christ is your center.

### PLEASE GOD NOT MAN

Pleasing God is what is important. You do that by loving your neighbor, being kind to others, and struggling with your sins.

### JESUS DID NOT REQUIRE APPROVAL

Again, think of Jesus on the cross. If Jesus had made good feelings the center of his life, he would have NEVER come to the cross. Jesus did not love approval from others.

### THE SIGN OF HAPPINESS

My brothers and sisters, The cross is a sign for us. Jesus reminds us how to be happy. I ask all of you to take a good look at our crucifix. The beatitudes are right there. Jesus on the cross says simple, humble, peacemaker, poor, detached from the approval from other, and most importantly, happy (493 Words).

### READINGS

First Reading: Zephaniah 2: 3; 3:12-13

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day

of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your own calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "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. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

#### INTERCESSIONS

Let us now bring our prayers and petitions to our Heavenly Father.

That those in authority treat citizens and employees justly and be mindful of their dignity, we pray to the Lord.

That people who are still struggling for their independence soon achieve it without bloodshed, we pray to the Lord.

That Christians throughout the world work toward unity, we pray to the Lord.

That this community show respect for the sanctity of life by supporting pregnant women, caring for the dying, and welcoming people of all abilities, we pray to the Lord.

Let us remember our loved ones who have died (especially.....): that they may be enfolded in God's love, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our community and for the world.....We pray to the Lord.

Heavenly Father, we ask you to hear these prayers and answer them in your great love and mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.