



# Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favored. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome and surprising to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood 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. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.



MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!

Sunday Collection January 25 - \$3,740  
Repairs \$977 & Initial Offering \$1,445

## Prayer Intention for the Month of February:

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

*As we gather, let us remember and pray for . . .*

**Monday, February 2** *Presentation of the Lord & (8:25 a.m. rosary) World Day of Consecrated Life*

9:00 a.m. **†**Mike Colaneri

**Tuesday, February 3** *St. Blasé & St. Ansgar (8:25 a.m. rosary)*

9:00 a.m. **†**Luigi Giancola

**Wednesday, February 4** *(8:25 a.m. rosary)*

9:00 a.m. **†**Helen Pitney

**Thursday, February 5** *St. Agatha (8:25 a.m. rosary)*

9:00 a.m. **†**Ida Mastroianni

**Friday, February 6** *St. Paul Miki & Companions (8:25 a.m. rosary)*

9:00 a.m. **†**Nicole Chartrand

**Saturday, February 7**

4:30 p.m. **†**In Memoiram

♦Special Intention Lourdes Tingzon Ching

**Sunday, February 8**

9:00 a.m. ♦ People of the parish **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

11:00 a.m. **†**Glenn Maxwell

5:00 p.m. **†**Filipe Parreira

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION** Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, Benediction follow 9:00 am Mass.

You are invited to come and spend some time with Jesus



## MASS in memoriam

For those who have died in the past three months and whose funerals were celebrated here. The following will be remembered in the Prayer of the Faithful and Eucharistic Prayer...



**Sylvia Phillips**

**Dora Armenti Zappitelli**

**Albert Moccio**

**Glen Maxwell**

**Lina Palmieri**

**Doald Manion**

**Ernesto "Ernie" Generao**

*Behold, I will send you my angel who shall go before you and protect you on your journey and bring you to the place I have prepared. -- Exodus 23:20*

## COUNTDOWN TO LENT: February 18!

Masses on Ash Wednesday will be  
celebrated at  
9:00 a.m.  
and  
7:00 p.m.



On Fridays we will pray the Stations of the Cross beginning at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mass

## Lent

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. It is a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicate themselves and when converts are instructed in the faith and prepared for Baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Christ.

### WANTED: OLD PALMS

Please remember to bring any palms you may have from previous years when you come to church. Baskets will be available in the church foyer for collection.

Thank you for your participation.



### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

A reminder that the 2026 memberships (\$40) are now due. They can be placed in the offertory basket, dropped off to the office or contact Dina for etransfer. 905.380.0522 | [dina.marchionda@gmail.com](mailto:dina.marchionda@gmail.com)



### BINGO! BINGO! BINGO!

Please come out and support St. Thomas More Bingo February 4 & 11. Delta Monte Carlo Bingo Hall 4735 Drummond Rd.

Your support is greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU!



### BE PART OF OUR CASINO BINGO TEAM!

Volunteers are needed for Delta Bingo nights on Wednesday evenings, once or twice a month, for approximately 2 hours.

If you enjoy bingo and like meeting new people, this is a fun and easy way to earn money for our church. Our participation provides a simple and effective source of revenue for St. Thomas More Church. Please email the office.

**FEBRUARY 2: The Presentation of the Lord and The World Day of Consecrated Life.** *light offered to God, lives offered in service.* It's a day of gratitude, prayer, and reflection for those who dedicate their entire lives to God and service to others.

Let no man boast of his good deeds. A man at work in a harbour saw a little boy fall into the water. He instantly sprang in after him and got him out. He then went on with his work, wet through as he was, until the dinner hour, when he went home to change his clothes and take his midday meal. Both in the street and in his own house he was beset with questions as to how he got his clothes so wet, but he invariably gave an evasive answer. Several days later, on returning from his work, he found awaiting him at his home the boy whom he had rescued from a watery grave, together with his parents. As soon as he crossed the threshold the boy cried out: "That is the man who pulled me out of the water!" Thereupon his parents thanked him with tears for saving their child's life. On being asked why he had kept his good deed secret, he answered in Our Lord's words: "Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." That man is much to be commended for his reticence ; for one who prides himself on his virtuous actions or boasts of them, loses all merit in God's sight.

**'PRO-LIFE 101' TEEN NIGHT:** The Diocese of St. Catharines in partnership with Choose Life Niagara invite teens to join us for a 'Pro-life 101' evening with Katie Somers on Sunday, February 22, from 6:00-9:00 pm at St. Alexander Church in Fonthill. We will learn facts and apologetics on abortion, play games, and spend time socializing with other pro-life youth! The evening will begin at 6:00pm with Holy Mass, with the rest of the program starting at 7:00pm. Please register here or email [info@chooselife.ca](mailto:info@chooselife.ca) or [youth@saintcd.com](mailto:youth@saintcd.com) for more information.

**NIAGARA FALLS SOUP KITCHEN**, is inviting our community to help us Freeze the Hunger. This February Hunger doesn't pause for winter and for many of our neighbours, the colder months make food insecurity even harder. That's why we're launching Freeze the Hunger Fridays, a February-long food donation campaign focused on collecting shelf-stable food items to support the Soup Kitchen.

Every Friday in February, we encourage individuals, families, workplaces, and community groups to pick up one or two extra non-perishable food items and donate them to help keep meals flowing for those who need them most.

A small act one can, one box, one bag can make a real difference. Together, we can turn cold February Fridays into moments of warmth, care, and compassion.

Drop off at the Soup Kitchen 4865 St Lawrence Ave NFO.... Between 3pm-6pm

Our volunteers will gladly come out to your vehicle to receive your donations. Most needed items at this time are bags of dried beans, canned tomatoes/sauce, rice (preferably not parboiled) and canned vegetables.

Let's come together to freeze hunger, one Friday at a time.

Niagara Falls Soup Kitchen

289-968-8442

[www.nfcommunityoutreach.org](http://www.nfcommunityoutreach.org)



*"I admit that we are all weak, but if we want help, God has given us the means to find it easily..." — St. Charles Borromeo*