

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEB 12-13, 2022**

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Gospel reading (Lectionary 78)**

Lk 6:17, 20-26

Jesus came down with the twelve
and stood on a stretch of level ground
with a great crowd of his disciples
and a large number of the people
from all Judea and Jerusalem
and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon
And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said:
 “Blessed are you who are poor,
 for the kingdom of God is yours.
 Blessed are you who are now hungry,
 for you will be satisfied.
 Blessed you who are now weeping,
 for you will laugh.
 Blessed are you when people hate you,

 and when they exclude and insult you,
 and denounce your name as evil
 on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice and leap for joy on that day!
Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.
For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way.
 But woe to you who are rich,
 for you have received your consolation.
 Woe to you who are filled now,
 for you will be hungry.
 Woe to you who laugh now,
 for you will grieve and weep.
 Woe to you when all speak well of you,
 for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.”

**Intercession**

For our parish community, that we might grow in the virtue of spiritual poverty, allowing us to fruitfully discern how God is asking us to steward the wealth and resources he entrusts to us.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

Scripture can sometimes be confusing. We know that God created everything, and called it all “good.” But in today’s Gospel reading, Jesus seems to suggest that partaking in this good creation—having enough to eat, being able to provide for our material needs, and enjoying ourselves and the earth—is somehow bad, even a curse. What’s going on?

None of these things—wealth, good food, laughter, or praise—are bad in their own right. The problem is when we are *satisfied* by these earthly things—when we’re so filled up with them that we lose the desire for God.

In contrast to this, Jesus praises those who are *empty*—the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful, and the excluded—again, not because poverty or hunger or any of these things are good in their own right, but because when we find ourselves in these conditions, we’re more open to God. We know that nothing here will ultimately satisfy us, and so we turn to Him.

The Church calls this the virtue of spiritual poverty—and it can transform the way we think about wealth. Instead of wealth becoming a kind of ball and chain, that holds us down and holds us back, spiritual poverty allows us to see that whatever we have is a gift—a gift God has entrusted to us, and asks us to use prudently as His stewards. Let’s keep the virtue of spiritual poverty in mind as we discern—as a community and as families—how we can support our Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Jesus reminds us that we are at our richest when we give generously, breaking free from self-reliance and opening ourselves up more completely to God. With this truth in mind, please consider how the Lord might be calling you to contribute to our Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: A child holding a bug

Text: The smallest treasure is often the most beautiful

Copy: When God is alive in our hearts the simplest of things are often our most precious gifts. Your gift to our Annual Diocesan Appeal is making an impact on our parish and we are so grateful.