



And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours."

LUKE 6:20

## It's All about the Roots

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**here we put down our spiritual roots matters. For some, the old adage "Bloom where you are planted" may offer wisdom; however, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that if we find ourselves planted in a lava bed or a salty and empty land, we won't do much blooming. We'll be no more than a shriveled, barren bush. So, where we plant our inner spiritual lives makes a difference.

This week's gospel may seem to sap all the joy out of life. Woe if you have money to spend, a banquet to feast on, fun and laughter to dress up your days. Woe to you, it seems to caution, because when you die, the opposite will be your lot. What's so wrong, we wonder, with having cash in our pockets, food on our tables, and a good time once in a while? Life can be downright dreary otherwise.

The answer, of course, is that there is nothing wrong with any of that—unless that's where we put down our roots. In other words, if that's what life is all about, sooner or later, we are likely to discover we have become a barren bush standing in lava waste. Jesus didn't come to suck the joy out of life but to give us a heads up on how to live a life that is full. He hoped we might avoid the lure that can become a wasteland. He hoped we might become "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream" (Jeremiah 17:8). ●

### Reflect

**Where are your roots? Are you growing and thriving?**

**Saint Benedict Catholic Church**

**336-272-0303**

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**Website: [stbenedictgreensboro.net](http://stbenedictgreensboro.net)**

**Email: [Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org](mailto:Stbenedictgreensboro@rcdoc.org)**

**Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm on Wednesday and Friday**

**PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: As the Roman Catholic Mother Church of Greensboro, St. Benedict's Parish mission, responding faithfully to Christ's call, is to bring all people closer to God through liturgy, fellowship, service, outreach, and works of charity.**

**Rev. James Duong, Pastor**

**Lynne McGrath, Secretary & Faith Formation Coordinator**

**Weekend Mass**

**Sat.** Miraculous Medal

Novena at 4:45pm

Mass at 5:00pm

**Sun.** Mass at 8am & 11am

Chaplet of Divine

Mercy after 11am

Mass

**Confessions**

Weekdays before 12:15

Mass

Saturday 4 - 4:30pm

**Weekday Mass**

Rosary at 11:45am

Mass Monday - Friday

12:15pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

after Mass

**NO MASS on Thursday**

*Bulletin requests must be in the Parish Office by noon*

*Wednesday, ten (10) days in advance of the weekend of publication.*

**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Welcome all new families and individuals. Membership is a condition for the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion at St. Benedict, and for the parish to issue a sponsorship certificate for those asked to be sacramental sponsors. You must be a registered, contributing member for at least three (3) months before a certificate will be given. Registration forms are available in the parish office.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** If you are seriously ill, going in for surgery or weak from old age, you may receive the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Please contact Fr. Duong if you desire to receive this sacrament.

**HOSPITAL & NURSING HOME & SHUT-IN VISITS:** If you or any members of your family are sick and, in the hospital, or a nursing home, and you'd like Communion brought to them, please call the parish office.

**FAITH FORMATION:** All classes from pre-K to high school are on Sundays from **9:15-10:30am** in the parish hall. For more information call Lynne McGrath.

**RCIA:** Please call the parish office for more information.

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements must be made with a priest/deacon at least six (6) months in advance. Call the parish office for more information.

**THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2025**

For our nation and our lawmakers:

That they may continually strive for laws that lead our country towards  
blessedness and remind us of our necessary reliance on and trust in God.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**INTENTIONS**

2/15	Saturday	5:00pm	+	Frank & Mary Otherski
2/16	Sunday	8:00am		For the Parishioners
		11:00am	+	Tina Fantigrossi
2/17	Monday	12:15pm		Jessica McGrath Family
2/18	Tuesday	12:15pm	+	Bill Williams
2/19	Wednesday	12:15pm		Room at the Inn
2/20	Thursday	NO MASS		
2/21	Friday	12:15pm	+	Stanley Brian McAdoo
2/22	Saturday	5:00pm	+	Luis Masson
2/23	Sunday	8:00am		For the Parishioners
		11:00am	+	Tina Fantigrossi

+ denotes deceased

**Keeping Our Military in Our Prayers**

Kharll Skycer Villarin  
Sgt. W.R. Williams III  
Maj. Russel Henderson  
Sgt. Bryanna Spade  
Sgt. Kyle Spade  
April Ducote  
Aaron Gaither  
Phillip Kiniery  
Christopher Simmons  
Kris Guffey  
Jennifer Kmiecinski

**Sick and Shut-In**

Please remember our brothers and sisters  
in your prayers and at Mass: Carol Camp,  
Lynn Clay, Richard Collings, Virgil  
Dotson, Martha Eakes, Tracy Edwards,  
Bonnie McIntyre, Barbara Parsons,  
George Pickett, Dan Popik, Cam Reitzel,  
Luke & Heather Robinson, Manny &  
Laura Rodrigues, Kim Snyder, Vivian  
Speetjens, Marvin Tomlin Jr., Teresa Thu  
Tran, Frank Williams, Beth Wilson,  
Brian Wilson, Deborah Wilson, Jean  
Wilson

## WEEKLY COLLECTION

Weekly Offertory ....	\$ 4,142.00
Calif. Fire Recovery ....	\$ 1,355.00

**THANK YOU!**

## MINISTER SCHEDULE: FEBRUARY 22 AND 23

<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>E.M.</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>	<u>CANTOR</u>
<b>5 pm</b>	Bob Nutt	Danielle Hayes	Emily, Gloria	Lori Hodges
<b>8 am</b>	Linda McLendon	Mary Ray	Raul, Mary, Jose	
<b>11 am</b>	Bunny Stuart	Bill McCutcheon	Ava	Choir

## REFLECTION



The words of the Psalmist echo the theme of all of today's readings. "Happy are they who hope in the Lord." As good stewards, firmly grounded in that hope, may we bear fruit in due season - assisting the poor, feeding the hungry, and consoling the sorrowful whenever we have the chance.

## LEAVE A LEGACY

Making a will isn't expensive but not having one may cost your family a great deal. Please be a good steward of your resources by using wisely the Lord's gifts given to you. Make a will or revise the one you have if you haven't done so in the last five years.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

What about my life is Jesus calling me to change so that I may be blessed? If I have plenty of money, food, and happiness, what can I do to be blessed?



# PARISH NEWS

**DIOCESAN  
SUPPORT  
APPEAL 2025**

Reflecting God's Light

**THE DIOCESAN SUPPORT APPEAL (DSA) 2025** has officially begun. This year's theme is "Reflecting God's Light". We are all called to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters both here in our parish and in the diocese. Yet most of us are not able to drop everything and work for the Church. Also, most of us are not qualified to provide services such as counseling, refugee resettlement, adoption, natural family planning, prison ministry, sacramental preparation, and many more. But we can do it through financial contributions which support the work of the Church in areas such as these. The DSA provides funding for more than 50 ministries and programs in the Piedmont and Western North Carolina. **The target for St. Benedict's is \$31,234.**



**ANNIVERSARY UPDATE** The Ladies Group is inviting fellow parishioner to celebrate Father Duc's 20th anniversary as our priest and pastor on Sunday, February 23, at 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall. The main menu is Italian-themed with Chicken Rigatoni and Baked Ziti. Sign-up sheets are in both vestibules. Please add the number of attendees so we will have enough food, and whether you would like to bring a salad or dessert.

**THANK YOU** to all who contributed to the California Fire Recovery efforts. Your generosity is appreciated.

**BRING A MEAL?** One of our long-time parishioners, Richard Collings (wife, Karen), has recently returned home from the hospital. Their daughter, Kimberly Oliver, is being treated for cancer. The family is stretched with care-giving needs and can use some help with meals. If you are able to supply a meal for the Collings family, please contact Roslyn Peterson at [roslyn.peterson@gmail.com](mailto:roslyn.peterson@gmail.com) or text 336-580-9588. Thank you!

## Faith Formation



Sunday School 2025 for those age 3 through high school is from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the parish hall.

Adult Spiritual Enrichment is held at the same time and place. All are welcome.

**\*\*\* During inclement weather, check our website for any cancellations \*\*\***

This week we say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to:

Daniela Garcia-Moncada (2/15), John Sugg (2/19), Anna Sorbito (2/19),  
Mary Brown (2/20), Darynne Akouegnon (2/20)



## A JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE 2025

Fr. James Duong at St. Benedict Parish in Greensboro,  
Fr. Tien Duong at St. Francis Assisi in Franklin,  
Fr. Tri Duong at St. John University in New York,  
invite you to join them on a 12-day pilgrimage to ITALY...  
... to visit PADRE PIO, St. FRANCIS, St. CLARE, St. BENEDICT...  
... to have a Papal audience with Pope Francis...  
... to visit JUBILEE DOORS at 4 major basilicas...  
... and Our Lady of Medjugorje.

For further information, please call Fr. James Duong at 336-272-0303  
or [djduong@rcdoc.org](mailto:djduong@rcdoc.org) or check here for details: [trip.nativitypilgrimage.com/np4256](http://trip.nativitypilgrimage.com/np4256)



## COMMUNITY NEWS

**SAVE THE DATE** “Shamrockin’ A Party for Pennybyrn” will be on Saturday, March 15 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Pennybyrn, 109 Penny Road, High Point. Seven Nations Celtic Rock Band will provide music. In addition to a night of food, fun and dancing, it will also be a tribute to the legacy of the SMG Sisters who have served Pennybyrn since 1947 and will be returning home in June. Proceeds from the event will support the Resident Care Fund which aids residents in the skilled nursing center who have outlived their financial resources or rely on Medicaid. For more information: Wendy Strader, 336-821-4022 or [wstrader@pennybyrn.org](mailto:wstrader@pennybyrn.org).

**SAVE THE DATE** The Catholic Charities 2025 Partners in Hope Dinner will be held on Thursday, March 27, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the Benton Convention Center, 301 W. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Winston Salem. Monsignor Anthony Marcaccio will be the recipient (posthumously) of the 2025 Bishop Curlin Partners in Hope Award. Although this is a free event, guests will be invited to make a donation. The event currently needs table captains and sponsors. For more information, please visit [www.ccdoc.org/PIH](http://www.ccdoc.org/PIH) or [partnersinhopecc@gmail.com](mailto:partnersinhopecc@gmail.com).



February 16, 2025

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 17:5-8 | 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20 | Lk 6:17, 20-26

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

"It is so good to be poor, to have nothing, to await all from God!" These sentiments of the humble French religious sister St. Jeanne Jugan sum up the spirit of Jesus' words in today's Gospel. Jesus praises poverty, hunger, sadness, and rejection, but certainly not as ends in themselves; God does not take pleasure in our suffering! He does use our suffering, however, to awaken us to our need for him. Poverty can spur us to pursue *heavenly* goods, and thus Jesus assures the poor, "the kingdom of God is yours." Hunger can cause us to seek God who alone can truly satiate our desires, and thus Jesus says to the hungry, "you will be satisfied." Those who weep will laugh, Jesus says - so long as their sadness inspires them to seek happiness in the service of God and the joys of eternal life. For all of us, no matter our means or our circumstances, today's Gospel is a reminder to allow everything - including our difficulties, disappointments, and unfulfilled desires - to turn our hearts to God and rely on his loving care.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

#### **PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

It can be difficult to practice the spirit of the Beatitudes (as the "blessings" in today's Gospel are called) in the moment. Suffering, distress, and confusion easily divert our attention from God as we attempt to "make the problem go away." Sometimes we are even tempted to give up, to turn aside from God, and to seek consolation in other things. This is exactly the opposite of what he wants for us, and for good reason! God knows that it is best for us to always rely on him. This is why, as today's first reading explains, the man who trusts in the Lord is secure - "like a tree planted beside the waters ... it fears not the heat when it comes" - and fruitful - "its leaves stay green." For those who trust in the Lord, help comes from the all-powerful, infinitely loving Creator of the universe. When we entrust ourselves to him, we have nothing to fear.

### **ACCOMPANY**

Is there someone in your life who is struggling with fear, loneliness, anxiety, or sadness? Take time to pray with that person and, together, try to discover God's invitation to a deeper reliance on him in the midst of the distress. These moments of suffering are never occasions for us to get "preachy." Instead, accompany your friend and be a reminder of the hope we have in God.

# Dear Padre,

*I have always been an “every Sunday” Catholic. My problem is that holy Communion doesn’t feel that special. I believe that it’s the Body and Blood of Christ, but receiving feels “routine.” Sometimes I’m even distracted while receiving. Help?*



REINER / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you remember the story of the transfiguration of Jesus? (See Luke 9:28–36.) Jesus took his three special disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountain, and while Jesus was praying, what did they do? They fell asleep! In the very presence of Jesus, their Lord and Master.

Human beings cannot maintain feelings of awe and ecstasy for long periods of time. We would be exhausted. Feelings don’t always reflect the specialness of the moment. That is why good habits are so important. Feelings may elude us, but we can fall back on the habit of Sunday Mass. Just as two contented, long-married people don’t feel like they did on their honeymoon, they still quietly enjoy the habit of each other’s company.

Lent is coming soon. You might consider shaking up your routine a little. Attend one weekday Mass. Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures for that Sunday and praying the entrance antiphon or the psalm. If you don’t already, consider volunteering as a choir member, lector, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Meanwhile, continue to receive holy Communion, giving thanks that it is readily available, and perhaps offer a prayer for communities where Communion every Sunday is not possible. ●

[The Redemptorists](http://TheRedemptorists.com) / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



STUDIO ROMANTIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Jesus says [his people] are blessed because they are poor. In what sense? In the sense that Jesus’ disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life.*

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

#### Monday

February 17  
Weekday  
Gn 4:1–15, 25  
Mk 8:11–13

#### Tuesday

February 18  
Weekday  
Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10  
Mk 8:14–21

#### Wednesday

February 19  
Weekday  
Gn 8:6–13, 20–22  
Mk 8:22–26

#### Thursday

February 20  
Weekday  
Gn 9:1–13  
Mk 8:27–33

#### Friday

February 21  
Weekday  
Gn 11:1–9  
Mk 8:34–9:1

#### Saturday

February 22  
*The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle*  
1 Pt 5:1–4  
Mt 16:13–19

#### Sunday

February 23  
*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
1 Sm 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23  
1 Cor 15:45–49  
Lk 6:27–38