



St. Alphonsa

Syro-Malabar Catholic Church

Los Angeles

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Today's Gospel (Mt. 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."

THE BEATITUDES

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

"Poor in spirit" means to be humble. Humility is the realization that all your gifts and blessings come from the grace of God. To have poverty of spirit means to be completely empty and open to the Word of God. When we are an empty cup and devoid of pride, we are humble. Humility brings an openness and an inner peace, allowing one to do the will of God. He who humbles himself is able to accept our frail nature, to repent, and to allow the grace of God to lead us to conversion.

It is pride, the opposite of humility, that brings misery. For pride brings anger and the seeking of revenge, especially when one is offended.

"Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

If we are humble and appreciate that all of our gifts and blessings come from God, we grow in love and gratitude for Jesus Christ our Savior. But this can only produce mourning and regret over our own sins and the sins of this world, for we have hurt the one who has been so good to us. One also mourns for the suffering of others. But the sentence continues that they shall be comforted, by the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, and hopefully one day in the Kingdom of Heaven.

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

St. Gregory of Nyssa taught that the Beatitudes build one upon another. A humble person becomes meek, or becomes gentle and kind, and exhibits a



docility of spirit, even in the face of adversity and hardship. A person that is meek is one that exhibits self-control. St. Augustine advises us to be meek in the face of the Lord, and not resist but be obedient to him. Obedience and submission to the will of God are certainly not in vogue these days, but they will bring us peace in this world and in the next.

"Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."

A continuous desire for justice and moral perfection will lead one to a fulfillment of that desire - a transition and conversion to holiness. This is true for all the virtues - if you hunger and thirst for temperance, you will head towards the goal you have in mind. St. Augustine, in his discourse on the Lord's Sermon on the Mount, notes the correspondence of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and their necessity in fulfilling the Beatitudes. For example, one must have the gift of fortitude so one may be courageous in seeking justice.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Mercy is the loving disposition towards those who suffer distress. Love, compassion, and forgiveness towards one's neighbor will bring peace in your relationships. We say in the Lord's Prayer: Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. As we are merciful to others, so our Heavenly Father will be merciful with us! Jesus reminds us that whatever "you did to the least of my brethren, you did it to me (Matthew 25:31-46)." St. Paul calls for the obedience of faith in the beginning and end of his Letter to the Romans (1:5, 16:25-27).

Today & Tomorrows...

Sept. 18, Sunday: Welcome Back to CCD Students
 10.30 am - Holy Qurbana; Commissioning of CCD Teachers, Blessing of CCD Children and CCD Books; Distribution of CCD Books; Ice-breaking Session
 1 pm - Mariam Thresia Family Unit Meeting @ Joseph & Shiny, Jithin & Neenu Kalapurackal (20401 Elkwood St, Winnetka CA 91325)

Sept. 21, Feast of St. Mathew, Apostle & Evangelist
 Sept. 23, Friday, 7 pm - St Thomas Family Unit Prayer
 Sept. 24, Saturday

10 am - Holy Qurbana, Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help
 7 pm - Mother Theresa Family Unit Prayer

Sept. 25, Sunday: Celebration of the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul (Sept. 27)
 09.30 am - CCD
 10.30 am - Holy Qurbana
 4 pm: Las Vegas Holy Qurbana

Oct. 1, Saturday - Feast of Little Flower
 Oct. 8-9: Reception to the Major Archbishop in Chicago; Meeting of all Kaikkarans, Pastoral Council members and DRES of the diocese in Chicago. Our Kaikkarans also attending.
 Oct. 24-27: Presbyterium (Council of Priests of the Diocese) in Chicago.

Readings - Sept. 18, 2011

I: Mariamma Varghese - Is 33:13-24
 II: Jerry Kannampuzha - Phil. 2:1-11
 Gospel - Mt 5:1-12

Readings - Sept. 25, 2011

I: Somy Zachariah - Is 25:1-8
 II: Joseph Vincent - Phil. 3:1-11
 Gospel - Mt 17:14-27



THE COMMAND OF JESUS

In his last words to the apostles, Jesus gave them a mission: *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."* (Mt 28:19-20)

Thus, the teaching mission of the Church comes from Christ himself. The responsibility for fulfilling that mandate passes on unchanged to the bishops and to all Catholics. Within each Catholic diocese, the diocesan bishop is its principal teacher. He is assisted by clergy, religious, and lay men and women who serve as educators and catechists.

Catechesis is the act of handing on the Word of God intended to inform the faith community and candidates for initiation into the Church about the teachings of Christ transmitted by the Apostles. It also involves the lifelong effort of forming people into witnesses to Christ and opening their hearts to the spiritual transformation given by the Holy Spirit.

Today, let us pray that our CCD teachers be assisted by the Holy Spirit; let's also pray that the Holy Spirit may open the hearts of our children and inspire them for spiritual transformation and bear witness to Jesus.

**Liturgy Coordinators Meeting
 Today
 after Holy Qurbana**



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**Rosary Festival (10-Days)
 from October 1-10**

Parish Administration

Pastor: Fr. Kuriakose Vadana
 Kaikkarans/Trustees: Kurian Paliakara, Santhosh Kattakayam

Director of religious Education

Asha Joshy

Liturgy Coordinators

Jimmychen Mulavana, Joseph Veenaplackal, Kurian Mattappally, Kevin Paliakara, Kevin Padayatty, Jijo Puthiakunnel, Jasmin Jijo, Joseph John Choondakaran, Betsy Saju Kaithathara

Liturgical Services

Sundays

09.30 am - Catechism for Children
 10.30 am - Holy Qurbana

First Fridays of Every Month

07 pm - Holy Qurbana, followed by Adoration and Benediction