

Message of the Week



Dear Parishioners,

Many times we receive bills and useless solicitations in the mail. But every so often, we run across an invitation to a birthday or a wedding. We open the envelope and see the craftsmanship. The colors and details excite us over the upcoming festivities. Most of all, we are grateful that another person thought of us and wants us to join an important celebration.

In this weekend's Gospel, we hear the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes are invitations. They welcome us into a new relationship with God, others, and ourselves. The followers of Christ are moved with charity toward others because they have experienced Jesus. No longer are we told what to do ... rather, since Christ invites us into a relationship with Himself ... we are called to change our whole lifestyle and to change our whole perspective. Of course, we are poor in spirit. Of course, we are merciful. Of course, we are peacemakers – we have experienced the awesome presence of Jesus Christ.

The elements of the Beatitudes are side effects for people who invite Christ into their daily life. On the flip side, if a person hears these invitations and wants to partake, an ongoing relationship with Christ must be nurtured. Today, we venerate the saints of the Church. They are the men and women marked with the sign of faith who responded with a generous yes to Jesus' invitation. Every day, we are given the same invitation. *How do we respond?*

Every day we can say “**yes**” to living with Christ in mind, heart, and soul. The saints are wonderful gifts whom God gives us. Through the lives of the saints, we see the great joy and majesty with which God invites all His faithful to share divine life.

May Saint Michael the Archangel defend, guide, protect, and intercede for us always! May you and your families be well and safe! Have a great week!

~ Fr. Larry