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**ST. JOSEPH DIRECTORS/COORDINATORS**

**Director of Religious Education**  
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**Music Coordinator**  
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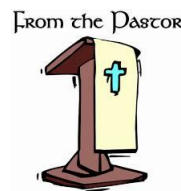
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**ST. JOSEPH GRADE SCHOOL**  
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**Secretary: Mrs. Vicky Joseph**  
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**FROM THE PASTOR THE POOR IN SPIRIT, THE LAZY AND THE BEATITUDES**

By Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio  
 Jesus’ “Sermon on the Mount” is probably the most famous sermon of all time. And the opening lines of that sermon are equally famous – for 2,000 years they’ve been known as “the Beatitudes.”

**THE BEATITUDES**

In nine short verses, Jesus lays out the character sketch of the spiritually successful person who is truly blessed, fortunate, positioned to experience perfect happiness and the fullness of joy. This is what “beatitude” means. Now the very first qualification takes us back a bit. “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” Is Jesus endorsing indigence? Is he a Marxist who champions the proletariat and vilifies the bourgeoisie?

**BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT**

Not at all. Note that he is talking about the “poor in spirit” here. In other words, those who are aware of their own smallness and emptiness. The poor in spirit are not those who beat themselves up, but those who frankly recognize how puny they are before the mysteries of the Universe and the Creator of that Universe. They don’t let their own accomplishments and abilities blind them to their mortality and vulnerability. The poor in spirit don’t fool themselves. Jesus mentions elsewhere how hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom because it is very easy for the successful to lose touch with their neediness and to actually believe the flattery of their fan club. Those who are not influential, educated or wealthy have an easier time recognizing their need since it stares them in the face every place they turn. For this reason, the Church was full of such people in the New Testament era (1 Cor. 1:26-31) just as it is today. The poor of spirit are empty and so long to be filled. They hunger and thirst for the wholeness that is called holiness, for the food that truly satisfies.

**SLOTH & SPIRITUAL LAZINESS**

The rich in spirit don’t hunger for anything. They are “full of themselves,” self-satisfied. When offered an opportunity to grow spiritually, they protest “but I’m a good person and worship God in my own way” or “I go to Church every Sunday, isn’t that enough?” Such people are too busy for prayer and yawn when exposed to a spiritual discussion. They are too absorbed with themselves to be interested in God. They may get excited about the Superbowl, but never about heaven. This lack of spiritual hunger, this utter apathy in the face of the things of God, is actually one of the Seven Deadly Sins. It is called Sloth or spiritual laziness, and it is one of the most striking characteristics of the Western world of the 21st century. Sloth is a sneaky sin that quietly creeps into the lives of even religious people and gradually chokes out true spirituality. It diverts our attention from the things of heaven to a myriad of other things until we find ourselves bored with God, making only routine and mechanical efforts, at best, to “fulfill our Sunday obligation.” There is no passion, no zeal, no desire—just lots of excuses.

**BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART**

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Pure in heart here means single-minded. The hearts of the blessed, the truly happy, are not divided between God and football and career and money. Those truly happy have only one God, and look to Him alone to be filled. When they play sports, they do it for his honor and glory, not their own. If they marry, they love Christ and are loved by Christ through their spouse. If they pursue a career or build a business, they do it to advance His kingdom. Reading the Sermon on the Mount, and especially the Beatitudes, is a gut check. It’s one of the best of all examinations of conscience, perfect to read before every confession and every Lent. Incidentally, that’s what the penitential season of Lent is about. The fasting is meant to re-stimulate our spiritual appetite. The spiritual exercises are designed to shrug off the laziness of sloth. Christianity is not just a matter of believing in God, but avidly pursuing Him.

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL NEWS:**

If you have someone or something you would like the St. Joseph Students and Staff to pray for, please call the school. The name or intention will be placed in a prayer basket, and the students and staff will pray for them during their prayer services.

**St. Joseph Parents Club Pizza Hut Fundraising** will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026. Fourth grade will deliver.

**For children attending St. Joseph Kindergarten, a screening** will be held on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph School. Mrs. Selzer will be screening during the normal pre-school time. (Must be 5 by 8-31-26. If you do not want your child screened, please let the school know. If your child does not attend SJS preschool and you would like them screened, please call the school to schedule an appointment. (785)671-4451.

**ST. JOSEPH NEWS:**


**St. Joseph Lenten Bible Study: The Passion of Christ** will begin February 10 on Tuesday mornings in the Conference Room at the rectory, following the 8:30 St. Joseph School Mass. Questions: call or text 672-0479

**Oakley Adoration** on Thursday, February 5, from 9am – 7pm.

**D of I Meeting** on Thursday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Betty Hockersmith & Brenda Weiser are hostesses

**ST. PAUL NEWS:**

**Angelus K of C Meeting** on Monday, February 2, at 7pm.



**Our Tithes from Last Week**

Oakley: \$2,497.00 Angelus: \$366.00

We welcome all our guests to our parishes. If you have moved here, we encourage you to register on our website.



Follow us on  St. Joseph Catholic Church and School

  @stjosephoakley

**DAILY SCHEDULE**

Sat 31 – 5 pm Mass + Lynn Plummer  
 Sun 01 – 8:00 am Mass (Angelus) + Cleon Heinrich  
 10:30 am Mass - Parishioners  
 Mon 02 – NO MASS  
 7pm Angelus K of C Meeting  
 Tues 03 – 8:30 am Mass + Kathleen Weigel  
 9:30 am Bible Study in the rectory  
 Wed 04 – 7:30 am Mass (Angelus) + Vince Fellhoelter  
 7 pm CCD Classes  
 Thur 05 – 8:30am Mass + Martin Weber  
 9am – 7pm Adoration  
 Fri 06 – 7am Mass + Pat Moeder  
 7pm First Friday Confessions  
 Sat 07 – 8am First Saturday Confessions  
 9am First Saturday Mass  
 5 pm Mass + Eric Ochs  
 Sun 08 – 8:00 am Mass (Angelus) - Parishioners  
 10:30 am Mass + Sr. Judy Stephens

Confessions are available 30 minutes before weekend Masses, by appointment, or as indicated on the schedule.

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL**

Mr. Danny Lockhart	Mrs. Raye Kuhlman
Mr. David Manhart	Mr. Mason Sheetz
Mrs. Penny Pfeifer	Mr. Ethan Schwarz
Mrs. Cassie Shirley-Vice Chair	Mrs. Dana Charles – Chair
Mrs. Micheline Huffman	

**ST. JOSEPH FINANCE COUNCIL**

Mrs. Lisa Racette	Mr. Lewis Evins
Mrs. Dana Charles (Par. Co. Rep.)	Mrs. Susan Glassman
Mr. Tom Halbleib	

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Mrs. Kim Munk	Mr. Courtland Osborne
Mrs. Casey Zerr - Secretary,	Mrs. Mary Urrego – Vice Chair
Mr. Russ Kahle	Mr. Jeff Kuhlman – Chair
Mrs. Micheline Huffman (Par. Co. Rep.)	

**ST. PAUL PARISH/FINANCE COUNCIL**

Mr. Bernard Dickman	Mr. Mason Bixenman
Mr. Clem Fellhoelter- Chair	Mr. Mark Rueschhoff
Mrs. Kristy Fellhoelter - Vice Chair	Mrs. Kim Robben

Saturday Feb 7 <sup>th</sup> 5pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> 10:30 am	Servers	Brynn H, Parker K, & Faith K.
	Lector	Bob Kuhlman		Lector	Penny Ottley
	Gifts	Alan & Joyce Kuhn		Gifts	Jarred & Krista Stramel
	Hospitality	Jerry & Darlene Chaput		Hospitality	Brad & Vicky Joseph

Sunday, Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> 8 am	Servers	Natalie Bixenman
	Lectors	Bill Kuhlman & Gary Ostmeyer
	Gifts	Bob & Nancy Schwarz
	Ushers	Jim, Jason & Steve Fellhoelter & Ron Lager