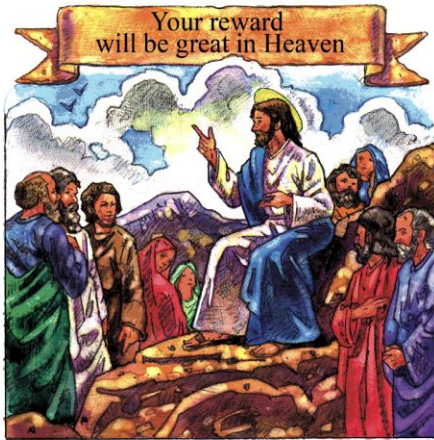


**FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

JANUARY 29, 2017

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
~ *Matthew 5:3*



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THE CHOSEN REMNANT

Zephaniah is one of the least-known of the Old Testament prophets. He speaks in today's first reading of impending judgment. But the Lord will leave a "remnant" in Israel. This image of a remnant, or remainder, was to become vital to both Judaism and Christianity.

Paul's letter to Corinth makes obvious his deep concern for the Christians there. They are too self-confident, he says, too sure of themselves. He admonishes them to remember that Christ has given them all they have.

Today's Gospel comprises the opening of Jesus' "Great Sermon." As God gave Moses the law on Sinai, so now Jesus gathers his disciples on a hillside to teach them the new law. Each of these Beatitudes contrasts the humiliation of the present with the glory of the future: poverty vs. the riches of God's kingdom, hunger for holiness vs. fulfillment in the Spirit, persecution vs. the reign of God. Jesus is here speaking to God's chosen "remnant."
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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You humble of the land, seek justice and humility, and the Lord will be your protection (Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13).

Psalm — Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — God chose the weak of the world, those who count for nothing, so that whoever boasts should boast in the Lord (1 Corinthians 1:26-31).

Gospel — Jesus taught from the mountain: Blessed are the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:1-12a).

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Charles Nicholson | Home |
| Edith Bolder | Home |
| Mable Allen Reed | Senior Living Center |
| Marguerite Hamilton | Home |
| Jeanette Hamilton Evans | Home |
| Eddie Jennings | Home |
| Inell Hunter | Home |
| John Martinez, Jr. | Home |
| Margaret G. Jones | Research Hospital. |
| Martha Melton | Benton House Center |
| Bertha Beatty | Home |
| Marcheita Bush | Home |
| Betty Givens | Home |
| Mary Brown | Home |
| Johnny Chambers | Home |
| Bob Motley | Home |
| Lorna Lewis | Home |
| Carlos Nix | Home |
| Delores Bazy | Home |
| Georgia Willoughby | Truman Medical Center. |
| Lavel McCullough | Home |
| Rosa Birch | Home |
| Sandra Cloyd | Home |
| Kevin Brown | Son of Vera Brown |
| Jackie Counce | Home |
| Jacob Armstrong | Home |

FAMILY MEMBERS: *Please inform our Pastor, Fr. Tom, when a loved-one is home bound or has been hospitalized. Call 816-471-3696 or email: stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com*

FEBRUARY 5TH ASSIGNMENTS

SERVERS *Coordinator: V. Ammons**
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. *All Servers*

LECTORS *Coordinator, Rose Palmer**
8:00 a.m. Rita Womack, Darthene Buckman
10:00 a.m. YOUTH Sunday

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:
*Coordinator, Dianna Miller**
8:00 a.m. Mary Graham, Maxine Harvey,
Christine Johnson, Elaine Johnson
10:00 a.m. Linda Williams, Patricia Williams,
Barbara Parks, Deborah Buckley, Diane
charity, Jenise Comer, Bernadette Cook,
Angela Curry, Mary Ann Grayson

USHERS: *E. Burtin*, J. Gillis* Coordinators*
8:00 a.m. G.L. Blankinship, Elaine
Johnson, Hargett Hayes,
10:00 a.m. **Team E:** Diane Bacchus, Cynthia
Barrett, Don Williams, Eric Burtin, Conrad
McDonald, Jenny Gillis

WELCOME: *Dominion Yarborough*

COUNTERS: *Coordinator, Bumetta Burtin*
TEAM 1

3RD SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP HOST
Africa Rising

MEETING – DATES - TIMES

- SUNDAY ~ 11:30 a.m. St. Monica Building**
~ Sunday School 1st & 3rd Sun.
~ 1st Communion, *Every Sunday**
~ Jr Youth Group, 2nd & 4th Sun.
(Ferguson Hall/Lower Level)
~ Senior Youth Group, 1st & 3rd Sun
~ Confirmation Class, 2nd & 4th Sun
~ **RCIA** Class, *(Small Chapel)*

Health Ministry 2nd Sunday 11:30 a.m.
Ushers Ministry 4th Sunday 11:30 a.m.

KNIGHTS OF PETER CLAVER

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 rd Degree Knights | 1 st Sat. 1:00 p.m. |
| 4 th Degree Knights | 1 st Sat. 11:45 a.m. |
| Fr. Constantine Ct. | 1 st Sun. 9:00 a.m. |
| Ladies of Grace | 4 th Sun 2:00 p.m. |
| Jr. Daughters | 2 nd Sat 2:00 p.m. |
| Jr. Knights | 1 st Sun 4:00 p.m. |

MONDAY

9:00 a.m. Mass

WEDNESDAY

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Communion Service
6:00 p.m. ~ Prayer Service

SATURDAY

- 9:00 a.m. ~ Men's Breakfast &
Bible Study Class
~ Women's Breakfast &
Bible Study Class

**MONTHLY GOAL \$38,000.00
FORECASTED WEEKLY BUDGET**

Regular Offering Goal	\$7,700.00
Debt Reduction Goal	1,800.00
Weekly Offering Goal	\$9,500.00



HOMEGOING

Ms. Muriel Hayes, died on Saturday, January 21, 2017. She was a faithful member of our Counting Team. There will not be a funeral service, as request by Muriel. Please lift up Muriel and the Hayes family in your prayers.

Mrs. Wilma Gumbel: Funeral Services for Mrs. Wilma Gumbel (former member of the Risen Christ Parish), were held on Saturday, January 28, 2017, at the St. John Regis Parish.

THANK YOU

The Roos family sincerely appreciates all of you who helped celebrate the life of **Phil Roos**. We were truly touched by the overwhelming show of affection demonstrated by kind words of sympathy, encouragement, love, and especially your prayers during the loss of our loved one. May the Lord bless you and please *continue* to keep us in your hearts and prayers.



SPECIAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY SUNDAY –

- 5th – Pancake Breakfast (KPC)
- 5th – Valentine’s Day Gift Sale (Jr. Youth)
- 12th – Valentine Day Gift Sale
- 19th – 3rd Sunday Fellowship Day
Host: (Africa Rising)



FROM FATHER'S DESK

Greetings! The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time: we hear from a prophet called Zephaniah. We rarely hear from this prophet, yet the message we receive from him today is important, especially in

light of today's gospel. Seek justice, seek humility; seek the Lord as you have observed the law. Be a people humble and lowly; do no wrong, speak no lies. Listen to this reading in light of the gospel we hear today: The Beatitudes. What message do you hear? How will you put that message into practice? To be blessed is to be more than happy. Life doesn't always go our way, sometimes we get sick or someone gets hurt. Being blessed is being full of joy on the inside even in an imperfect world. It's a deeper joy, because we know, as believers, that the spirit of God lives in us and we will live with him in heaven, someday. Jesus starts off with blessed are those who are poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Being poor in spirit means that we aren't attached to all the stuff we have. We should be very thankful and even willing to give them up or share them with others. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Maybe you've cried because you got hurt or someone you knew died but this is different than that. This is being aware of those people that haven't heard about God. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. Being meek is being patient, not easily angered and not thinking of yourself too highly. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Being righteous is impossible on our own. Can we always do right by God? No. We try our best to do the right thing and if we don't, we can ask for forgiveness. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. To have mercy is to be loving and kind to others. This doesn't mean just being loving and kind to your family and friends, but also to those who you don't like. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Being pure is like having a clean heart. Jesus is talking about the place where we think and make decisions. If we keep our mind, thoughts and decisions full of good, God says we'll understand Him more. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. The simplest way to explain this is, someone who makes peace. The second part of this beatitude says: then you will be called the children of God. Being God's child would mean that you truly are a part of God's family and that you're starting to be more like Him. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. God knows that being who He wants is not the way the world acts. God promises that we will be blessed if we follow these teachings. Keep in mind that the beatitudes are impossible to do without God's help. He wants to help and be a big part of decisions you make, and all that you do. Jesus wanted to give us something to aim for, to work on our whole life. He wants us to try our best and give us a life full of blessings, and reward us in heaven someday.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST
NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5th**

Prepared by the Knights of Peter Claver

**CAREER FAIR FOR ST. MONICA YOUTH
MARCH 5TH**

We are hosting a career Fair for St. Monica Youth, on March 5th, after the 10:00 am Mass. Help us shape our future, by sharing your personal experiences. Please complete the short survey, if you are interested, in donating your time and experience. Thank you for your support.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Until very recent decades “Holy Thursday” and “Good Friday” were centered on personal pious devotions, not public liturgy. In urban America, at least in cities with a significant Catholic population, Holy Thursday was about veneration of the Blessed Sacrament. People were encouraged to walk to seven churches for a “visit” to each parish’s repository, a kind of temporary tabernacle on a side altar, closer in proximity to the faithful than the usual tabernacle on the distant high altar. On Good Friday, the most popular form of devotion was the Stations of the Cross, or a three-hour program of word and preaching beginning at noon.

The Holy Thursday seven-church hike was a way of participating in a custom of the city of Rome. Traditionally, each day in Lent was assigned to a particular parish church or basilica in the city. Each week of Lent thus had seven churches, and pious people tried to get to each one of them. The pilgrimage was a symbol of unity and also the journey of faith. Originally, the pope would go to each place for a liturgy, but political strife removed the pope from Rome in 1305. With the papacy relocated in France, the custom ceased until Pope Leo XIII expressed interest in restoring it in 1900, and Blessed John XXIII fully restored the custom in 1959. By the time Pope Leo began to revive the custom, many American cities had enough parishes and monasteries that the faithful could vicariously participate in the revived tradition of stational liturgies by a very long walk!
—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24; Mk 5:1-20
- Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4; Ps 22:26b-28, 30-32; Mk 5:21-43
- Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:
- Thursday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
- Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9; Mk 6:14-29
- Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6; Mk 6:30-34
- Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week
- Tuesday: St. John Bosco
- Thursday: The Presentation of the Lord; Groundhog Day
- Friday: St. Blase; St. Ansgar; First Friday; Blessing of throats
- Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Registered Parishioners will no longer receive weekly envelopes by mail. Boxed envelopes will be available for pickup in Ferguson Hall, after each Mass, on Sundays, and during the week:

MONDAY, 12:00 Noon – 3:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, and THURSDAY,
9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Please call the Church Office. 816-471-3696, if you plan to pick up your envelopes during the week. We will assist you.

REPORT CHILD ABUSE - Call the Missouri Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline, 800-361-2665, or Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, 816-2500.

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday - Noon

Make it a great week!
Fr. Tom

