

Today we will hear Saint Luke's account of the Beatitudes. Luke's version is more challenging than Matthew's, the one we usually hear. You see, Luke's "blesseds" are immediately followed by complementary "woes" that are, well, not at all complimentary. As we listen to today's Gospel, let us ponder which ones most closely apply to our lives.



Readings for this Week (Feb. 18-23)

Monday: Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Mark 8:11-13
Tuesday: Gn. 6:5-8, 7:1-5, 10; Mark 8:14-21
Wednesday: Gn. 8:6-13, 20-22; Mark 8:22-26
Thursday: Genesis 9:1-13; Mark 8:27-33
Friday: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19
Saturday: Hebrews 11:1-7; Mark 9:2-13

Scripture Readings for next Sunday
(Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)

1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

David and Saul.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49

We shall bear the image of the heavenly one.

Luke 6:27-38

*The measure with which you measure
will be measured out to you.*

In next Sunday's Gospel, Jesus instructs His disciples to love their enemies, to be merciful, to do good even to those who do not do so in return. The first reading dramatizes these lessons. Given the opportunity to kill Saul, David spares his life even though Saul had tried to kill him when he had the chance. "The Lord is kind and merciful", we will sing in the Psalm. We are called to be as well.

St. Anne's Friendship Club

The Friendship Club will meet this **Thursday, Feb. 21 at 11:30 a.m. at Greene's Seafood**, 1817 West State Street, Bristol, Virginia. Please call Gina Rossetti at 423-878-7827 by this Tuesday, February 18 to reserve your spot for lunch. New members are always welcome to join us!!

 **Pastor's Notes**

A few years back, a friend of mine posted a link to a news article on Facebook. The article was about a couple in Georgia who put their teenage daughter up for adoption because she told them she was gay. They claimed their Christian faith would not allow them to continue to raise her this way. My friend was expressing outrage over this article and he commented on how these parents needed to be responding with more compassion than that. I agreed with what he said, but I just felt that something was not right. If this was true, it would be a big news story. I checked most of the major news outlets and none of them were running this story. Why not? That is the first question to ask. I then did a Google search of the headline and online got only three hits. The first was the link my friend posted and the next two linked to content that had been removed. That led me to conclude this was a completely false news story. It was probably made up to portray Christians as rigid and intolerant.

There are a couple of things I have learned from experiences like this one. First, there are many stories floating around that have been fabricated to provoke an extreme emotional response from us. As I have said before, we need to question everything. Always verify the source of a sensational story, especially when it seems hard to believe. Check to see if the major news outlets are running the story, and if not, ask why.

My final point applies to more than just fake stories in the news. We are confronted with stories and rumors all the time in our own community and on social media. Often, it can be very tempting to give an emotional or even outraged response before we take the time to find out the facts or if the story we have heard is even true. I am not being critical, because I know how easy it is to get caught up in some stories, especially when they deal with issues that are very important to us. Still, we will always be better off when we take the time to verify the sources and accuracy of what we are hearing before we offer a response.

GREASE, the musical (family friendly version) at Abingdon High School is March 1 & 8 at 7p and Saturday March 2 & 9 at 2p and 7p. St. Anne parishioner/school alumni John Bush and Aisling Ringrose are in the cast. For tickets go to <http://tickets.ahschorus.com> or contact Angie Bush at angiebush@comcast.net or 276-274-6081.



Senior High Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)

Upcoming Schedule:

- Feb. 17 — **Youth Group** (BYC 6:00-8:00pm)
 - *Our Father's Plan*
- Feb. 24 — **Youth Group** (BYC 6:00-8:00pm)
 - *The Mystery Revealed Pt. 1*
 - **Confirmation Class**
- Mar. 3 — **Youth Group** (BYC 6:00-8:00pm)
 - *Necessity of the Sacraments*
 - **Confirmation Class**

NET Ministries Retreat

In His Image

March 17 (1:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.)

(Open to all youth in grades 9-12)

Who are you?.....

A Soccer player? A dancer?

The funny guy? The nice girl?

There is one identity you don't have to earn and cannot be taken away. Join us to explore our inclination to identify ourselves by what we do rather than who we are as God's sons and daughters.

Parish Office Closed: Monday, Feb. 18 for the Presidents' Day Holiday. (Bulletin deadline is still 12N, leave message on the main office voicemail or email.)



Confirmation

Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Parents and Teens are reminded of the few date changes we made after we received notification that our Confirmation Mass would be earlier than we originally expected. Please check your calendars to make sure you have these dates on your calendar:

- As originally scheduled, we have our final two classes on Sunday, **February 24** and Sunday **March 3**, 6 p.m. in the Brady Youth Center.
- Our Retreat date is: Sunday, **March 10**, 1pm-5pm, includes lunch.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates, Tuesday, **March 12**, at **5 p.m.** in the Church.
- Confirmation Mass with the Bishop is scheduled for Saturday, **March 16**, **11:00 a.m.** at **Christ the King in Abingdon.**

If you have any questions, please contact Sydney at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org.

ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT every Tuesday

Please join us this **Tuesday, February 19, 9:15am-4:30pm**. Join us for prayer during the day and for **Benediction at 4:30 p.m.** in the Chapel.

ATTENTION: Liturgical Ministers!!

(Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Mass Coordinators, Altar Servers & Thurifers)

Please notify the parish office **NLT 4p this Wednesday, Feb. 20** of dates you are unable to serve in **March & April**. Plan to pick up your schedules in the commons next weekend (Feb. 23/24)

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—RCIA

Catechumens, Candidates, Inquirers, and Children's RCIA are reminded that we do **NOT** meet this Wednesday, **Feb. 20**. We will resume on **Wednesday, February 27**, in the Great Room, **6:30pm-8:00pm**. For more information about our RCIA, please contact Sydney Farnum at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

Sacramental Preparation Classes *for First Holy Communion*

Begin Sunday, February 24



First Eucharist

Parents of children who were in the First Reconciliation Class this past fall are reminded that our classes will begin again on **February 24, at 9:45 a.m.**, in the **school library**. If you have any questions before then, please contact Sydney at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org.

Do you still have your PALMS *from last year's Palm Sunday?*

Bring them in to the basket in the commons the next two weekends (Feb. 23/24 and March 2/3) - we'll burn them and use at liturgies on Ash Wednesday, March 6.



PANCAKE DINNER *for Shrove Tuesday*

March 5

6 p.m. in the Great Room

Sign-ups begin next weekend. Plan to join your church family for a delicious dinner of Pancakes & Sausage before Lent begins. No cost, donations accepted. Be sure to sign up at the table in the commons so we know how many to expect for dinner.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 16 (*Vigil: 6th Sunday/Ordinary Time*)

5:30 p.m. †John Paloian

Sunday, February 17 (*Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:30 a.m. †Neal Jewell

11:30 a.m. †Gary Hinch

2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)

Tuesday, February 19

8:30 a.m. †Loretta Karban

Wednesday, February 20

8:30 a.m. †Barry Brady

Thursday, February 21

6:00 p.m. †Betty Miller

Friday, February 22

8:30 a.m. †Edward E. Smith

Saturday, February 23 (*Vigil: 7th Sunday/Ordinary Time*)

5:30 p.m. †Isabelle Murphy

Sunday, February 24 (*7th Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:30 a.m. †Larry Gray

11:30 a.m. †Rozelma Wagner

2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)



Rosary Leaders Needed!

In order to continue to pray the rosary prior to the 11:30am Mass, we need more rosary leaders. If you are willing to lead the rosary prior to the 11:30 Mass, please contact Sydney Farnum as soon as possible at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or 276-669-8200 ext. 32. Training can be provided, if needed. Thank you!

Collection Report (February 9/10)

Regular/Operating	\$8,299.46
Add'l School 2nd Collection	\$ 60.00
Add'l Respect Life	\$ 12.00
Maintenance Reserve Fund	\$ 118.00

Upcoming Second Collections:

- Bristol Faith in Action (Feb. 23/24)
- St. Anne's School (March 3)
- Catholic Relief Services (March 31)

Ash Wednesday: There is only one collection on Ash Wednesday, which will be for the operating fund.

Annual Diocesan Appeal: Building Our Family of Faith

The 2019 Appeal will provide funding to three key areas: *Advancing Social Justice, Cultivating Catholic Leadership, and Empowering Parish Communities*. We look forward to sharing more about the Appeal in the near future. Many of you will soon receive a letter from Bishop Knestout asking for your support of the Appeal. It is our hope you will answer our Bishop's request and make a generous pledge.

This Week in Adult Faith Formation:

Sunday, February 17:

- **Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education Class (SMARE): "The Mass—Called Out of the World" - Lesson Two.** 9:45am-11:00am in the Great Room. All are invited. No need to sign up.

Monday, February 18:

- **Adult Faith Formation** class is on a winter break and will resume class on **Monday, March 4**. Next study session will be "*Living the Eucharist*". Watch for sign-ups in the commons.

Tuesday, February 19:

- **Book Club:** 10:30-11:30am at the St. Vincent de Paul Center. "*From Slave to Priest*".
- **Tuesday Evening Scripture Study,** 6:30-8:00pm at the St. Vincent de Paul Center. *Pivotal Players—Saint Benedict—Part 2*.

Wednesday, February 20:

- **Little Rock Scripture Study,** 1:00pm-2:30pm in the St. Vincent de Paul Center. *Acts of the Apostles*
- **NO RCIA this week**

For more information about any of the above programs, email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or call 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

Prayer Group meeting this week: Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2:45-3:45 p.m. at the St. Vincent de Paul Center. All are invited to attend. No preparation, no cost.

On behalf of **Abuse Alternatives, Inc.** I extend a sincere appreciation to you for your generous support....Your generosity to Abuse Alternatives during the (Christmas) Holiday Season was greatly appreciated and helped to make a Merry Christmas for the victims and children (42 children) residing in our emergency shelter and those we provide services to on an outreach basis. It is because of support like yours that we can continue providing quality services to the community so that everyone might have a life free of domestic violence. Again, thank you for your generosity and continued support.

Donna Mix, Executive Director

Looking ahead just a bit....

- Finance Council at 7 a.m. and Endowment Committee at 12n on Thursday, **Feb. 28**.
- Bulletin deadline for the March 9/10 bulletin is **12N on Sunday, March 3** (*due to vacation schedule*).

From the Diocese: Bishop Knestout encourages anyone aware of sexual abuse of minors on the part of clergy or staff of our diocese to notify civil authorities, call the Attorney General's Clergy Abuse Hotline at 1-833-454-9064, and reach out to the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Jennifer Sloan at 1-877-887-9603.



We wish to express our appreciation to the Evangelization and the Parish Life Committees for the wonderful *Valentine's dinner* which we attended. The food, decorations, music and fellowship were outstanding and all deserve kudos for a well-planned event. A good time was had by all!

Thanks and regards,
Mike & JoAnn Shepard

CDA Meeting—Monday, February 25th

Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Our Lady of the Rosary local court #2624, are reminded of their meeting on **Monday, Feb. 25**, at the Columbian Center. Social time at 5:30 and the meeting begins at 6 p.m. We will recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Keep in mind to bring anything you wish to donate to Hope House. We look forward to seeing you on Feb. 25th! Any Catholic lady wishing to join CDA, please call our Regent, Carol Reynolds, 276-591-1134 or Gina Rossetti, 423-78-7827. The CDA theme is:

“For Him, we live and move and have our being.”

Acts 17:2

Living the Eucharist—Lent 2019
***“The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives
of all who encounter Jesus.”***

Pope Francis

Share the Joy this Lent! Participating in Living the Eucharist is a great way to make Lent an enriching spiritual experience. Stop by the table in the commons to join a group. Sign-ups begin this weekend and will continue the next two weekends. We have four groups meeting during the week. Join the group that works best with your schedule:

- **Sunday Morning**, 9:45-11:00am in the Great Room
- **Monday Afternoon**, 1:00-2:30pm, at the St. Vincent de Paul Center
- **Tuesday Evening**, 6:30-8:00pm., St. Vincent de Paul Center
- **Thursday Evening**, 6:45pm (after Mass) to 8:15pm, at the St. Vincent de Paul Center.

“Rejoice and Be Glad”

Parish Lenten Retreat—April 5 & 6

Retreat Director: Fr. Eric Asamoah

Registration will begin in a few weeks.
Watch the bulletin for more information.