

Reflection for February 1, 2026

Living the Beatitudes at Saint Patrick Parish

In today's Gospel from Matthew, Jesus proclaims the Beatitudes, a vision of life that turns worldly values upside down. Blessed are not the powerful or the successful by human standards, but the poor in spirit, the merciful, the peacemakers, and those who hunger for righteousness. The Beatitudes are not simply comforting words; they are a call to live differently. They invite us to trust God more than ourselves, to show compassion when it is difficult, and to remain faithful even when it costs us something. As Pope Francis often said, the Beatitudes are the "identity card of the Christian." They describe what a disciple of Jesus looks like in everyday life.

We see these Beatitudes lived out in the life of our parish. I am deeply grateful for the ministry of **Fr. Larry Hennessy**, who has served Saint Patrick Parish with a true pastor's heart. Through his kindness, presence, and faithful leadership, he has touched many lives and helped this community grow in faith. As he retires from Saint Patrick, let us continue to keep him in our prayers. I encourage everyone to be present next week as we gather to celebrate his retirement and give thanks for his many years of service among us.

Our parish life also reflects the joy and fellowship that flow from living the Gospel. Each year, we celebrate **Saint Patrick's Day**, and I am especially grateful to the Women's Group, led by **Peggy Gaier**, who works tirelessly to ensure this celebration brings our community together. This year's Saint Patrick's Day Party, on **March 14, 2026**, will be especially meaningful for me, as it will be the first one to attend since I came to this parish. I look forward to celebrating with you, please be sure to sign up. I will be there. Will you be there?

Finally, on **March 15**, we will be blessed to welcome **Bishop Timothy O'Malley**, who will visit our parish to bless the newly renovated **Saint Joseph Garden**. I am sincerely grateful to all who contributed their time, effort, and generosity to make this beautiful space possible. In all these moments, service, celebration, prayer, and gratitude, we are living the Beatitudes together, becoming a parish that truly reflects the heart of Christ.

-Fr. Patrick Kizza