

Beatitudes

Jesus taught the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12) so that the people can learn the foundational principles of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Beatitudes are “counter-cultural” to the worldly way of life, it leads to spiritual transformation, and it results in living a life of true blessedness. People who live according to the Beatitudes attain union with God and they experience lasting joy because they live according to God’s standards rather than the world’s; they enjoy true happiness in life because they live in a life that is rooted in a relationship with God.

Here are the key “counter-cultural” values of the Beatitudes:

1. Poverty of Spirit over Materialism – instead of seeking things that are valued in this world like wealth, power, fame or reputation, the Beatitudes teach us to seek God and the things that are of God. When we spend most of our time seeking God and learning to understand His devices; i.e., the manner in which He does things, we come to trust and depend on Him more and more, until we rely entirely upon Him. We learn to understand that our need for God is indispensable, and our own ways and devices can in no way compare.
2. Meekness over Violence – we live in a world where there is violence everywhere you turn. Intolerance has taken over people’s hearts and anyone who doesn’t agree with their views are meant to be disrespected, devalued, harmed or even eliminated. Human life no longer has value. The Beatitudes teach us that we need to recover the meaning and value of human life, and the first step is to have an attitude of meekness.
3. Mourning over Indifference – the broken-hearted and those who grieve find their comfort in God. Mourning is an indispensable human experience. Unfortunately, people of the world see it as a weakness. So much so, that mourning has to be avoided at all costs, even to the point of being indifferent to the pain that other people are going through, but sometimes even to the point of being indifferent to our own feelings.
4. Hungering for Righteousness over Conformity – Doing the right thing has lost its appeal to a lot of people, perhaps it is because it isn’t easy to do. Besides, it has become quite risky; it is no longer just about doing the right thing, it is more about what other people will say or do to us if we go against the flow to do the right thing. As an example, telling the truth has become a problem because people don’t want to hear the truth. It is easier and safer to conform with how people think, speak and act in the world today.
5. Mercy over Unforgiveness – in the Lord’s Prayer, we ask God to forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. We must show mercy to others before we can expect God to be merciful to us. If we are ruthless towards others, then we can only expect God to be ruthless to us. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant demonstrates that unforgiveness and lack of mercy has eternal consequences.
6. Purity of Heart over Prejudice – being pure of heart not only means having a pure and undefiled mind, it also means having no malice or ill will towards others. Having a pure heart means to totally let go of our biases or prejudices against certain things, persons or groups. The



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pure of heart shall see God because they already view the world in the same way that God views the world.

7. Peacemaking over Conflict – Peacemakers are called the children of God, while trouble-makers and inciters to violence and conflict are called the children of the Evil One. Our Lord Jesus Christ has reconciled mankind with God through the Blood of His Cross, so those who promote peace and reconciliation take part in the work of reconciliation of Christ.
8. Persecution for the sake of Christ over Presumption – blessed indeed are those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ, for such is the case of many martyrs who died for Christ were rewarded with heaven. On the other hand, woe to those who presume they can go to heaven, without standing up for the truth and the Way of Christ. What a shock to those who deny Christ and still expect Christ to know them at the time of Judgment.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention children and parents: We will have Sunday School class today!

Fr. Bill will administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Sanctuary after the 10:30am Mass today.

The 2025 contribution statements are now available in the church foyer.

We will celebrate Chinese New Year on Feb. 15, 2026 in lieu of 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

The 10th year anniversary of the dedication of our church will be on November 19, 2027. We would like all church members to have their picture taken for the 10th year anniversary commemorative parish book. Please sign up with Tommy Puk.



Prayer List: Xie Yannong, Bian Meiyi, Chen Kun, Chen Shupeng, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		