



**“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven.”**

**Matthew 5:3**

**FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

We turn to the first action of Jesus’ public ministry described by Matthew—Jesus preaching to the crowds in what we call the Sermon on the Mount. The Sermon begins with today’s Gospel passage, the Beatitudes. Having just called his first disciples to form a community, Jesus begins to spell out what this community is all about. The Beatitudes lay the foundation, describing the primary values and practices, and the core identity of this community.

Jesus tells his followers, first and foremost, that they are blessed by God. The community will reveal its blessed character through its humility, meekness, and hunger for justice. Knowing they are loved as God’s children, they will have open and pure hearts, free to be merciful, and they will be able to endure suffering gracefully. Listening anew to the Beatitudes, we remember how far we fall short of Jesus’ vision. But we know God has gathered us, and continues to transform us, to receive the fullness of blessing.

**WHOM GOD HONORS**

In Jesus’ time, honor and shame were key markers for who is up and who is down in their society. Typically, those with wealth and power over others were to be honored. And in our own time, often we find ourselves drawn strongly toward having more abundance, control, and options to choose from. We avoid vulnerability and limitations. But Jesus says in the Beatitudes that the poor and meek are truly blessed, that is, honorable and privileged by God. How can this be?

Perhaps Jesus is first exposing the opposites to the poor and meek, the “rich in spirit.” These develop such confidence in themselves, based on achievement or inherited privilege, that they isolate themselves from God, and either ignore or exploit others. Jesus also knew that the humble in heart realize that they cannot build an illusory self-affirmation, so they can be most open to God’s affirmation of them. They can then become more deeply empowered to participate in God’s work. God blesses and honors the open-hearted.

Today’s Readings: Zep 2:3; 3:12–13; Ps 146:6–7, 8–9, 9–10;  
1 Cor 1:26–31; Mt 5:1–12a

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**ST. ISIDORE CHURCH  
Laingsburg, Michigan**

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**R.C.I.A. Dir.:** Roger & Shirley Hughes-  
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**Religious Ed. Formation (REF)-** Mary Stevens-  
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**Saturday Mass: 5:30pm—Sunday Mass: 9:00 am**

**Confession:** Wed. 5:30 to 6:20pm & after Mass until 7:30

**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH  
Ovid, Michigan**

**Pastor:** Rev Anthony Brooks

**Deacon:** John Marsh

**Parish Secretary:** Sharon Gillespie

**Office:** 989-834-5855

**E-mail:** [holyfamilyovid@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyovid@gmail.com)

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**Religious Ed. Formation (REF)-** Ginger Kusnier

**R.C.I.A. Dir.:** Vivian Durling

**Saturday Mass: 4:00pm—Sunday Mass: 11:00 am**

**Confession:** Saturdays 3:00 to 3:45 pm and  
Thurs. 5:30 to 6:20 pm

**Web Address:** <http://stisidorechurch.org>

# Notes from Fr. Anthony ...



## Praise the Lord and pass the blueberries.

The subject of *Consecrations* in popular piety is one that seems to be making a little traction in the English speaking world after about 60 years of major laxity in this area. In some Slavic language countries, the idea of consecrations has been fairly well kept up with, as evidenced by the fact that the consecration of the human race to the Sacred Heart is renewed every first Friday during special first Friday devotions, which included the Litany of the Sacred Heart, adoration, confession and Mass. To that point, such was the case every first Friday at the parish I worked at in Burbank Illinois.

The first thing we shall look into is the word consecration. The word consecration comes from the Latin consecratio; from consecrare - to render sacred. In order to really differentiate this from the consecration at Mass, which is the highest and holiest form of consecration involving the Holy Spirit to effect transubstantiation, we here speak of consecration in the sense of devoting oneself to something or someone sacred, to make one more holy due to association. When a person consecrates themselves to the Sacred Heart for instance, what they are doing is devoting themselves in a particular way to love for and devotion to the Sacred Heart. By doing so they are opening up another avenue for the flow of particular graces into their lives, such is the case with any consecration. These particular avenues of grace are accessible to all, but primarily to those who value them and long for them and form a special connection and bond through a consecration. We can think about it in this way: picture someone who is a very good cook, they seem to have a gift in cooking everything well. We know that person is a very good cook, but let's say that we also are very good cooks (I have to lie to myself here for a bit, but it is hypothetical so I don't consider it to be a serious lie; more of "if I could cook, I would be a good cook, probably... maybe"). Now we have established that we are both very good cooks, however this other cook has a particular gift in making blueberry pies that exceeds what we ourselves are capable of. We make very good blueberry pies, but this person makes excellent blueberry pies. It would make sense then that if I should like to

make excellent blueberry pies then I would turn to this person to guide and instruct me, I would devote myself to this particular attribute of that person. Such is the idea behind consecrating myself to the Sacred Heart of the Good Lord or His Saints or Angels. I believe that they are better than me in sacrificing or imitating God or loving God and showing love, so to improve myself I turn to them and entrust myself to their guidance to help me become better at it, as they are. I want to make excellent blueberry pies, not just very good ones.

There are a few more prevalent consecrations and they always are graded in a hierarchical way. The first among these being consecrations to God, for instance the Consecration to the Sacred Heart. Next we have in order descending from the Divine Lord down to His holiest creatures, first of these being the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother. The most widely accepted consecrations here are the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary and the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Now the question may be posed "why does Mary come before the angels?" The answer would be, because Mary is the Queen of Angels, the Queen of Heaven, the Queen of All Saints and so on, as She was and is the only creature of God to be called Full of Grace and was the only one who was given the grace of such a special and particular cooperation in the work of our redemption. After our Mother we have the Consecration to the Holy Angels and the Consecration to the Guardian Angels. Following them we have the Consecration to St. Joseph and then consecrations to other saints. To finish, maybe we should spend a little more time this week contemplating these different consecrations and ask ourselves if maybe we should take one on in the immediate future. The end goal after all is for us to get to heaven and in order to do that we must become more holy. Consecrations can be of great assistance in that.

*Fr. Anthony*



## PARISH ACTIVITIES

Feb. 1— Women's Bible Study—6 –8 pm –HF  
 Thurs.—9:00 am—Quilting Ministry—Holy Family  
 Feb. 4—TMIY—Holy Family— 7:30 am

**HELP WANTED!** Holy Family's annual Fish Fry Dinners will be starting soon— **Feb. 17th** is the date of the first one. To make these dinners successful, we need help! There is a team that comes in early on Thursday and starts preparing the food. But they can't do it all. There are sign up sheets by the drinking fountain/kitchen for people to help serve the dinners and make desserts. We are adding back our homemade desserts so if you can sign up for just one week and donate your favorite dessert, it will be appreciated.



Desserts need to be dropped off by Friday, 3 pm. The church will also be opened on Thursday from 9 am to 7 pm if that is a more convenient time for you to drop off the dessert. (Remember that from

5:30 to 7 pm, there is adoration & Mass— please be considerate to those praying in church.) Volunteer times to help serve on Friday are 2 shifts—pick one that is good for you! Thank you in advance for helping !

## RELIGIOUS ED. FORMATION—(REF)

### **Holy Family**

Class Time—Sunday: 9:50 am—Before Mass

### **St. Isidore**

Class Time-Sunday: 10:15 am—After Mass

More info: [marystevens@stisidorechurch.org](mailto:marystevens@stisidorechurch.org)



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Feb. 8—Business Meeting—7:00 pm

Feb. 26—Pancake Breakfast

**Knight of the Month:** Jerry Gialanella  
**Family of the Month:** Eric and Mary Lefevre Family



Thanks to everyone who has been praying for my son Richard. He was facing major chest surgery to remove a cancerous tumor. The surgery was a total success, and he is home recovering, waiting to return to work. God bless every one of you! — Pat Elliott

## **New Items to Donate for the Baby Dresser**

**Deadline: Feb. 12**

Baby Food (plastic)	Burp cloths	Infant spoons	Teethers	Brush/comb
Baby monitor	Clothing (0 – 2 )	Nursing pillow	Towels/Hooded Towels	Diaper Cream/Ointment
Bibs Cloth/Plastic	Coat, mittens, hats	Pacifiers	Toys (0-24 months)	Nail care items
Blankets	Changing pads	Quilt	Onesies (0-24 months)	Nursing pads
Books (ages 0-24)	(waterproof)	Receiving blanket	Washcloth	Q-tips
Bottles (Plastic)	Crib pads (waterproof)	Safety items	Toiletries	Thermometer
Bottle Brush	Crib sheets	Socks (infant -24 mos)	Baby shampoo	Baby wipes
Bottle Cooler Bag	Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6)	Sleep sac	Baby wash	
Bottle Warmer/Sterilizer	Diaper bag	Snack bowls	Baby lotion	
Booties	Diaper pail	Sippy cups	Baby oil	
Boots (toddler size)	Infant bathtub	Snowsuit (toddler size)	Baby powder	



## ST. ISIDORE, LAINGSBURG

## MASS SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday—Jan. 28—(5:30 PM) † Tom Bacik (Dad of Fr. Bob) by Chris & Kay Basgall  
Sunday—Jan. 29—(9:00 AM) † James Rowley—4th Anniversary by the Family  
Wednesday—Feb. 1—(6:30 PM) People of the Parish  
Thursday—Feb. 2—(8:30 AM) † Nancy Byrnes by Ron & Donna Granger  
Friday—Feb. 3—(8:30 AM) Pray for Our Priest  
Saturday—Feb. 4—(5:30 PM) † Parent of Fr. Bob Bacik by Chris & Kay Basgall  
Sunday—Feb. 5—(9:00 AM) † Jim M. Hurst by Helen Stelzer

## HOLY FAMILY, OVID

Saturday—Jan. 28—(4:00 PM) † Doug Angell by Sid & Angie Wittenberg  
Sunday—Jan. 29—(11:00 AM) Special Intentions of Jack Crawford by the Crawford Family  
Tuesday—Jan. 31—(12:10 PM) † Delores Beckler by Terry & Cindy Broome  
Thursday—Feb. 2—(6:30 PM) † Sylvia McKay by Bonnie Ehlert  
Saturday—Feb. 4—(4:00 PM) † Dan Morgan by Randy & Ana Ladiski  
Sunday—Feb. 5—(11:00 AM) Rosemarie Goodwin by Eleonore Schussmann

**PRAYERS: PLEASE PRAY FOR** Archie Schebester (Friend of Jesse Anguiano), Pamela Morgan, Tori Martens, Mary Hughly (Friend of RoseMarie Thering), Janice Smith, Hugh Smith, Beth Ann Elliott (Daughter of Don & Denise), Clarence Dell, Craig & Caren Henning, (Nephew & Niece of Leonard Mitchell) Vince Minarik, (Son-in-Law of Leonard Mitchell), Terri Sue (Daughter-in-Law of Leonard Mitchell), Fr. Mathias Thelen (Brother of Pam (Ryan) Fabus), Gary Delaney (Nephew of Bev Delaney), Pat Spencer (Friend of Bev Delaney), Charles Oleniczak, Judith Bond, Sandy McPherson (Sister of Cooky Hawkins), Sharon Darling, Carlos Duncan (Cousin of Jesse Anguiano), Steve Butler, Sean Robinson, Chasidy Martin (Niece of Doug & Char Angell), Rosa Zamarripa (Cousin of Jesse Anguiano), Taylor Nixon (Friend of RoseMarie Thering), Bob Bunn (Nephew of Pat White), Tom Hulburt (Son of Nita Hughes), Larry Miller, Diane Mead (Friend of Joanne Evans), Gary Hrncharik, Donna Fruchey, Nancy Alice Carbary (Mother of Maggie Sayles), Michelle Houska, Melvia Quine, Judy Kovarik (Mother of Bill Kovarik), Eddy Trevino, Bruce Chandler (Brother of Marti Rowley), Tammy Smith, Brenda Seeley & Betty Ann Fulgaro (Both friends of the Smith Family), Gregory Acker (Brother of Angela Michels), Michelle Dell, Shannon Strobel, Toni Doyle, Jase Ellsworth (Great-Grandson of Phyllis Hart), Richard Hutchings, Phyllis Hart, Pam Hurst, Katie Florian (Friend of RoseMarie Thering), Rebecca Crites (Friend of Bev Delaney), Micalah Brundage (Step Daughter of Mike Putnam), Lana Miersen, Napoleon Martinez, Jr. (Brother of Elodia Keys), Jim Mosley, Mike (Doc) O'Bryant, Isabelle Wesley, Don & Denise Elliott, Anita Rios (Sister of Jesse Anguiano), Stan Beherns, Pat Shaw, Armando Anguiano, (Brother of Jesse), Juan Chapas, (Friend of Jesse Anguiano), Dave Nickols, Jodi Barber (Friend of Tammy Smith), Tristen Henning, Teresa Arnold (Friend of RoseMarie Thering), Olivia Klein, Haven S. King (Niece of Barb Wight), Steve Bachelder & Mark Sickler (Nephews of Mike & Aloise Bachelder), Allen Smith (Nephew of Pat Brown), Michelle Hurst, Nancy Ferguson (Friend of Cindy Broome), Richard Elliott, (Son of Pat Elliott), Mary Harris, Robert Shaw, Kathryn Okada, (Friend of Porrell's), Donald Jacks, (Son in Law of Diane Stasa), Randy Evans (Son of Ron & Joanne Evans), Matthew Rios, (Great-Grandson of Nita Hughes), Jamie Lester, (Friend of Nita Hughes), Chris Bozung, (Friend of Smith Family), Adam Thering, Patty VanLeiw, Dee Bingham, Sue Hardaker, Greg Smith, Barb Wright, Judy Minarik

*Please contact the office to add or remove names from the prayer list.*

## Remember our service members in your prayers:

Taylor Earl Parsons—Air Force—Space Force  
Christian Garza—Army  
Fr. Brandon Oman—Air Force  
LTC Nathan Cooley - USN  
MSGT Joshua Delaney - Air Force  
Alexandra Cultra - Navy  
Andie Ostrander—Navy (To add names, - contact the office.)  
Patrick Schiffer—Air Force  
Kelly Brown—Navy  
Sergeant Jared Mersino—Army

## ADORATION

### St. Isidore Church- Wednesdays

5:30—6:20 pm Adoration & Confessions  
6:30 pm Mass  
Adoration & Confessions Following Mass  
Until 7:30 pm

### Holy Family—Thursdays

5:30—6:20 pm Adoration & Confessions  
6:30 pm Mass



## WEEKLY OFFERTORY Jan. 21 & 22, 2023

St. Isidore Offertory- \$1,850  
Holy Family Offertory - \$2,244  
Online Offertory - \$1,855  
**TOTAL: - \$5,916**