

THE BEATITUDES

In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus preaches the “Sermon on the Mountain” where he gives us guidelines called the “Beatitudes” as the way to true happiness.

The Beatitudes are:

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the land.
3. Blessed are those who mourn; for they will be comforted.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness; for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful; for they will be shown mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart; for they will see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers; for they will be called children of God.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for justice’s sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

THE WORKS OF MERCY

The “**Works of Mercy**” are acts of love and compassion for those suffering in body and in spirit. The Works of Mercy are divided into two categories.

St. Gregory the Great Church Religious Education
OCTOBER STUDY GUIDE
The Beatitudes & Works of Mercy

The “**Corporal Works of Mercy**” focus on the physical and material needs of others. They are:

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Help those imprisoned.
5. Shelter the homeless.
6. Care for the sick.
7. Bury the dead.

The “**Spiritual Works of Mercy**” focus on the needs of the heart, mind, and soul.

They are:

1. Warn the sinner.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Counsel the doubtful.
4. Comfort the sorrowful.
5. Bear wrongs patiently.
6. Forgive all injuries.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

When we depend on God’s love and not on possessions, when we show compassion, humility, and mercy, we are working to build up the kingdom of God. This is also true when we choose to work for justice and peace, despite challenges and difficulties.