

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 17, 2019

**Readings:** Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1:1-4,6; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17, 20-26;

This is Jesus' first big sermon in the Gospel of Luke. His inaugural address. And it's shocking.

The topic is happiness (being blessed), and in a total reversal of ordinary standards, Jesus links true happiness with struggle, hardship, suffering and opposition, not with the prosperity, popularity, and pleasure that we normally associate with happiness.

What does he mean by this?

Jesus isn't saying that the good things of life are evil - not at all. They are God's gifts and we are meant to enjoy them. But he is saying that they cannot satisfy our desire for happiness. And so, if we put our trust in them, as Jeremiah says in the first reading, our lives will wither and harden, like tumbleweeds in the desert. No roots, and no fruits.

Rather, Jesus is teaching us that the true path to happiness in this fallen world is paved with life's challenges and hardships. These remind us that this world is passing and imperfect, that the only dependable thing in life is our friendship with God.

Hardships and challenges teach us to root our lives in the rich soil of knowing, loving, and serving him; then our lives will be like a flourishing tree, with strong roots and luscious fruits.

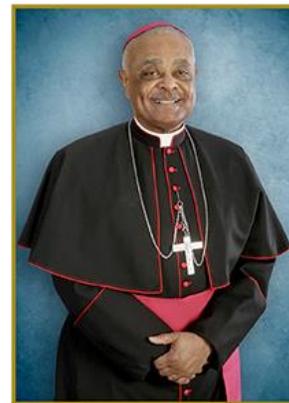
This lesson has to be re-learned continually. Because of our fallen nature, we always tend to think we can find heaven on earth by putting together just the right combination of possessions, praise, and power. But we can't, as our Lord makes perfectly clear.

We are members of the Church militant for as long as we journey here on earth, and that means we need to keep our armor on and our

supply lines protected, lest we fall into the enemy's traps.

*FROM THE CATECHISM #1723* The beatitude we are promised confronts us with decisive moral choices. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement - however beneficial it may be - such as science, technology, and art, or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love. *#45* Man is made to live in communion with God in whom we find happiness.

**Father Blake Evans, Pastor**



**Bishop Wilton D. Gregory**

**Bishop Wilton D. Gregory**, 71, now the Archbishop of Atlanta since 2005, was the first African American President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. He served the USCCB in various ways for decades but worked here in Washington at the USCCB from 2001-2004, while being Bishop of Belleville, Illinois from 1994-2004. Gregory holds 7 honorary doctorate degrees; is a graduate of the Mundelein Seminary in Illinois and earned his Doctorate in Rome at St. Anselms. He also served as Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago from 1983-1993. He was ordained a Priest in 1973, and consecrated a Bishop in 1983. He was raised by his maternal grandmother in the South Side of Chicago after his parents separated from each other. He has two sisters. Born in 1947, he received

Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation all in one year in 1959.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

**February 16 - 23, 2019**

Sat. 2/16	8:00 am	Evelyn Lowey
	4:30pm	+Cher Perera
Sun. 2/17	8:00am	El Shaddai - DC
	10:00am	People of the Parish
	1:00 pm	Nativity – Spanish Community
Mon. 2/18	12:00	USA - For Peace
Tue. 2/19	12:00	+Cleveland Braswell
Wed. 2/20	12:00	+Kenny Naughton
Thu. 2/21	12:00	Evelyn Lowey
Fri. 2/22	12:00	Pope's Intention
Sat. 2/23	8:00 am	M\M Marion H. Evans, Jr. & Family
	4:30pm	People of the Parish

**Please pray for the sick of our Parish:**

\*Charles Booth, Sr. \*Alice R. Allen, \*Amina Anderson-Pringle, \*Theresa Arteaga, \*Ann Butler, \*William Cammack, \*Lukas Pastier, \*Carmen Dolores Campos, \*Eileen Carroll-Doshier, \*Carla Andrea Catacora, \*Shawn Coleman, \*William Corbel, \*Maria Cruz, \*Maurice & Flora Detiege \*Kevin Fagan, \*Isel Fitzgerald, \*Linda Foster, \*Charlie Gick, \*Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB, \*John Green, Sr., \*Janet Henery, \*Blanca Hernandez, \*Lawrence C. Hill, \*Lee Hobbs, \* Sydney Horge, \*Francis Howard, \*James Humphries, \*Elaine Hunt, \*Helen Hurd, \*Larry Ivy, \*Irene Jimenez, \*Geraldine Jones, \*Charles Johnson, \*Odile Kalla, \*Michael Kelly, \*Busara Keneddy, \*Claude Kolthoff, \*Betty Lawton, \*Yavonna Lewis, \*Sandra Lucas, \*Eric Malcolm, \*Edwin & Regina Mbanude, \*Theresa McNair, \*Edith Mebane, \*Maria Magdalena Medrano, \*Agnes Moore, \*Clarence Morris, \*Gina Myers, \*Iris Newman, \*Sheryl Newman, \*Amelie Ongbehalal, \*Father Everett Pearson, \*D. Cynhia Peters, \*James Pope, \*Dorothy Richburg, \*Auristela Roman, \*Rosa Maria Santos, \*Andre Sims, \*Bonafacio Selayo \*Delores Sloan, \*Adrian Smith, \*Bernadette Smith, \*Theresa Smith, \*Louise Sweatt, \*Suzie Thompson, \*Emily Towles, \*Dominic Valentine, \*Dorothy Waring, \*Paul Williams, \*Florentina Zoretta.

**Tax statements request:** Forms are located at both entrances of the church. Complete the form and put it in the collection basket or mail it to the Rectory. Tax statements will be mailed.

### Financial Spotlight

Snow Removal: **\$6,835**

## Water for the Church & Taxes: **\$2,166**

2018 Religious Education: **\$32,902**

**Catholic Appeal** - The annual Catholic Appeal launches for 2019 this Feb! (Formerly the Cardinal's Appeal). The Appeal funds scholarships for our local students, our Seminarians, TV Masses, the Pro Life Ministries, the Catholic Charities ministries and College Chaplaincies and Chapels in our region. Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial donation/pledge that you can pay throughout the year ahead. God bless you!

**Save the date!** Music Spotlight - Children's Concert - Sat. April 6, at 5 pm. *The Mid Atlantic Choral Festival & Mass with the American Federation Pueri Cantores.* Hundreds of children and youth from Washington and the Mid Atlantic will sing under the direction of Richard Robbins, culminating is Mass for the 5th Sunday of Lent. St. Peter's Parish Capitol Hill. 313 Second Street, SE. Washington, DC 20003

### Lent & Holy Week

- Ash Wednesday - 3/6
  - 12 PM - English
  - 7:30 PM - Bilingual
- Palm Sunday 4/14
- Chrism Mass 4/15 @ Cathedral
- Holy Thursday 4/18 @7PM
- Good Friday 4/19
- Easter Vigil 4/20 @ 8 PM
- Easter Sunday @ 10 AM (Bilingual)