

# PARISH BULLETIN 519

Sunday, February 1, 2026.

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### DAY OF LIFE



#### **Gospel: John 1:29–34.**

*Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you.*

#### **Commentary by the Pastor:**

This Sunday the Church sets before our eyes Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and the eight Beatitudes. Jesus chose an elevated place for an elevated teaching; in fact, he proclaims a new law of his kingdom. It is a law of love and sacrifice, but also of freedom and joy. Let us contemplate whom Jesus praises, who is privileged in his eyes, and who is on the path to achieving the greatest closeness to God.

In the first place are the poor in spirit: those who are unattached, bound by nothing, free from serving earthly things, free in their choice for God, unhindered by anything. These are the mourners who suffer because they are not as God created them to be. They do not grieve only over earthly shortcomings, but long for the fulfillment of eternal desires. With them are the meek, who enjoy God's peace, for however much it may seem that they lose in this world, an eternal inheritance awaits them. Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness—if they do not receive it in this world, the righteous Judge will reward them abundantly. The merciful will obtain what they give, because they do not revolve around themselves, but with a free gaze act selflessly. The pure of heart can look God in the eye because they live only in truth; in them there is not a trace of evil, hatred, or envy. Peacemakers bring true peace, in which all are content and the soul is filled with consolation. They do God's work and are God's sons and daughters. One who is persecuted for righteousness believes that fulfillment is found even in suffering and shame, even when he is despised in the eyes of this world. Such a commitment with holy intentions brings joy, because it is united with Jesus' suffering and cross. Whoever can love when others persecute and hate him deserves the open heavens and a place at God's right hand! This was fulfilled by the Son of God himself, and by his example also by Saint Stephen the Protomartyr and so many throughout history down to our own days, whose cries reach even your heart. Through them God knocks at it, wishing that you would open it to him and set out on the path of perfection—the path of growth, of ascent, of rising to the heights...

Holy Masses	Holy Masses	First Friday (6.2.)	CONFESIONS
MONDAY – SATURDAY (2.2. - 7.2.)	MONDAY – SATURDAY (2.2. - 7.2.)	HOLY MASSES	
7:00 VLAH	05:30 – 09:30	07.00: VLAH	05:30 – 13:00
8:00 BALATINAC	11:00 – 12:30	08.00: BALATINAC	16:30 – 20:00
9:00 NAGY	18:30 – 20:00	09.00: SKELIN	
12:00 KNEŽEVIĆ		11.00: KNEŽEVIĆ	
19:00 PETRIČEVIĆ		12.00: KOČIŠ	
		17.00: ŠESTAK	
		19.00: PETRIČEVIĆ	

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday, 2 February	Feast: The Presentation of the Lord; Candlemas; Day of Consecrated Life
Tuesday, 3 February	Weekday or: St Blaise, bishop and martyr
Thursday, 5 February	Memorial: St Agatha, virgin and martyr
Friday, 6 February	Memorial: St Paul Miki, religious, and Companions, martyrs; Blessed Carlo Spinola, Sebastian Kimura, Peter Kibe Kasui, priests, and Companions, martyrs of the Society of Jesus
<b>Sunday, 8 February</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) – <i>World Marriage Day</i></b>

**CANDLEMAS:** On Monday we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. It is also the Day of Consecrated Life, observed by all consecrated persons, especially religious brothers and sisters.

**FIRST FRIDAY:** 6 February is First Friday, a day dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. We will observe it with our regular Holy Masses, the first at 7:00 a.m., followed by an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

### **SKAC ACTIVITIES:**

**ALL-NIGHT ADORATION:** On the eve of First Friday, young people are organizing all-night adoration from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., with the opening animation led by "*Vis maior*".

**VOCATION FAIR:** Will be held on 17 February at 6:00 p.m. Various ministries will be presented: the "72 Hours Without Compromise" team, Modrave animators, the team of cooks and logistics, service at the SKAC Home in Kravarsko, service at Youth Masses as hosts, readers, altar servers, the SKAC media team, and leaders of MAGIS experiments. There are many opportunities for growth, formation, and service. All interested young people aged 18 to 30 are welcome to learn more about each ministry and to listen for whether God may be calling them to this kind of service.

**LENTEN SPIRITUAL EXERCISES:** Registration is open for Lenten online spiritual exercises in everyday life. The program is open to all ages, with meetings held online once a week. The first meeting will be on Sunday, 15 February at 8:15 p.m. Registration is available via the form on the SKAC website or via the QR code on the poster in the hallway.

**MAYBE A JESUIT:** For young men discerning a vocation to the Society of Jesus, a discernment weekend will be held on Sljeme from 20 to 22 February. Those interested may contact Fr Mislav Skelin.

**ROSARY AT KAMENITA VRATA:** Mondays at 8:00 p.m.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Monday to Friday, 9:30–10:30 a.m. and 5:00–6:00 p.m.

## "LESS IS MORE" – LAY COLUMN No. 469 – *written by: Iva Smolčić*

Dear parishioners,

Reading for the first time the passages from Paul's letter and the Gospel, I must admit that I felt somewhat confused, because I sensed that they were inviting me to look at myself and at the world in a different way. Today we are constantly being persuaded that we must be strong, successful, smart—"someone" and "something." Saint Paul reminds us that God does not choose according to the standards of this world. He does not seek the perfect, the strong, or the successful, but those who are aware of their own smallness and who allow him to lead them. In this realization there is something liberating: I do not have to know everything, I do not have to be capable of everything, I do not have to prove myself.

Jesus' Beatitudes in the Gospel are an even deeper call: "Blessed are the poor in spirit"—those who know that without God they can do nothing. This poverty of spirit is not emptiness, but a space into which God can enter. As a student I am often torn between obligations, worries, and plans, yet it is precisely in moments of fatigue and insecurity that I most easily sense how much I need God. Poverty of spirit does not mean that we do not think, but that we know we cannot do everything on our own without God.

Jesus' Beatitudes seem to turn the logic of the world upside down. They tell me that it is not shameful to be weak, sad, or misunderstood if, in that, I remain faithful to what is good. God sees what the world often despises. And it is precisely there, in our imperfection and weakness, that he acts. Meekness, mercy, purity of heart, and a longing for righteousness may not bring applause, but they bring peace. God sees the heart that suffers, that seeks, and that hopes, and therefore I do not need to boast about myself, but to trust in the Lord. In him, my weakness becomes a place of encounter, and my life, with all its imperfections, receives meaning.

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