

# Pastor's Letter

February 1, 2026 – 4th Sunday on Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

What does it mean to be successful? To be rich? To be powerful? To be famous? Those are the things that the world teaches us that we should be striving after. Compare that to the list of things that Jesus says make a person blessed. In our Gospel reading, Jesus says that poverty of spirit, sorrow for sin, gentleness, a desire for holiness, being merciful, seeking peace, being willing to accept insult and rejection for standing up for the truth; these are the things that lead to real success.

Wealth, power, fame, and the pleasures of this world are attractive, but they don't finally satisfy us and they don't last very long when measured against eternity. Like taking drugs, the more we have of these material goods, the more we want and the less we enjoy them. They are counterfeits that only mask our hunger for what we really need and want, for what we were made for, and that is the blessedness of heaven. And power, fame and pleasure are temporary. They're here today and gone tomorrow. We are made for forever. That is why nothing but God is ever going to bring us true joy. Only God and his love are enough for us. And we experience his love when we want him more than we want the things of this world.

Poverty of spirit and mourning our sinfulness teach us that we can only receive his love as a free gift. We can't buy it or earn it. Meekness makes it possible for us to learn from the Spirit and hungering and thirsting for righteousness makes us passionate for the things that are really important and will bring us to God. Being merciful, pure of heart, and people of peace makes us imitators of Christ and helps us to grow into his image and likeness. And accepting persecution for our faith shows that we are citizens of the kingdom of God who will not settle for things as they are, but will continue to strive for the better way that God has shown us.

May Jesus' own life inspire us to seek true success by living the Beatitudes.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

## “Healing” Rosary

Please join us in praying a “Healing” Rosary for all parishioners, family members and friends combating any illnesses at this time. It will be held Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Church. Bring family members and friends. All are welcome!

## Baptism

Declan Edward Booher  
Son of Lucas & Katelyn Booher

## Bulletin Deadline

All information must be submitted by noon on Tuesday.  
Submit to: [church@stsbej.org](mailto:church@stsbej.org)