

PASTOR'S CORNER

My Dear Faithful,

If someone offered you a simple list of practices that would guarantee happiness in your family, would you refuse it? An online “how to” search for such a list reveals many sites with titles like “Top 10 Tips for a Happier Family,” or “15 Daily Things to Do for a Happier Home”. Setting aside the advice that is inconsistent with Catholic teaching, we find some tips on websites like these that are praiseworthy in their own way. Welcoming décor, acts of kindness, scented candles, cleanliness, organization, board games and family excursions are all fine means of making homelife a little more pleasant. But they remain natural means that can only go so far. The happiness we seek for our families is one far deeper than these tips can secure.

We need to search elsewhere for this list, and our Catholic sense rightly inclines us to look to the teaching of Our Lord. To find it is not hard. In fact, the words which inaugurate His entire public preaching, words which we find in the Sermon on the Mount, give us exactly what we’re looking for. Were we internet bloggers, we could almost give this list the title “Top 8 Practices for Happiness.” Our Catholic heritage has a better title for it, though, and that title is the Eight Beatitudes.

We can only imagine the astonishment of Our Lord’s listeners—an astonishment we share when we read Our Lord’s words today—as He preached this beautiful doctrine of happiness, happiness achieved through poverty of spirit, meekness, cleanness of heart etc. Far from mere pragmatic tips, the Beatitudes present to us a mode of life that is profoundly Christian and thus, profoundly happy. St. Thomas Aquinas gives us a more precise understanding of the Beatitudes when he writes that they are acts of virtue of such supernatural excellence that they lead directly and surely to the most genuine happiness. Principally, the happiness the Beatitudes secure is that of heaven, but they also give us a happiness in this life that is as close to that of heaven as can be found this side of eternity.

It should be clear, then, that there can be no surer way to make our families happy than to put these Eight Beatitudes into practice in the home. For this reason, I would like to take the Eight Beatitudes as the theme for our little “Pastor’s Corner” for the upcoming months. To the best of my ability, I will provide a brief explanation of the meaning of each beatitude and how it may be applied to family life. In doing so, I hope to make it easier and more attractive to put the Beatitudes into practice in the home.

As we set off on this endeavor, I suggest that you read the Beatitudes again, or perhaps for the first time (Matt. 5:1-12; Cf. their counterparts in Luke 6:17-26). If you would like some additional material to help deepen your understanding of them, I suggest Gerald Vann’s excellent book *The Seven Sweet Blessings of Christ*. You can also find a brief explanation of the beatitudes in any catechism books, such as *My Catholic Faith* (Lesson 46) and *The Catechism Explained* (Part II, C, IV).

In beginning this series of considerations on the Beatitudes, I would like to insist on the fact that God made us for happiness. It is significant that Our Lord begins His entire public ministry with this very truth. His teaching on the Beatitudes is a guide to find where the happiness God so wants for us lies. Gerald Vann expresses it well: “St. Thomas says, in a quiet, matter of fact way, that ‘happiness is the end of life’; there is no need to argue about that, only about how we are to find happiness. And that is what the Beatitudes tell us. To be suspicious of happiness and regard it as faintly irreligious is an unchristian thing—if you want to be a canonized saint, you must first become a notoriously happy person—but there are ways of searching for happiness which are unchristian, too. The Beatitudes tell us how to be happy; and they tell us, all of them, that the way to be happy is to search for something else.”

“To search for something else.” Sin—the search for happiness in the *wrong* place, viz. in loving ourselves—has only made us profoundly unhappy. Our Lord came to undue this misery by embracing suffering and death. This is the paradox of the Cross: by dying in misery, an eternal life of happiness is secured. This is the same paradox preached in the Beatitudes: to be happy, we must embrace those things that human nature reckons will make us unhappy: poverty, meekness, mourning etc. Of course, we do not embrace these things inasmuch as they are painful, but rather because they are means of searching for happiness in the *right* place, viz. in loving God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. “He that findeth his life, shall lose it: and he that shall lose his life for me, shall find it.” (Matt. 10:39)

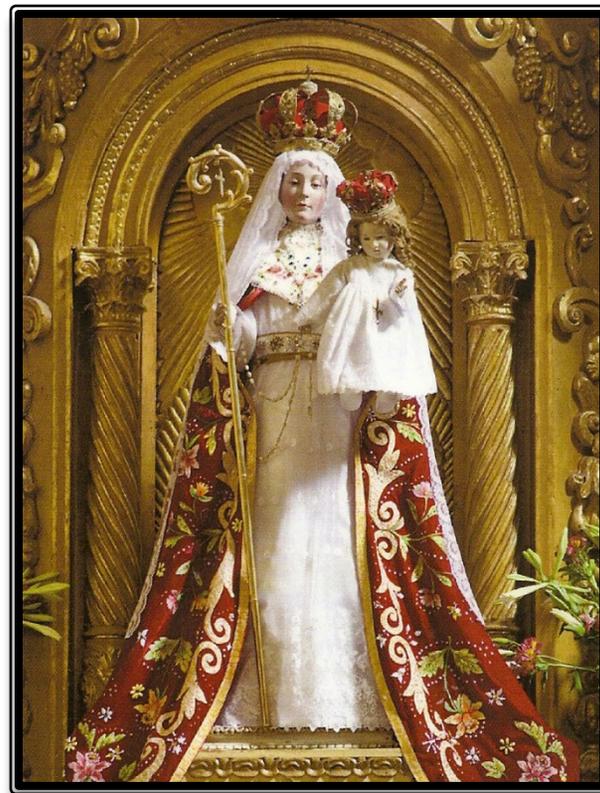
To conclude, we must reflect that Our Lord wants each of our families, with all its members, to be profoundly happy. He has given us a list of eight ways to reach this goal. In the coming months, I hope you are able to reflect on and put into practice each one of these eight ways on Our Lord’s list, so much more profound than any “Top 10 Tips for a Happier Family” found online. He has offered us the list and has guaranteed it’s success. Why would we refuse it?

With my prayers,
Fr. Nicholas McManus

OUR LADY OF GOOD SUCCESS

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Society of St. Pius X Traditional Latin Mass



SEPTEMBER 2021

1460 5th Avenue East
Dickinson, ND 58601

Pastor: Fr. Nicholas McManus 303-325-7558
Coordinator: Stephan Kershnik 701-690-0317

MASS SCHEDULE

DATE	FEAST	MASS	CONFESSIONS
Saturday, Sep. 11	Our Lady on Saturday	5:00 PM	4:00 PM
Sunday, Sep. 12	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	1:00 PM	12:00 PM
Sunday, Sep. 19	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	1:00 PM	12:00 PM
Saturday, Sep. 25	Ember Saturday of September	5:00 PM	4:00 PM
Sunday, Sep. 26	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	1:00 PM	12:00 PM
Sunday, Oct. 3	Solemnity of Feast of Holy Rosary	1:00 PM[‡]	12:00 PM
‡ Sung Mass, followed by Rosary Procession			

DONATION INFORMATION

To donate by check or money order, please mail your donation to the address below:

*Our Lady of Good Success Church
P.O. Box 1873
Dickinson, ND 58602-1873*

You may also donate online by visiting
www.olgsdickinson.org/donate
and clicking on the yellow "Donate" button.

COLLECTIONS

First Collection	Operating expenses for OLGS.
Second Collections	<i>Please write the purpose of your donation on the memo line on your check.</i>
-Sunday, Sep. 1	St. Isidore's Priory
-Sunday, Sep. 15	OLGS Building Fund

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Adult Catechism** will now be held on the second and fourth Sundays of each month, immediately after Mass. Adult Catechism starts on Sunday, September 12. **Unless one has a reasonable excuse, all parishioners 18 years of age and older are expected to attend.** Please note that there will no longer be a regularly recurring monthly potluck.
- **Children's Catechism.** Provided there is sufficient interest and resources, we will introduce Children's Catechism classes on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at OLGS. The number of classes will depend on the number and age of the children who plan to attend. More information will be provided. If anyone is interested in teaching, please talk to Fr. McManus.
- **Holy Name Society.** Beginning in September, the HNS members will receive Holy Communion as a body and recite the Holy Name Pledge on the first Sunday of the month. Meetings, when they are held, will also take place on the first Sunday of the month after Mass. The next meeting will be on Sunday, November 7.
- **Mothers of Lu Prayer** will be recited at the Communion rail after Mass on Sunday, September 12.
- **Servers Practices** will generally be scheduled for the third Sunday of the month after Mass. Practice this month will be on Sunday, September 19 after the Eucharistic Crusade meeting.
- **The Eucharistic Crusade** meeting will be held on Sunday, September 19. The intention for September is "That Saint Joseph protect Catholic schools".
- **Visiting Priest.** Please give a warm welcome to Fr. Patrick McBride who will be visiting on Sunday, September 26.
- **The Autumn Ember Days** are on September 22, 24 and 25. Ember Wednesday and Saturday are traditional days of fast and partial abstinence and Ember Friday of fast and complete abstinence. Though they no longer binding under pain of mortal sin, the faithful are strongly encouraged to follow these traditional practices.
- **SSPX Brothers' Vows.** The SSPX Brothers will make or renew their vows on the Feast of St. Michael, September 29, after completing a weeklong retreat. Please keep them in your prayers.
- **Angelus Press Conference 2021** will take place in Kansas City, MO, December 10-12. More information will be provided as it becomes available.
- **Rosary March.** The annual Rosary March will be held after Mass on Sunday, October 3rd at Rocky Butte Park. The address is 566 Fairway St. in Dickinson. Anyone who wishes may meet at Pizza Ranch for a "Dutch Treat" meal afterwards.
- **Monthly Novena to St. Joseph.** Those participating in the monthly novena to St. Joseph are invited to stay after Mass on Sunday, September 19 to begin this month's novena. Novena booklets are available from Mrs. Mary Schneider.