



Month of July

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 13, 2025



WELCOME TO HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Served by the Mercedarian Friars USA

www.orderofmercy.org



PARISH OFFICE, 588 W. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215

OpenMonday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Main No.....614-221-4323 Fax No: 614-221-9818

Web:.....www.holyfamilycolumbus.org

Email.....office@holyfamilycolumbus.org

Facebook.....Holy Family Catholic Church

Flocknote.....holyfamilycolumbus@flocknote.com

PERSONNEL STAFF

Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M...Pastor

Father Daniel Bowen, O. de M.....Vocation Director

Brother Kevin Cush, O. de M.....Seminarian

Secretary.....Mary Gamble

Maintenance.....Tim Kearns

Music Director / Organist.....Shawn Kenney

OCIA (RCIA) Coordinator.....Linda Hamilton

Religious Education.....Sr. Bozena Tyborowska LSIC

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Servers – Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M., Director

Confraternity of Christian Mothers – Rita Martinez, President

Diocesan Center for the Guard of Honor

of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Rebecca Rector, Zelatrix

Eucharistic Adoration – Sarah Hill, Coordinator

Holy Family Young Adults – Bear Bates, Coordinator

Hospitality – Kathy McKinniss & Linda Hamilton, Coordinators

Knights of Columbus – Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M., Grand Knight

Liturgical Ministry – Linda Hamilton, Coordinator

Mercedarian Lay Third Order – Fr. Michael J. Donovan, O. de M.,
Spiritual Director

Respect Life – Aurelio & Rosalinda Morales, Coordinators

Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Sr. Bozena Tyborowska, Dir.

SOUP KITCHEN – (backyard of Parish Center building)

Donations...Monday – Friday

9:00am – 12noon, preferred (back of building)

12noon – 3:00pm, optional (please call in advance)

Main No.....614-221-4323

Web.....www.hfsk.org

Email.....Dennis Shope, Director

soupkitchen@holyfamilycolumbus.org

maintenance@holyfamilycolumbus.org

BAPTISM

Call the Parish office to schedule a Baptism. Children over the age of 6 will require some special instruction.

MARRIAGE

Please call the Parish Office at least six months before the wedding.

Diocesan Pre-Cana and Natural Family Planning classes are required and six meetings with the priest.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Call the Parish Office during general office hours. Otherwise, call Parish Office and select "Sacramental Emergency" option.

RECEPTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Those who desire Holy Communion at home should call the Parish Office.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekdays: 12:15pm

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

Convent of St. Birgitta – 40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 7:00 a.m. Mon., Tues., Thurs. Friday

4:00 p.m. Wednesday

(Each day is open to the public)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Weekdays: 11:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION SCHEDULE

Holy Family Church

Weekly: 1:00 p.m. Thursday – 12 Noon Friday

First Friday Adoration in Reparation to the

Sacred Heart – 8:00 p.m. – 8:45 a.m. First Saturday

Please contact Sarah Hill at 740-418-0517 or

thehills1936@gmail.com if you have interest in being scheduled weekly or monthly in either location

Convent of St. Birgitta (CSB)

40 N. Grubb St., Columbus

Weekly: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Tuesday

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mass Wednesday

4:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. following 4pm Mass

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Friday

MOST HOLY ROSARY

Weekdays: 11:30 am (Tuesday is Respect Life Rosary)

Chaplet of Divine Mercy follows Rosary

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. Marian Mass

8:15 a.m. before 9:00 a.m. First Saturday Mass

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. (before Mass)

Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to be scheduled to lead before 9am Saturday or 9am; 5pm Sunday Mass.

REGULAR DEVOTIONS



Each Tuesday following the 12:15 p.m. Mass there are Devotions to St. Anthony of Padua.



Each Saturday Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Mercy following 9:00 a.m. Mass.



On First Wednesday of each month a 7:00 p.m. Mass is offered in honor of Good Saint Joseph.



On First Friday of each month following the 12:15 & 7:00 p.m. Masses there is Act of Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 13, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS JULY 13—JULY 20, 2025

Sun July 13	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:00 AM *	Father Kevin Girardi, by Kathy McKinniss
11:00 AM	Deceased Members of Holy Family Alumni
5:00 PM	People of the Parish
8:00 PM	Intentions of The Mercedarian Friars by Christian Mothers
Mon July 14	Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
7:00 AM	CSB—Repose of the Soul of Pam Kaspari by Tim & Jenny Patterson
12:15 PM	Sister Klara, SSCJ by Sr. Monica Marie, SSCJ & Sr. Miriam Joseph, SSCJ
Tues July 15	Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor
7:00 AM	CSB—Repose of the Soul of Pam Kaspari by Tim & Jenny Patterson
12:15 PM	Matthew Kramer, by The Foley Family
Wed July 16	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
12:15 PM	Repose of the Soul of Michelle Yurina Bradford by The Dempsey Families
4:00 PM	CSB—Repose of the Soul of Wayne Wright by Genny Temple
Thurs July 17	
7:00 AM	CSB—Mary and Steve Karabinos by Kristi Ziegler
12:15 PM	Janet M. Kaising, by Beth & Greg Wolcott
Fri July 18	Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest
7:00 AM	CSB—Jon and Elisa Schnur
12:15 PM	Repose of the Soul of Joe Regan by Mary Zacks
Sat July 19	
9:00 AM	Children and Godchildren Who Have Left the Faith, by Christian Mothers
Sun July 20	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:00 AM *	The Fout Family, by Mary Fout
11:00 AM	Ed, by Kathy McKinniss
5:00 PM	Repose of the Soul of Maida Rafaela Barroso by The Wolcott & Breech Families
8:00 PM	People of the Parish

* Incense will be used at this Mass

Please send Mass Intentions with a Requested Date to be within one year of the current date.

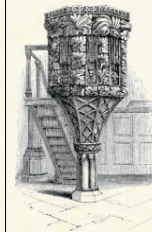
(Only ninety 2025 Open Masses left in both locations... Combined!) Please contact Parish Office with questions.

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

Airman William Harding Marable, US Air Force
 Airman Lucas JY Tortora, US Air Force
 Col. Timothy W. Grady, US Air National Guard
 PFC Logan Christ, US Army Active Duty
 1st Lt. John M. Kennedy, US Army Active Duty
 1st Lt. Michael V. Dickerson, US Army National Guard
 2nd Lt. Nicholas C. Kennedy, US Army National Guard
 SPC Brian A. Marsh, US Army National Guard
 SPC Trinity P. Roach, US Army National Guard
 SPC Zach Sowers, US Army National Guard
Active Duty Trey Warner, US Army National Guard
 Lt. Col. Stephen Hueckel, US Army Reserves
 SPC Liam A. Smith, US Army Reserves
 SNBM Joseph Flynn, US Coast Guard
 Capt. Matthew "Hewey" Rector, US Marine Corps.
 LCpl. Brendan Thomas, US Marine Corps.
 Lt. Michael Bellavia, US Navy
 Lt. Rockford Bowman, US Navy
 SCPO Zachery Cook, US Navy
 Lt. Andrea Rae Kaltenbach, US Navy
 Active Duty Dan Severance, US Navy

Special prayers for Active Duty Trey Warner, US Army National Guard, who advanced from E-4 Specialist to Active Duty before being sent to the Middle East. Congratulations and thank you!

LECTOR SCHEDULE



July 13	9:00am	Austin Hill
	11:00am	Brett Ballantyne
	5:00 pm	Tom Martello
July 20	9:00 am	Mary Gamble
	11:00 am	Kendy Troiano
	5:00 pm	Brian Bishop

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

Giving for June 30, 2025 to July 6, 2025

Offertory	
Collection	\$ 3,673
On-Line	11,073
Mail	+ 845
Total	15,591
Less: Assessment (9%)	- 1,559
Net	\$14,032
Soup Kitchen	\$3,883

Current Appeal Pledges	\$31,631
The Appeal Goal	\$82,347

God Reward your Generosity

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Mercedarian Order News

Please keep Mercedarian Postulant, Cody Evaristo in your prayers. Tomorrow he travels to Rome to get the blessing of Father Provincial and then will travel to Barcelona, Spain, where he will begin his novitiate year. Upon completion of the novitiate, most likely Cody will return to Holy Family where he will profess his first vows and continue his formation. Please keep Cody in your prayers throughout the year that God grants him the grace of perseverance. We commend him to the powerful prayers and protection of our Holy Mother of Mercy.

HOLY FAMILY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #13428

We continue to collect aluminum cans for our Seminarians. All proceeds will go to these young men of Christ. Please drop them off in the collection box at the Church and Parish Center entrance.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 13, 2025 is the monthly meeting at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

Brother Jack Gookin continues his recovery and will be moving to a recovery facility for further care. Continue to offer your prayers!

HOLY FAMILY RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY



Next Respect Life Meeting is scheduled **7:00pm Monday August 4th** in the Parish Center.

Our Rosary For Life group meets each Tuesday 8:45—10:45am in front of the Planned Parenthood Abortion Clinic. There is an opportunity to carpool by meeting in the parking lot of Holy Family Church by 8:15am.

If you are not able to go to the clinic, join us as we pray the Rosary For Life each Tuesday at 11:25am before 12:15pm Mass.

Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for our first annual Parish Picnic on September 21, 2025, following the 11:00am Mass. See the article on page 5.

If you have any questions or interest in learning more about our ministry, please contact Rosalinda Morales at (614) 560-4523.

HIS INCREDIBLE SENIORS EXERCISE PROGRAM

The upcoming class is scheduled **1:30—2:30pm in the Parish Center on Tuesday July 15th**. **NO CLASS** is scheduled **Wednesday, July 16th**. **The next class will be 1:30—3:30pm on Tuesday, July 22nd**.

TURN DOWN THE NOISE!

The Holy Spirit often speaks in a still, small voice. Make an effort to create quiet time in your day, free from distractions.



CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS
& LADIES GUILD

The Christian Mothers Daily Prayer for the Children

Mary, Immaculate Virgin and Sorrowful Mother, commend our beloved children to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Who refuses nothing to His Mother.

Holy Guardian Angels, pray for them.

St. Joseph, powerful patron, pray for them.

St. John, much beloved precursor of our Lord, pray for them.

St. Joachim and St. Anne, pray for them.

St. Augustine, pray for them.

St. Anthony, pray for them.

St. Aloysius, pray for them.

St. Elizabeth, pray for them.

St. Monica, pray for them.

St. Rose of Lima, pray for us.

All holy fathers and mothers, pray for them and for us.

Amen.

As Christian Mothers, we pray this every day. We fund raise to support the events of our parish, which involves all the children. This includes the CCD programs, the children's May Crowning, recognize all baptized children of Holy Family, and a reception for our 1st communicants. We invite all women to attend our next meeting scheduled July 19th after the 9:00am Mass in the undercroft. We are in desperate need of young Moms to help us plan and implement more activities to support our mothers raising their children in the faith. You may also send any of your questions and ideas to our email holyfamilyccm@gmail.com.

God Bless, have a blessed Sunday. 🙏

Holy Family Confraternity of Christian Mothers Officers

Rita Martinez, President / Sondra Wright, Vice-President
Anita Van Order, Treasurer / Kendy Troiano, Secretary.
Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M. Director



Holy Family Young Adults Ministry (18-35) – HFYA meets weekly, with a rotation of activities including prayer/spirituality, talk, adoration, and social nights. **Use this QR Code to connect with this group.**

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Our Lady of Victory Parish Festival

Please join us at Our Lady of Victory Parish Festival, Friday and Saturday, August 1 and 2, 2025 (6—11pm)

Friday, August 1: Authentic Lebanese Dinner

Saturday, August 2: Festival Pasta Dinner.

Enjoy live music, delicious food (homemade Italian and Lebanese). Fabulous Silent Auction, Raffle, Games for Kids (Inflatables, too). Try our 'Bourbon Tasting' and tour our beautiful church. Credit cards accepted. Parking available (with shuttle) at a neighboring church, Trinity United Methodist, 1581 Cambridge Blvd.

Festival at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, 1559 Roxbury Rd., Columbus, OH 43221.

Contact: Barbara Hegler 614-783-0785.

Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church Women's Group annual Rummage Sale

Friday, August 1 and Saturday, August 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson, Ohio

If you would like information on donating items for the Rummage Sale, please visit our website (<http://stsimonjude.org>) and view the latest bulletin for details.

Save the Date

Please mark your calendars for our first annual **Parish Picnic on September 21, 2025**, following the 11:00am Mass celebrated by Bishop Fernandes. The Parish Picnic is sponsored by the Respect Life Committee. The picnic is in celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy whose feast is on September 24. The Parish Picnic is a wonderful way to build up our parish family. The Respect Life Committee is currently in the planning stages for the event. The committee is envisioning food, as well as games for the children. Following the Mass there will be a Procession in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Upon the completion of the Procession, the picnic will begin outdoors. If you would like to help in any way, please give Fr. Michael a call in the office.

Regina Caeli Academy, a classical homeschool hybrid serving PreK—12th grade, is thrilled to announce its plan for expansion into multiple cities! Our mission is to offer a five-day-a-week program that combines in-classroom lessons twice a week with at-home lesson plans and support for parents on the other three days, creating the perfect blend of education and family involvement. If you are interested in learning more about RCA or would like to bring RCA to Columbus, please visit our website rcahybrid.org.

SEEK 2026—Follow Me

The SEEK Conference is hosted by FOCUS, and will be held from **January 1—5, 2026** at the Columbus Convention Center for Encounter. Transformation. Community. Experience SEEK and connect with thousands of people seeking to hear the call and live differently.

The conference is a large gathering for seekers and believers of all ages. It offers opportunities for learning, connecting, praying, and inspiration. For information go to <https://seek.focus.org/>.

Join Fr. Daniel and Br. Kevin to see what's in store for each of you at SEEK!

1 Hour 30 Minutes from Holy Family

Visit inside the 100-year-old Basilica Upper & Lower Level.

Visit the first 1868 Church that still offers Mass.

Treat yourself at the Gift Shop.

Confessions are in back of the Shrine.

Stations of the Cross along the Shrine Park

Stop at Food Trucks, Cafeteria, or School for a bite to eat.

Escape city noise

Pray for our country, peace, and loved ones.

Pray for a healing both spiritual and physical.

Vigil Mass in the Basilica same time as outdoor Shrine

See remnants people left behind after healed.

Handicap Accessible both Bus & throughout the Shrine.

Restrooms scattered throughout.

Our Lady will work through you! <https://olcshrine.com>

Our Lady of Consolation Basilica & National Shrine

THIS COULD BE YOU Thursday August 14th attending an outdoor Vigil Mass for The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary following a Rosary Procession from the Basilica to the National Shrine. Bus seats are filling up so contact the Parish Office soon if you are interested in joining us! There will be plenty of time before the Procession to tour the entire area. Allow yourself some quality time with Our Lady. She's waiting.

St. Bridget's 7 Church Pilgrimage

Saturday, July 26th • Begin with 7:00am Mass at the Convent

*Join us for a prayerful pilgrimage
through Columbus.*

After Mass, we will walk to seven
historic churches, stopping at each
for prayer and reflection:

- Holy Family
- St. Francis of Assisi
- Sacred Heart
- St. John the Baptist
- St. Patrick's
- St. Joseph Cathedral
- Holy Cross

Walk will conclude with Holy Mass at Holy Cross at 11:30.

(confessions and adoration following if you choose to stay)

During the walk we will be praying the St. Bridget Rosary (7 Sorrows of Mary)

"A pilgrim and an exile returning to Thee." — St. Bridget of Sweden

In our own city, a sacred journey awaits. Join us in Downtown Columbus
as we honor St. Bridget through a peaceful pilgrimage—stepping away
from the everyday to walk with intention and draw closer to God.

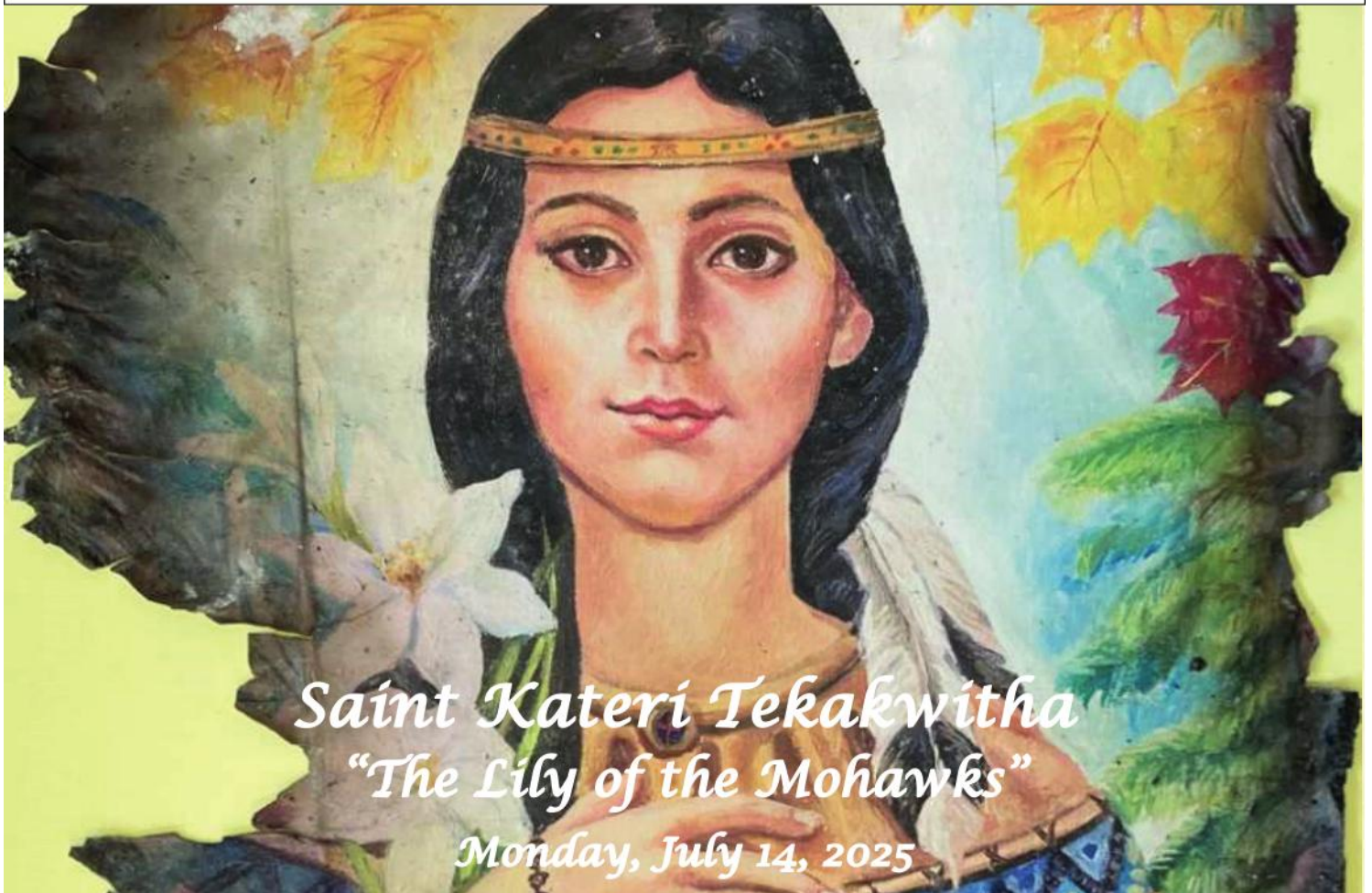


RSVP by emailing **BridgettineSisters1@gmail.com**



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 13, 2025



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha *"The Lily of the Mohawks"*

Monday, July 14, 2025

When Kateri Tekakwitha was proclaimed St. Kateri Tekakwitha in 2012, she was the first member of a North American tribe to be declared a saint. "The Lily of the Mohawks," Kateri was born in 1656 in a village along the Mohawk River called Ossernenon, now known as Auriesville, New York. Her father was a Mohawk Chief, her mother a Christian Algonquin raised among the French.

When Kateri was 4, a smallpox epidemic claimed her parents and baby brother. She survived, but her face was disfigured and her vision impaired. She was raised by her anti-Christian uncle, who began to plan her marriage. But after meeting with Catholic priests, Kateri decided to be baptized.

Following her Baptism by a Jesuit missionary in 1676 at age 20, Kateri's family and village ostracized and ridiculed her. She fled the next year to Canada, taking refuge at St. Francis Xavier Mission in the Mohawk Nation at Caughnawaga on the St. Lawrence River near Montreal.

Kateri astounded the Jesuits with her deep spirituality and her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. She took a private vow of virginity and devoted herself to teaching prayers to the children and helping the sick and elderly of Caughnawaga.

She died in 1680 at age 24. According to eyewitnesses, the scars on her face suddenly disappeared after her death. Soon after, Catholics started to claim that favors and miracles had been obtained through her intercession. Native Americans have made appeals to the Catholic Church for her recognition since at least the late 1800s.

We like to think that our proposed holiness is thwarted by our situation. If only we could have more solitude, less opposition, better health. Kateri Tekakwitha repeats the example of the saints: Holiness thrives on the cross, anywhere. Yet she did have what Christians—all people—need: the support of a community. She had a good mother, helpful priests, Christian friends. These were present in what we call primitive conditions, and blossomed in the age—old Christians' triad of prayer, fasting and almsgiving: union with God in Jesus and the Spirit, self-discipline and often suffering, and charity for her brothers and sisters. Saint Kateri, Protectress of Canada and the first native American saint, we entrust to you the renewal of the faith in the first nations and in all of North America! May God bless the first nations!

- Franciscan Media

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of July is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus.

“Dear brothers and sisters, let us ask the Lord for the gift of understanding where our life is stuck. Let us try to give voice to our desire to be healed. And let us pray for all those who feel paralyzed, who do not see a way out. Let us ask to return to dwell in the Heart of Christ, which is the true house of mercy!” +POPE LEO XIV

Monday, July 14 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Optional Memorial: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin ~ the “Lily of the Mohawks”

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:34-11:1 Jesus said to his Apostles: “Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s enemies will be those of his household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple– amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.” When Jesus finished giving these commands to his Twelve disciples, he went away from that place to teach and to preach in their towns.

Meditation: Why does Jesus describe his mission and the coming of God's kingdom in terms of conflict, division, and war? Jesus came in peace to reconcile a broken and sinful humanity with an all-merciful and loving God. Jesus also came to wage war, to overthrow the powers and principalities arrayed against God and his kingdom. What are these powers? Jesus describes Satan as the ruler of this world whom he will cast out (John 12:31). The battle Jesus had in mind was not an earthly conflict between nations, but a spiritual warfare between the forces of Satan and the armies of heaven. The scriptures make clear that there are ultimately only two powers or kingdoms – God's kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. John contrasts these two kingdoms in the starkest of terms: We know that we are of God, and the whole world is in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19).

Prayer: O God, who desired the Virgin St. Kateri Tekakwitha to flower among Native Americans in a life of innocence, grant, through her intercession, that when all are gathered into your Church from every nation, tribe and tongue, they may magnify you in a single canticle of praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Kateri Tekakwitha: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, our elder sister in the Lord, discreetly, you watch over us; may your love for Jesus and Mary inspire in us words and deeds of friendship, of forgiveness and of reconciliation. Pray that God will give us the courage, the boldness and the strength to build a world of justice and peace among ourselves and among all nations. Help us, as you did, to encounter the Creator God present in the very depths of nature, and so become witnesses of Life. With you, we praise the Father, the Son and the Spirit. Amen.

Contemplation: When Jesus spoke about division he likely had in mind the prophecy of Micah: a man's enemies are the men of his own household (Micah 7:6). The love of God compels us to choose who will be first in our lives. To place any relationship or anything else above God is a form of idolatry. Jesus challenges his disciples to examine who they love first and foremost. A true disciple loves God above all else and is willing to forsake all for Jesus Christ. Jesus insists that his disciples give him the loyalty which is only due to God, a loyalty which is higher than spouse or kin. It is possible that family and friends can



become our enemies, if the thought of them keeps us from doing what we know God wants us to do. True love for God compels us to express charity towards our neighbor who is created in the image and likeness of God. Jesus declared that any kindness shown and any help given to the people of Christ will not lose its reward. Jesus never refused to give to anyone in need who asked for his help. As his disciples we are called to be kind and generous as he is. Jesus sets before his disciples the one goal in life that is worth any sacrifice and that goal is the will of God which leads to everlasting life, peace, and joy with God.

Tuesday, July 15 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time

Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:20-24 Jesus began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum: Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the nether world. For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

Meditation: If Jesus were to walk down the streets of any community – your neighborhood, perhaps – what would he say? Would he issue a warning like the one he gave to Chorazin and Bethsaida? And how would you respond? Wherever Jesus went he did mighty works to show the people how much God had for them. Chorazin and Bethsaida had been blessed with the visitation of God. They heard the good news and experienced the wonderful works which Jesus did for them. Why was Jesus upset with these communities? The word woe can mean misfortune, calamity, distress, sorrow, sadness, misery, grief, or wretchedness. It is as much an expression of sorrowful pity and grief as it is of dismay over the calamity and destruction which comes as a result of human folly, sin, and ignorance.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, just as we celebrate the heavenly birthday of the Bishop Saint Bonaventure, we may benefit from his great learning and constantly imitate the ardor of his charity. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Repentance demands constant change – a change of heart, a change of mind, and always a call to change the way we live our life. God's word is life-giving and it saves us from destruction – the destruction of heart, mind, and soul as well as body. Jesus' anger is directed toward sin and everything which hinders us from doing the will of God. In love he calls us to walk in his way of truth and freedom, grace and loving-kindness, justice and holiness. Do you receive his word with faith and obedience or with doubt and indifference?

Wednesday, July 16 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:46-50 While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him. But he said in reply to the one who told him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Meditation: God offers to each of us the greatest of relationships - union of heart, mind, and spirit with himself, Jesus Christ, who is the very author and source of love (1 John 4:8,16). God's love never fails, never forgets, never compromises, never lies, never lets us down nor disappoints us. His love is consistent, unwavering, unconditional, and unstoppable. Nothing can deter him from ever leaving us, ignoring us, or treating us unkindly. He will love us no matter what. It is his nature to love. That is why he created us - to be united with him and to share in his love and unity (1 John 3:1). God is a trinity of persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and a community of love. That is why Jesus challenged his followers and even his own earthly family to recognize that God is the true source of all relationships. God wants all of our relationships to be rooted in his love.

Prayer: May the venerable intercession of the glorious Virgin Mary come to our aid, we pray, O Lord, so that, fortified by her protection, we may reach the mountain which is Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel: O Most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein You are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Your power. O show me herein You are my Mother. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. (3 times) Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (mention your request now).

Contemplation: God did not intend for us to be alone, but to be with others. That is why he gives us virtually unlimited opportunities for developing relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. Why does Jesus seem to ignore his own relatives when they pressed to see him? His love and respect for his mother and his relatives (and for all people) is unquestionable; we must live accordingly.

About the Memorial to Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Sacred Scripture celebrated the beauty of Carmel where the prophet Elijah defended the purity of Israel's faith in the living God. In the twelfth century, hermits withdrew to that mountain and later founded the Carmelite order devoted to the contemplative life under the patronage of Mary, the holy Mother of God. Devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel is worldwide, and most Catholics are familiar with the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular. Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock on July 16, 1251, and gave him the scapular with the following words, which are preserved in a fourteenth century narrative: "This will be for you and for all Carmelites the privilege, that he who dies in this will not suffer eternal fire." The feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel was instituted for the Carmelites in 1332, and extended to the whole Church in 1726.

About the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel: If you have not already done so, have a priest enroll you in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, or popularly known as the "Brown Scapular" and begin wearing it as a sign of your love for Our Lady. A priest enrolls people in the Brown Scapular only once. The Scapular can then be replaced afterwards by other scapulars or the scapular medal, which has on one side the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on the other, the image of Mary. The medal needs to be blessed by a priest, but the cloth scapulars do not require a blessing (separate from enrollment).



Wearing the Brown Scapular is not an automatic guarantee of salvation. It is not a magical charm, nor is it an excuse to live in a way contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Catholic Church. It is a sacramental which has been approved by the Church for over seven centuries and is a sign of one's decision to follow Jesus as did Mary, the perfect model of all the disciples of Christ. The Sabbatine Privilege is associated with faithfully wearing the Brown Scapular, and carries with it certain

requirements. In addition to being an introduction into the Family of Carmel, the Brown Scapular is an expression of our belief that we will meet God in eternal life, aided by the intercession and prayer of Mary. While sacramentals prepare us to receive grace if we are in the right disposition, the Church emphasizes that only sacraments can confer sanctifying grace (see *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, No. 1670). Read "The Scapular of Carmel: A Treasure for the Church" by Pope Saint John Paul II by going to this web page: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=3525>

Thursday, July 17 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus said: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Meditation: What does the yoke of Jesus refer to in the gospel? The Jews used the image of a yoke to express submission to God. They spoke of the yoke of the law, the yoke of the commandments, the yoke of the kingdom, the yoke of God. Jesus says his yoke is "easy." The Greek word for "easy" can also mean "well-fitting". Yokes were tailor-made to fit the oxen well. We are commanded to put on the "sweet yoke of Jesus" and to live the "heavenly way of life and happiness". Jesus also says his "burden is light". There's a story of a man who once met a boy carrying a smaller crippled lad on his back. "That's a heavy load you are carrying there," exclaimed the man. "He ain't heavy; he's my brother!" responded the boy. Think about it...no burden is ever too heavy when it is given in love and carried out in love.

Prayer: O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is



contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honor. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus offers us a new kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. In his kingdom sins are not only forgiven but removed, and eternal life is poured out for all its citizens. This is not a political kingdom, but a spiritual one. The yoke of Christ's kingdom, his kingly rule and way of life, liberates us from the burden of guilt and from the oppression of sinful habits and hurtful desires. Only Jesus can lift the burden of sin and the weight of hopelessness from us. Jesus used the analogy of a yoke to explain how we can exchange the burden of sin and despair for a weight of glory and victory with him. The yoke which Jesus invites us to embrace is his way of love, grace, and freedom from the power of sin.

Friday, July 18 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time

Optional Memorial: Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest;

Patron Saint of the Sick and of Healthcare Workers

Founder of the Order of Saint Camillus, Ministers to the Ill and Infirm

(<https://www.camillians.org/>)

Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:1-8 Jesus was going through a field of grain on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to the them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, I desire mercy, not sacrifice, you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Meditation: What does the commandment "keep holy the Sabbath" mean for us? Or better yet, what is the primary intention behind this command? The religious leaders confronted Jesus on this issue. The "Sabbath rest" was meant to be a time to remember and celebrate God's goodness and the goodness of his work, both in creation and redemption. It was a day set apart for the praise of God, his work of creation, and his saving actions on our behalf. It was intended to bring everyday work to a halt and to provide needed rest and refreshment. Jesus' disciples are scolded by the scribes and Pharisees, not for plucking and eating corn from the fields, but for doing so on the Sabbath. In defending his disciples, Jesus argues from the scriptures that human need has precedence over ritual custom. In their hunger, David and his men ate of the holy bread offered in the Temple. Jesus also quoted of the Sabbath work involved in worship in the Temple. This kind of work was usually double the work of worship on weekdays. Jesus then quotes from the prophet Hosea (6:6): I desire mercy, and not sacrifice. While the claims of ritual sacrifice are important to God, mercy and kindness in response to human need are even more important.

Prayer: O God, who adorned the Priest Saint Camillus with a singular grace of charity towards the sick, pour out upon us, by his merits, a spirit of love for you, so that, serving you in our neighbor, we may, at the hour of our death, pass safely over to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Camillus: Glorious Saint Camillus, turn your merciful eyes upon those who suffer and those who care for them. Grant to the sick, Christian resignation and trust in the goodness and power of God. Make those who take care of the sick be generous and lovingly dedicated. Help us to understand the mystery of suffering as a means of redemption and the way to God. May your protection comfort the sick and their families and encourage them to live together in love. Bless those who dedicate themselves to the sick. And may the good God grant peace and hope to all. Amen. Saint Camillus, pray for us!

Contemplation: The message of today's gospel can be complimented by contemplating on this prayer by Saint Francis of Assisi: "Lord, make us to walk in your way: Where there is love and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance; where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor annoyance; where there is poverty and joy, there is neither greed nor avarice; where there is peace and contemplation, there is neither care nor restlessness; where there is the fear of God to guard the dwelling, there no enemy can enter; where there is mercy and prudence, there is neither excess nor harshness; this we know through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of Catholic Culture.

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