

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST ANNUAL

PARISH PICNIC

A celebration in honor of Our Lady of Mercy

Sunday, September 21

12:00 – 3:00 pm



Holy Family
584 W. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio

11 am Mass celebrated by The Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Procession after the 11 am Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Music
- 1 dollar Raffle for a Religious Statue
- Games and Activities
- Face Painting
- Food provided: Burgers, Hot Dogs, Drinks
- Last Names beginning with A-M, bring a side dish to share and N-Z, bring a dessert.

RSVP USING THE QR CODE



Or Contact the Parish Office at
614-221-4323

Sponsored by the Respect Life Committee

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 7, 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

O CIA (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**.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 7, 2025

MASS INTENTIONS SEPTEMBER 7–14, 2025

Sun Sept 7	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:00 AM *	Reverend Samuel James Severance by Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
11:00 AM	For the Unborn and All Priests and Religious, by Knights of Columbus #13428
5:00 PM	People of the Parish
8:00 PM	Repose of the Soul of Janice Egolf by Judina Fallon
Mon Sept 8	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:00 AM	CSB—Repose of the Soul of Marick Andrew Fullen, Kathy McKinniss
12:15 PM	Todd P. Frizzell
Tues Sept 9	Saint Peter Claver, Priest
7:00 AM	CSB—Repose of the Soul of Ulysess Pono by Paola Pono
12:15 PM	Repose of the Soul of Ardie Schirtzinger by Mary Gamble
Wed Sept 10	
12:15 PM	Mary Grace Schirripa, by Mom & Dad
4:00 PM	CSB—James and Juanita Lisska by Bill & Theresa Warren
Thurs Sept 11	
7:00 AM	CSB—Susan Morris and Living Family Members by Eric & Christy Conklin
12:15 PM	Repose of the Soul of Justin R. Sanders
Fri Sept 12	The Most Holy Name of Mary
7:00 AM	CSB—World Peace, by Mary Zacks
12:15 PM	Father Daniel Bowen, O. de M. by Jane Trumbull & Jean Herald
Sat Sept 13	Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor
9:00 AM	Repose of the Soul of Charles McKinniss by Kathy McKinniss
Sun Sept 14	THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
9:00 AM *	John E. Prunte by Beth Ann & Dominic Prunte
11:00 AM	Deceased Members of Holy Family Alumni
5:00 PM	Father Kevin Girardi, by Mary Gamble
8:00 PM	People of the Parish

* Incense will be used at this Mass

**Remaining Open
Masses in 2025**

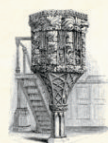
7:00 AM CSB: 14
12:15 PM: 14

*"If you ask anything of me
in my name, I will do it."*
(John 14:14)

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. Michael "Mich" 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

LECTOR SCHEDULE



September 7	9:00 am	Austin Hill
	11:00 am	Knights of Columbus
	5:00 pm	Brian Bishop
September 14	9:00 am	Mary Gamble
	11:00 am	Brett Ballantyne
	5:00 pm	Tom Martello

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES—God is generous to us, please consider being generous to God by giving your Sunday offering through our online giving. You can scan the QR code to go to our online giving page at our website: www.holyfamilycolumbus.org.



SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

Giving for August 25, 2025 to August 31, 2025

Offertory	
Collection	\$ 3,519
On-Line	2,937
Mail	+ 450
Total	\$ 6,906
Less: Assessment (10%)	- 691
Net	\$ 6,215
Soup Kitchen	\$ 2,835
Current Appeal Pledges	\$40,507
The Appeal Goal	\$82,347

God Reward your Generosity

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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

Look for information about future **Sunday Pancake Breakfasts**.

Sunday, September 7, 2025 is 11am Knights of Columbus Corporate Mass.

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 is the monthly meeting at 7:00pm in the Parish Center.

Brother Jack Gookin is still recuperating in Cleveland. It's going to be a lengthy ordeal. Those wishing to send him encouragement may do so at:

St. Vitus Village
6114 Lausche Ave., Apt. 303
Cleveland, OH 44103.

As always, prayers are encouraged.
Remember, prayers do the heart good!



HOLY FAMILY RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Our next meeting is **Monday, September 8 at 7:00pm** 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.

HIS INCREDIBLE SENIORS EXERCISE PROGRAM

Our upcoming class is scheduled **1:30—2:30pm on Tuesday, September 9th** in the Parish Center.

HOLY FAMILY YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

HFYA (18—35) meets weekly, with a rotation of activities including prayer/spirituality, talk, adoration, and social nights. **Use this QR Code to connect with this group.**



Join us for coffee, donuts and fellowship the first Sunday of every month after the 9am & 11am Mass in the undercroft.

The Hospitality Committee also provides tea, hot chocolate, water, orange juice and lemonade. Take a few minutes to grab some refreshments and enjoy a conversation with other parishioners before the drive home. **Thank you to the Rudolph family who provides gluten-free donuts each month.**



CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS
& LADIES GUILD
Serving the Women of Holy Family Since 1887

Prayer to a Holy Patron

O heavenly patron, Our Sorrowful Mother, intercede with God for me. Confirm me in faith, fortify me in virtue and protect me in struggle, that I may be victorious against the evil spirit and attain eternal glory.

O God, Who has given us some of the blessed in heaven as special patrons, grant in Your mercy that we and our children, through the merits of the same and of all Your saints, may receive the help of which we stand in need, and practice the virtues taught us by their example. May we, O Lord, through the honor we pay them, become worthy of Your good pleasure, and share in their powerful intercession. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

(ref. Christian Mothers Mother Love book. Reb. 2023, available through Christian Mothers)

Mother Love book can be purchased by contacting holyfamilyccm@gmail.com at our cost of \$20.00.

Special thanks to all of you who supported our Mum sale. **Flower pick up is scheduled September 13th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Mums will also be available for sale on Sunday the 14th after 9:00 and 11:00 AM Mass.**

Italian Dinner Saturday, October 11th and Silent Auction and Ask a Priest, Mass at 4:00pm followed by talk with Fr. Michael and dinner at 6:00pm.

Carry out will be available, please confirm your orders. Father Michael has asked us to sponsor this event for the parish maintenance needs. We hope you can attend. **Tickets on Sale by Christian Mothers in the vestibule most Sundays after 9:00 and 11:00am Masses, through the office, in undercroft on donut Sunday, or you may also contact us at holyfamilyccm@gmail.com.**

St. Gerard blessing will be OCTOBER 18TH, following the 11:00am Mass for pregnant mothers and those hoping to conceive.

Our next meeting and breakfast-brunch potluck is September 20th after 9:00 a.m. Mass in the undercroft.

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



**KIDS
EAT
FREE
!
(AGES
0-10)**

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 7, 2025

The Blue Mass

St. Timothy Church and St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345 will host **The Blue Mass on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** The Blue Mass is an opportunity to honor and pray for all active, retired and deceased police, firefighters, and emergency medical services. In addition, it is an occasion to remember the 2,973 who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. All active and retired police, fire, and emergency medical services in the greater Columbus area, and their families are invited. The Celebrant and Homilist for The Blue Mass will be The Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus. **Let us all join together to honor our police, firefighters, and emergency medical services, to ask for God's blessing, to keep them safe, and to guide them in their duties.** St. Timothy Church is located at 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus.

CCD Program Begins Next Week!



Registration is still open!

Complete the Registration Form from our website:



Dear Parents and Parish Family,

Peace and blessings to you! I am delighted to announce that our Parish CCD Program will begin on **September 14**. We are joyfully preparing to welcome our children back for another year of faith formation, learning about the love of Christ and His Church, and growing in their Catholic identity.

Classes will be held each Sunday 9:30am to 10:45am in the Parish Center, and are open to children in Preschool—8th grade. Whether your child is preparing for the sacraments or continuing their journey of faith, this program is an essential part of their spiritual growth.

Let us continue to pray for our children, families, and catechists as we begin this new year of faith formation.

With gratitude in the Hearts of Christ and His Blessed Mother,

Sr. Bozena LSIC

Sacred Music Classes

You are invited to an introduction to Sacred Music offered by Dr. Nicole Simental at the St. Thomas More Newman Center on The Ohio State University campus. Classes are offered **each Wednesday Sept. 10—Nov. 19, 2025, from 6:30—7:30 p.m.** Have you ever wondered why certain music is sung at Mass as opposed to other types of music? Then this class is just for you! Some of the topics will include: What is Sacred Music and why it is important; what is our role in the Liturgy in regard to music; Sacred Music in practice and why we should care. This will be supported by Church documents on Sacred Music in the Liturgy. This course will also help us to unite our prayers through music more fully in the Mass. This class is for all—no musical experience necessary. **Email Dr. Nicole Simental at: nsimental@buckeyecatholic.com** or scan the QR code to sign up.



Surviving Divorce

Saint Peter Saint Joan of Arc Parish is starting a video series titled "Surviving Divorce" this fall. Surviving Divorce is for men and women seeking healing from separation and divorce. This 12-week series can help bring healing for newly separated & those still struggling with issues years later. First session **7pm—9pm September 18**, Saint Joan of Arc Campus in Rooms 11 and 12. Please contact: **survivingdivorce@spsjoa.org** for more information.

Men's Event: Courage Through Christ: Standing Firm in Faith

Guest Speaker:

Father Daniel Bowen, O. de M.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12TH

6P-8P,

DOORS OPEN AT 530P

Food and Refreshments

Provided! \$35

RSVP by September 8.

BridgettineSisters1@gmail.com,

BE FIRM IN FAITH

Join Before Month of the Most Holy Rosary

We are in need of additional Rosary Leaders before 5pm Mass. Contact the Parish Office if you or your family have interest in joining with no set schedule.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 7, 2025

RADIO FUN THAT WILL LEAVE YOU SMILING (September 17th – 19th).

Fr. Daniel Bowen will be on the radio on **Wednesday, 09/17/2025 at 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM**. Fr. Daniel will be on AM 820 rallying support for our local Catholic radio station while competing in a live radio game. For every donation made in his name prior to or during the **AM 820** radio event, Fr. Daniel's team will receive additional shots.

If you donate prior to Sept 17th you will be entered into a special pre-event drawing to win **two (2) OSU Football Tickets!** To make a donation call **(614) 459-4820** or go online to **StGabrielRadio.com**.

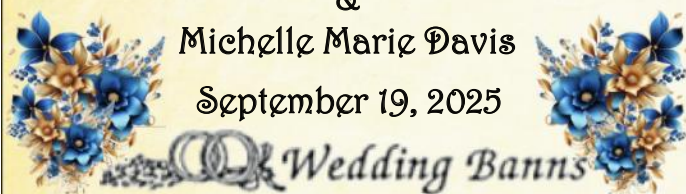
Holy Family Parish is privileged to announce The Banns of Marriage for the following couple:

Liam Gerard Harrington

&

Michelle Marie Davis

September 19, 2025



Wedding Banns

St. Gianna Molla Play Group

For moms and young children. Meetups will be held the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 9:30am. **Contact Rebekah Foley (bekah.krull@gmail.com) or Katie Foley (katie.frego.95@gmail.com)** with questions or in case of inclement weather.

9/9—Three Creeks Metro Park Confluence Trails Area

9/23—Scioto Grove Metro Park Arrowhead Picnic Area

10/14—Gants Park

10/28—Columbus Main Library Kid's Area

Pope Leo XIV will Canonize his First Two Saints at 10am local time at St. Peter's Square in Rome

Pier Giorgio Frassati's canonization has been moved to September 7, and he will be canonized together with Carlo Acutis, as announced by Pope Leo XIV on June 13. Originally, Carlo's sainthood was set for April and Frassati's for August, but delays caused by Pope Francis' death moved both to September.

Carlo Acutis, a 15-year-old known as "God's geek," was famous for creating a website about Eucharistic miracles and was beatified in 2020.

Pier Giorgio Frassati, who died at 24 from polio, was known for his love of mountain climbing and helping the poor.

They will be joined by seven other saints on October 19. Their sainthood shows that people today can be holy in many ways—through technology, helping others, or living with joy—and reminds us that becoming a saint is a call for everyone today.

SEPT 7, 2025

Canonization of Bl. Carlo Acutis & Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati



Blessed Carlos Acutis

The Catholic Church recognizes two miracles attributed to Blessed Carlo Acutis: the healing of a Brazilian boy with a pancreatic malformation in 2013 and the recovery of a Costa Rican girl from a severe brain hemorrhage in 2022.



These medically inexplicable healings, confirmed by the Vatican, paved the way for their canonization as a saint in the Catholic Church on Sept, 7, 2025.

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

The two approved miracles leading to Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati's canonization are the 1933 healing of Domenico Sellan, who was suffering from spinal tuberculosis, and the 2017 healing of an American seminarian, Father Juan Gutierrez, from a serious Achilles tendon injury.



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 7, 2025

Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy

OrderofMercy.org

Meet Brother Cody Evaristo

A new Novice for Mercedarian Friars USA

After successfully completing his formation period of postulancy with us here at our Holy Family Mercedarian House of Studies in Columbus, Ohio, we share with you news of great joy: the receiving of the religious habit and the official beginning of the canonical novitiate year of the brothers:

Br. Moises Brandt (Central America), Br. Julio Mazuera (Central America), and our own Br. Cody Evaristo (USA). The ceremony took place this past week in the Monastery-Sanctuary of San Ramon Nonato, located in Lerida, Spain. We pray for the generous response of these three young men, and for their perseverance in their vocation.

If you would like to send greetings to Brother Cody via International mail, the mailing address is as follows:

Br. Cody Evaristo
Convento de San Ramon Nonato
Av. Santuari no28
25215 Sant Ramon
Lerida, Spain.

The Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy was founded in 1218 by St. Peter Nolasco, and is an international community of priests and brothers who live a life of prayer and communal fraternity. In addition to the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, their members take a special fourth vow to give up their own selves for others whose faith is in danger. Their motto is *"my life for your freedom."*



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 September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows

"Mary is that wondrous union of grace and freedom, which urges each of us to have trust, courage and participation in the life of God's people. 'He who is mighty has done great things for me' (Lk 1:49): may each of us know this joy and proclaim it with a new song. Let us not be afraid to choose life! It may seem risky and imprudent. Many voices whisper: 'Why bother? Let it go. Think of your own interests.' These are voices of death. But we are disciples of Christ. It is his love that drives us — soul and body — in our time. As individuals and as the Church, we no longer live for ourselves. This — and only this — spreads life and lets life prevail. Our victory over death begins here and now." +POPE LEO XIV, HOMILY EXCERPT, AUGUST 15, 2025

Monday, September 8 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:1-16,18-23 The Book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king. David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ. This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: *Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel*, which means "God is with us."

Meditation: Understandably many ask the question: "What is the significance of the genealogy in Matthew's gospel?" This genealogy is arranged in three sections portraying three great stages in the spiritual history of the people of the old covenant. The first stage begins with Abraham, the father of the chosen people, and ends with David, God's anointed King. The second stage takes us to the exile of God's people in Babylon. This is the period of Israel's shame and disaster due to her unfaithfulness. The third stage takes us to Jesus, God's anointed Messiah. Jesus the Messiah is the direct descent of Abraham and David, and the rightful heir to David's throne. God in his mercy fulfilled his promises to Abraham and to David that he would send a Savior and a King to rule over the house of Israel and to deliver them from their enemies. Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He is the hope not only for the people of the Old Covenant but for all nations as well. After all, Jesus is the Savior and Redeemer of the world.



Prayer: Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord, the gift of heavenly grace, that the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin may bring deeper peace to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of salvation. 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: Matthew begins his gospel with the genealogy of Jesus from Abraham's lineage through the line of David, King of Israel. Matthew concludes his genealogy by stating that both Mary, Jesus' mother and Joseph, his foster father, came from the line of David. Mary was asked to assume in faith a burden of tremendous responsibility. That required faith and trust. Also, Mary was not yet married. Sexual relations outside of marriage (fornication) was a sinful act then, and remains so today. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises. Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, believed the message given to him to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah. Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption.

Tuesday, September 9 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Peter Claver, Priest

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:12-19 Jesus departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named Apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured. Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.

Meditation: Notice how the people came to Jesus wherever he was – they sought him out because they had heard all the wonderful things he taught and did. They were hungry for God and desired healing from their afflictions. In faith they pressed upon Jesus to touch him. As they did so power came from Jesus and they were healed. Even demons trembled in the presence of Jesus and left at his rebuke. Jesus offers freedom from the power of sin and oppression to all who seek him with expectant faith. When you hear God's word and consider all that Jesus did, how do you respond? With doubt, or with expectant faith? With skepticism, or with confident trust? Ask the Lord to increase your faith in his saving power and grace.

Prayer: O God, who made Saint Peter Claver a slave of slaves and strengthened him with wonder charity and patience as he came to their help, grant, through his intercession, that, seeking the things of Jesus Christ, we may love our neighbor in deeds and in truth. 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: When Jesus embarked on his mission he chose twelve men to be his friends and apostles. In the choice of the twelve, we see a characteristic feature of God's work: Jesus chose very ordinary people. They were non-professionals, who had no wealth or position. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these men, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not shrug back because we think that we have little or nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. How is God calling you? Is something holding you back from giving yourself unreservedly to God?

Wednesday, September 10 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:20-26 Raising his eyes toward his disciples Jesus said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. But woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way."

Meditation: How can one possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? If we want to be filled with the joy and happiness of heaven, then we must empty ourselves of all that would shut God out of our hearts. Poverty of spirit finds ample room and joy in possessing God alone as the greatest treasure possible. Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit. Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin leads to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and oppression. God reveals to the humble of heart the true source of abundant life and happiness. Jesus promises his disciples that the joys of heaven will more than compensate for the troubles and hardships they can expect in this world. Thomas Aquinas said: "No person can live without joy. That is why someone deprived of spiritual joy goes after carnal pleasures." Do you know the joy and happiness of hungering and thirsting for God alone?

Prayer: O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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: When you encounter misfortune, grief, or tragic loss, how do you respond? With fear or faith? With passive resignation or with patient hope and trust in God? We know from experience that no one can escape all of the inevitable trials of life — pain, suffering, sickness, and death. When Jesus began to teach his disciples he gave them a "way of happiness" that transcends every difficulty and trouble that can weigh us down with grief and despair. Jesus began his sermon on the mount by addressing the issue of where true happiness can be found. The word beatitude literally means happiness or blessedness. Jesus' way of happiness, however, demands a transformation from within — a conversion of heart and mind which can only come about through the gift and working of the Holy Spirit.

Thursday September 11 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time Anniversary of 9/11 + Remember, Honor, Pray

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:27-38 Jesus said to his disciples: "To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as also your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

Meditation: What makes Christians different and what makes Christianity distinct from any other religion? It is grace — treating others, not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated, with loving-kindness and mercy. God is good to the unjust as well as the just. His love embraces saint and sinner alike. God seeks our highest good and teaches us to seek the greatest good of others, even those who hate and abuse us. Our love for others, even those who are ungrateful and selfish towards us, must be marked by the same kindness and mercy which God has shown to us. It is easier to show kindness and mercy when we can expect to benefit from doing so. How much harder when we can expect nothing in return.

Prayer: O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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 of Pope Saint John Paul II ~ Anniversary of 9/11: Since the inhumane terrorist attacks that occurred in different parts of the United States of America, we again recommend to the eternal mercy of the God of our Fathers the numerous innocent victims. We ask for consolation and comfort for their family and relatives, burdened by pain; we invoke strength and courage for the many who continue their work in the places struck by this terrible disaster; we implore for tenacity and perseverance by all men of goodwill continuing on the paths of justice and peace. May the Lord remove from the heart of man every trace of



resentment, of hostility and of hate, and open him to reconciliation, to solidarity, and to peace. Let us pray, so that the "culture of love" may be established all over the world . . . O God, Almighty and Merciful Father, he who sows discord cannot understand You; he who loves violence cannot welcome You: watch over us in our painful human condition tried by the brutal acts of terrorism and death. Comfort your children and open our hearts to hope, that our time may again know days of serenity and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Visit: https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/audiences/2001/documents/hf_jp-ii_aud_20010912.html

Contemplation: Why should we pray for those who harm us in one way or another? Our prayer for those who do us ill both breaks the power of revenge and releases the power of love to do good in the face of evil. How can we possibly love those who cause us harm and ill-will? With God all things are possible. He gives power and grace to those who believe and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. His love conquers all, even our hurts, fears, prejudices and grief. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. Do you know the power of Christ's redeeming love and mercy?

Friday, September 12 ~ Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time **Most Holy Name of Mary**

Holy Gospel: Luke 6:39-42 Jesus told his disciples a parable: "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye."

Meditation: Have you wondered why is judgmentalism and a critical mind and spirit so rampant today, even among persons of faith? Part of it is due to the number of "talking heads" on cable television programs who "spin" their views into their "reporting" on issues and news events – journalists have made note of this disturbing trend, which influences how we, then, conduct ourselves. Of course blogs and people who feel compelled to post their negative comments and viewpoints on their Facebook pages don't help. As difficult as it may be at times, we must strive to "think the best of other people" if we, ourselves, wish to grow in love. The Lord knows our faults and he sees all – even the imperfections and sins of the heart which we cannot recognize in ourselves. Like a gentle father and a skillful doctor he patiently draws us to his seat of mercy and removes the cancer of sin which inhabits our hearts. As challenging as it may appear at times, pray to the Lord to flood your heart with his loving-kindness and mercy that you may only have room for charity and forbearance towards your neighbor.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, for all who celebrate the glorious Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she may obtain your merciful favor. 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.

Additional Prayer: On this day dedicated to the Holy Name of Mary let us repeat that wonderful prayer of Saint Bernard: "Look to the star of the sea, call upon Mary ... in danger, in distress, in doubt, think of Mary, call upon Mary. May her name never be far from your lips, or far from your heart ... If you follow her, you will not stray; if you pray to her, you will not despair; if you turn your thoughts to her, you will not err. If she holds you, you will not fall; if she protects you, you need not fear; if she is your guide, you will not tire; if she is gracious to you, you will surely reach your destination." Amen.

Contemplation: A true disciple of Christ is one who listens to the voice of their Master and who submits to the skillful help of the Divine Physician for treating and removing the cancer of sin in our lives. If we are to be guides and teachers for others, then we need clear vision, both spiritual and moral vision, and a map that shows us the right destination for our life's journey. If our ultimate destination is heaven, then there is only one way to get there and that way is through the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the cross of Christ sin is pardoned and the sinner is made whole, darkness and corruption give way to light and truth, death is defeated and new life restored. The cross of Christ frees us from condemnation and guilt and shows us the way of perfect love.

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
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