

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 8, 2026



## WELCOME TO HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Served by the Mercedarian Friars USA ([www.orderofmercy.org](http://www.orderofmercy.org))



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

Open .....Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

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

Web:.....[www.holyfamilycolumbus.org](http://www.holyfamilycolumbus.org)

Email.....[office@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto:office@holyfamilycolumbus.org)

Facebook.....Holy Family Catholic Church

Flocknote.....[holyfamilycolumbus@flocknote.com](mailto: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

Brian Krull ..... Business Manager

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

8:00am – 12noon, preferred (back of building)

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

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

Web.....[www.hfsk.org](http://www.hfsk.org)

Email.....Dennis Shope, Director

[soupkitchen@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto:soupkitchen@holyfamilycolumbus.org)

[maintenance@holyfamilycolumbus.org](mailto: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**.

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February 8, 2026

## MASS INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY 8–15, 2026

- Sun Feb 8**     **FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**World Marriage Day**  
 9:00 AM \*     Rest of the Soul of Dominic Linh Nguyen  
 by The Nguyen Family  
 11:00 AM     The Randolph Family  
 5:00 PM     Rest of the Soul of Diane Lewis Rice  
 by Kathy McKinniss  
 8:00 PM     People of the Parish
- Mon Feb 9**  
 7:00 AM     **CSB**—Father Vince Nguyen  
 by Sean & Jody White  
 12:15 PM     Dennis Schope  
 by Sr. Miriam Joseph, SSCJ  
 Sr. Monica Marie, SSCJ
- Tues Feb 10**     **Saint Scholastica, Virgin**  
 7:00 AM     **CSB**—Rest of the Souls  
 of John and Helen Morrison  
 by The Morrison Family  
 12:15 PM     Kerry Schlaechlor Smith and Living Family  
 Members, by Eric & Christy Conklin
- Wed Feb 11**     **Our Lady of Lourdes**  
**World Day of the Sick**  
 12:15 PM     The Bucher Family, by Timothy Bucher  
 4:00 PM     **CSB**—Rest of the Soul of  
 Michael J. Haney, by Sean & Jody White
- Thurs Feb 12**  
 7:00 AM     **CSB**—Rest of the Soul of Mary Karabinos  
 by Mary Gamble  
 12:15 PM     Timothy Bowman, by Chloe Bowman
- Fri Feb 13**  
 7:00 AM     **CSB**—Complete Healing of Kerriellen Smith  
 by Mary Gamble  
 12:15 PM     Aaron Jasper, by Judith Jasper
- Sat Feb 14**     **Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop**  
 9:00 AM     Our Children, by The Nguyen Family
- Sun Feb 15**     **SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
 9:00 AM \*     Tom and Louis Carter, by Mary Sue Dempsey  
 11:00 AM     The Randolph Family  
 5:00 PM     Rest of the Soul of Dick Crumley, by Wife  
 8:00 PM     People of the Parish

\* *Incense will be used at this Mass*

**Please contact the Parish Office if you lost one hearing aid in a case. It was found in the church.**

## 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  
 Specialist E4 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 Reserve  
 SGT Liam A. Smith, US Army Reserve  
 BM2 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



<b>February 8</b>	9:00 am	Susan Lau
	11:00 am	Brett Ballantyne
<b>February 15</b>	5:00 pm	Tom Martello
	9:00 am	Brandon Litman
	11:00 am	Kendy Troiano
	5:00 pm	Brian Bishop

**Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule on page 7**

## SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

**Giving for January 26—February 1, 2026**

<i>Offertory</i>	
<i>Collection</i>	\$ 4,992
<i>On-Line</i>	3,297
<i>Mail</i>	+15,230
<i>Total</i>	\$23,519
<i>Less: Assessment (10%)</i>	- 2,352
<i>Net</i>	\$21,167
<i>Soup Kitchen</i>	\$ 2,094
<i>Total Capital Campaign Donations</i>	\$371,341
<i>The Appeal Pledges</i>	\$92,690
<i>The Appeal Goal</i>	\$82,347

**God Reward your Generosity**

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## HOLY FAMILY KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #13428

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

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**—Knights of Columbus Corporate Mass at the 11am Mass.

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**—Knights of Columbus monthly Council meeting in the undercroft of the Church after the 11am Mass.

If you are interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus, please contact **Jack Gookin at (614) 309-2519**.

### HIS INCREDIBLE SENIORS EXERCISE PROGRAM

Our upcoming class is scheduled 1:30—2:30pm **Tuesday, February 10** in the Parish Center. The next class is same time and location on **Wednesday, February 11. Be healthy, treat yourself to some fun!**



### HOLY FAMILY RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Our upcoming meeting is **March 9 at 7pm** in the Parish Center.

Our Rosary for Life meets every Tuesday at 8:45am to 10:45am in front of Planned Parenthood Surgical Clinic. There is an opportunity to carpool by meeting in the Holy Family parking lot by 8:15.

If you are not able to go to the clinic, you can join us to pray the Rosary For Life every Tuesday, before Mass at 11:25am.

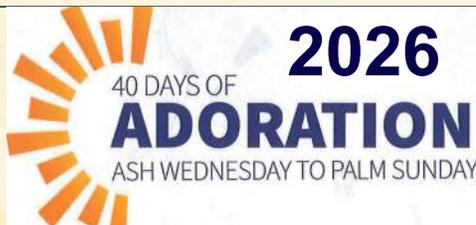
### CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – FRIDAY MARCH 6, 2026 – 2026 CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR

March 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon honoring the 2026 Catholic Man of the Year. The Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, will present the 2026 Catholic Man of the Year. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 am followed by lunch at 12:10 pm and our program. No reservations are necessary. \$12 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend!

### *Already...!*

Numerous churches throughout the Diocese of Columbus will

have public adoration scheduled during Lent. Holy Family Station Day is **Wednesday March 25**. Plan to set aside an hour with Jesus. Just you two. More information to come.



## CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS & LADIES GUILD

Serving the Women of Holy Family Since 1887

### Prayer to Our Mother of Sorrows

Our Mother of Sorrows, with strength from above you stood by the Cross, sharing in the sufferings of Jesus, and with tender care you bore Him in your arms, mourning and weeping.

We praise you for your faith, which accepted the life God planned for you. We praise you for your love in bearing with Jesus the Sorrows of His Passion.

Holy Mary, may we follow your example, and stand by all your children who need comfort and love.

Mother of God, stand by us in our trials and care for us in our many needs. Pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen!

Thanks to all who attended our meeting on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup>. It was so wonderful to see an increased number and to get feedback for future meeting agenda items.

**Our Christian Mothers Mass is February 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. Please join us in front of Our Lady's Altar. Please bring husbands and family to join us and wear your sash and pin.** Sashes are available if you haven't yet bought one for \$5. St. Gerard blessing is for expectant mothers and those praying to conceive follows the Mass. We were so blessed to have four ladies receive the blessing on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**We will gather together in the undercroft on February 21<sup>st</sup>, after the 11:00am Mass. We will be setting up and cooking for the Chicken Noodle Luncheon and could use some potato peelers and help setting up. The flyer is posted with the QR codes for the luncheon and statue raffle of Pope Francis. You may also RSVP via [holyfamilyccm.com](http://holyfamilyccm.com). Please bring a breakfast item, coffee and water will be provided.**

Wishing all a productive, healthy and faith-filled week.

### 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

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.**



**“Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.”**

*- St. Anthony of Padua*

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## SAVE THE DATE

*St. Carlo Acutis Pericardium Relic  
is coming to the Diocese of Columbus*

**FEBRUARY 13-18, 2026**

The relic will be at the following parishes:

Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster  
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Star of the New Evangelization, Columbus  
St. Brendan, Hilliard  
St. Joseph Cathedral, Columbus  
St. Michael, Worthington  
St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville  
St. Thomas More Newman Center/  
Buckeye Catholic, The Ohio State University

*More detailed information will be coming soon*



## CHRISTIAN MOTHERS CHICKEN NOODLE LUNCHEON

February 22 after 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Mass

Carry out available

\$10/adult – children 11 and under are free

Chicken & noodles, mashed potatoes, salad, roll and  
dessert

RSVP by 2/18/26



RSVP can also be sent to [holyfamilyccm@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyccm@gmail.com)

Please consider donating a dessert!

### Silent Auction Baskets!

We also have a St. Francis statue that will be raffled off!  
Use the QR code below to purchase tickets:



PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE

## St. Valentine's Gala DINNER AND DANCING

**PURCHASE TICKETS NOW!**

HOSTED BY CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

FEBRUARY **14** AT 6:30 PM

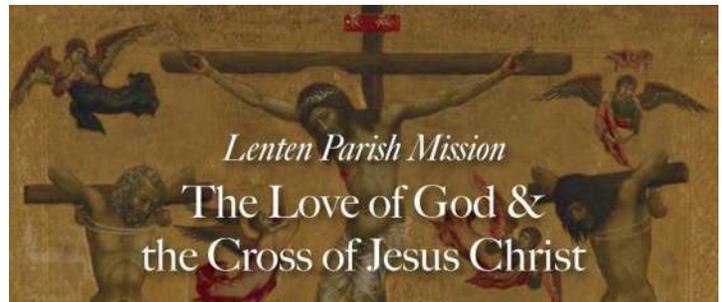
\$150 PER COUPLE | \$75 FOR SINGLES | SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE

COCKTAILS AND HORS D'OEUVRES | 4 COURSE MEAL  
COOKIE BAR | PHOTO OP WITH YOUR BELOVED  
LIVE UPBEAT MUSIC & DANCING  
SIGNATURE DRINKS AND OTHER ADULT BEVERAGES

SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION LINK

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION  
6300 EAST DUBLIN-GRANVILLE RD  
NEW ALBANY, OH 43054

A night of fellowship, fun and food. Cost is \$150 per couple and \$75 for singles. Attire is semi-formal. Scan QR code or go to parish website at [cotrna.org](http://cotrna.org).



### Lenten Parish Mission

## The Love of God & the Cross of Jesus Christ

### Immaculate Conception Parish

141 E North Broadway, Columbus  
614.264.9241 | [marivera@iccols.org](mailto:marivera@iccols.org)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8**

7:00-9:00 PM

For the Lord Is a Sun & Shield

**MONDAY, MARCH 9**

7:00-9:00 PM

Indeed Our God Is a Consuming Fire



Featuring  
**DAVE VANVICKLE**  
Catholic speaker & retreat leader

Join Immaculate Conception Parish for a two-night Lenten parish mission to journey through the timeless story of a soul's relationship to God, from conversion to transformation. This message of hope will be illustrated by the powerful personal testimony of Catholic speaker and retreat leader Dave VanVickle and his family. **Contact Mary Ann Rivera** for more info. [marivera@iccols.org](mailto:marivera@iccols.org) 614-267-9241 X605.

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**LOOK TO HIM AND BE RADIANT**  
Psalm 34:6

**COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**  
February 21, 2026  
8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Ohio Expo Center - Kasich Hall

FEATURED SPEAKERS:

  
MOTHER NATALIA

  
MEG HUNTER KILMER

  
FR. JOHN LOCOCO

  
ST. MARY GRACE

  
RACHEL MUHA

  
MASS CELEBRANT:  
BISHOP FERNANDEZ

  
EMCEE: JEN RICE

  
MUSIC: MEREDITH JOY KELLER



[www.columbuscatholicwomen.com](http://www.columbuscatholicwomen.com)



The 29th Annual  
**CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE**  
**CALLED TO BE SAINTS**  
**TAKE COURAGE**

**Saturday + February 28, 2026**  
Kasich Hall + Ohio Expo Center, Columbus

  
Matt Birk

  
Father Robert Spitzer

  
Justin Fatica

Adoration + Reconciliation + Holy Mass  
Breakfast & Lunch + Faith Organizations

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**

[www.CatholicMensMinistry.com](http://www.CatholicMensMinistry.com)



**St. Mary Magdalene Book and Media Sale**  
Please join the parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene at our annual Book and Media Sale. Thousands of hard and soft cover children's, adult, and young adult books will be available for purchase at extremely reasonable prices. Also for sale are DVD movies, music CDs, vinyl records, board games and jigsaw puzzles and lots of miscellaneous merchandise.

The Media Sale is set for Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 1, 2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday's sale will feature a Soup and Sandwich supper while Sunday's sale will coincide with a Pancake and Egg breakfast, sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 13581, offered from 9:00 to 11:30. The events will be in the Church Hall at 473 S. Roys Ave. in Columbus.

Please join us every first Thursday at parishes around the diocese to pray for an increase in priestly vocations. The next one will be held:

**Date:** March 5<sup>th</sup>  
**Location:** Seton Parish, 600 Hill Rd. N  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
**Schedule:** 8:30am Mass | 9:00am Holy Hour

- Altar Server   Respect Life    Lector   Bible Study
- OCIA   Christian Mothers   Hospitality   Usher   HFYA
- CCD   Knights of Columbus   Vocation   Stewardship

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE.**  
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ABORTION.

Spring INTO ACTION TO END ABORTION IN OHIO BY 2033

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE.**  
**40 CHURCHES NEEDED.**

February 18th-March 29th.  
Planned Parenthood Surgical Clinic | 3255 E Main St, Columbus OH

Anchor in Truth and Hope

JOIN GCRTL IN PRAYER AND ACTIVISM BY ADOPTING A DAY, PARTIAL DAY, OR HOUR!



**HOLY FAMILY DAY**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 24**  
**9:00 AM—5:00 PM**

SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE VESTIBULE

**BE MY VOICE**  
**END ABORTION**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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# Ash

## Wednesday

## February 18

7:00 AM

Convent of St. Birgitta

7:00 AM

Parish

12:15 PM

Parish

7:00 PM

Parish



**Holy Family Catholic Church**  
584 W. Broad Street, Columbus Ohio 43215



In the days prior to Lent, try one or more of these suggestions.

- Ask God, every day, **“What does my soul need?”** Just ask, and wait quietly. Because we’re very good at fooling ourselves about how we’re doing, it might take several days of praying this question before we’re truly open and humble enough to know the answer.
- Ask God, every day, **“What about my life makes you happy?”** Yes, when God looks at your life, some parts of it—perhaps many aspects of it—bring joy to God’s heart. Think of how your children or grandchildren or other people close to you make you happy. God is in relationship with you, which means that your sins grieve God’s heart, but also that your growth and love and freedom and kindness bring joy to God of the universe. Again, you will probably need to pray this a few times before you are willing to consider that you give God pleasure, that you make God happy in any way. Stick with this little prayer and keep listening.
- Tell God, and yourself, every day, **“I want to be open to the graces of this Lenten season.”** Maybe you’re not open right now, or you’re not as open and willing as you’d like to be or think you should be. What else is new? We can always open our lives a bit more, let go of more stuff, listen better, and do more quickly and passionately what we know helps nurture God’s kingdom on earth.

- by Loyola Press

# 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 February is dedicated to the Holy Family + Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

***“Let us raise our prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, asking her to assist all who suffer and are in need of compassion, consolation and a listening ear. Let us seek her intercession with this ancient prayer, that has been invoked in families for those living with illness and pain: Sweet Mother, do not part from me. Turn not your eyes away from me. Walk with me at every moment and never leave me alone. You who always protect me as a true Mother, obtain for me the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”*** +POPE LEO XIV, EXCERPT: MESSAGE, 34<sup>TH</sup> WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

## Monday, February 9 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

**Holy Gospel: 6:53-56** After making the crossing to the other side of the sea, Jesus and his disciples came to land at Gennesaret and tied up there. As they were leaving the boat, people immediately recognized him. They scurried about the surrounding country and began to bring in the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. Whatever villages or towns or countryside he entered, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed.

**Meditation:** Believing and trusting in God to act in our lives is only possible by the grace and help of the Holy Spirit who moves the heart and converts it to God. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of the mind and helps us to understand, accept, and believe God's word. How do we grow in faith? By simply listening to God's word above all others, and do so with trust and submission. Faith also grows through testing and perseverance. The Lord wants to teach us how to pray in faith for his will for our lives and for the things he wishes to give us to enable us to follow him faithfully and serve him generously. Jesus gave his disciples the perfect prayer which acknowledges God as our Father who provides generously for his children. The *Lord's Prayer* teaches us to seek first the kingdom of God and to pray that God's will be accomplished in our lives. The Lord in turn, gives us what we need to live each day for his glory. The Lord is neither too distant nor too busy to meet us and to give each of us his blessing.

**Prayer:** Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unflinching care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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:** Notice how when Jesus disembarked from the boat the people immediately recognized him. What did they recognize in Jesus? Jesus as the prophet, the healer, the Messiah, the Son of God? All of these? For sure they recognized that Jesus had the power from God to heal and to make whole bodies, limbs, minds, and hearts that were diseased, afflicted, and with sin. What happened when they pressed upon him and touched the fringe of his garment? They were made well. Jesus Christ is always ready to meet our needs as well. Do you approach Jesus with expectant faith? If not, what's holding you back?

## Tuesday, February 10 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Scholastica, Virgin

**Holy Gospel: Mark 7:1-13** When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. (For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.) So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, “Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?” He



responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: *This people honors me with their lips, / but their hearts are far from me; / In vain do they worship me, / teaching as doctrines human precepts.* You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." He went on to say, "How well you have set aside the commandment of God in order to uphold your tradition! For Moses said, *Honor your father and your mother, and Whoever curses father or mother shall die.* Yet you say, 'If someone says to father or mother, "Any support you might have had from me is *qorban*"' (meaning, dedicated to God), you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother. You nullify the word of God in favor of your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many such things."

**Meditation:** The Jewish people went to great pains to ensure that their worship would conform to the instructions which God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai. God's call to his people was a call to holiness: "be holy, for I am holy" (ref. Leviticus 11:44; 19:2). In their zeal for holiness many elders developed elaborate traditions which became a burden for the people to carry out in their everyday lives. The Scribes and Pharisees were upset with Jesus because he allowed his disciples to break with their ritual traditions by eating with unclean hands. They sent a delegation from Jerusalem to Galilee to bring their accusation in a face-to-face confrontation with Jesus. Jesus dealt with their accusation by going to the heart of the matter – by looking at God's intention and purpose for the commandments.

**Prayer:** As we celebrate anew the Memorial of the Virgin Saint Scholastica, we pray, O Lord, that, following her example, we may serve you with pure love and happily receive what comes from loving 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.

**Contemplation:** Jesus accused them specifically of two things. The first was hypocrisy. Like actors, who put on make-up and costumes to put on a show, they "appear" to obey God's word in their external practices while in reality they inwardly harbor evil desires and intentions – appearances can be deceiving. Secondly, he accused them of abandoning God's word by substituting their own arguments and ingenious interpretations for what God requires. They listened to clever arguments rather than to God's word. Jesus refers them to the prophecy of Isaiah (29:31) where the prophet accuses the people of his day for honoring God with their lips while their hearts went astray because of disobedience to God's laws. If we listen to God's word with faith and reverence, it will both enlighten our mind and purify the hearts – thus enabling us to better understand how he wants us to love and obey him. The Lord invites each of us to draw close to him and to feast at his banquet table. As you are invited, do you approach with a clean heart and a clean mind – one free from sin? If it's been a while, perhaps you might get into the confessional and receive absolution from a priest for your sins. The Season of Lent is fast approaching, but why wait – there's no time like the present to seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **Wednesday, February 11 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time Our Lady of Lourdes + 34th World Day of the Sick**

**Place your prayer petitions at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes + Lourdes, France  
Go to: <https://www.lourdes-france.org/en/intention-priere/>**

**Message of Pope Leo XIV for the 34<sup>th</sup> World Day of the Sick  
Go to: [https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html)**

**[xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/sick/documents/20260113-messaggio-giornata-malato.html)**

**Holy Gospel: John 2:1-11** On the third day there was a marriage at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there; Jesus also was invited to the marriage, with His disciples. When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you." Now six stone jars were standing there, for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the steward of the feast." So they took it. When the steward of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first; and when men have drunk freely, then the poor wine; but you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of His signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

**Meditation:** This particular miracle signifies the new rich wine of the Gospel and it points to the "wine of the new covenant" and the "bread of life" which Jesus provides for his disciples in the Lord's Supper or Eucharist. It also points to the Messianic banquet which Jesus will provide at the end of time. The miracles

of Jesus demonstrate the power of God's love and mercy for his people. God's kindness knows no limits. And the ultimate expression of his love is revealed in the person of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. He became flesh for our sake, and he died for our redemption, and he rose for our glorification.

**Prayer:** Grant us, O merciful God, protection in our weakness, that we, who keep the Memorial of the Immaculate Mother of God, may with the help of her intercession, rise up from our iniquities. 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 Our Lady of Lourdes:** O ever-Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; look with mercy on me. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

**Contemplation:** God reveals his glory in the unlikeliest of places — in a stable at Bethlehem, at a wedding feast in Cana, in a muddy Jordan river, and on a bloody cross on Golgotha. Jesus' first public miracle (his first sign) was performed at the insistence of his mother. Jesus blessed a young couple and brought joy to their wedding party. First by his presence, and second by saving them from embarrassment when the wine ran out. Changing water into wine was a remarkable act of kindness; but giving the best to last was unnecessary and unheard of. In the Old Testament wine was often seen as a gift and symbol of God's blessing (ref. Deuteronomy 7:13; Proverbs 3:10, Psalm 105). That Jesus would miraculously produce 120 gallons of the best wine (many times more than needed) shows the superabundance of the blessings which he came to offer. These blessings also pour forth through the Blessed Virgin Mary. Today marks the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1858 to fourteen-year-old Marie Bernadette (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times, and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes. On March 25 she said to the little shepherdess who was only fourteen years of age: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Since then Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and many cures, healings and conversions have taken place. The message of Lourdes is simple – one of personal conversion, prayer, and charity. With Lent on the horizon – less than one week away – how might you engage in personal conversion, prayer and charity, or seek healing?

**About Our Lady of Lourdes:** The many miracles which have been performed through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes prompted the Church to institute a special commemorative feast, the "Apparition of the Immaculate Virgin Mary." The Office gives the historical background. Four years after the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854), the Blessed Virgin appeared a number of times to a very poor and holy girl named Bernadette. The actual spot was in a grotto on the bank of the Gave River near Lourdes. The Immaculate Conception had a youthful appearance and was clothed in a pure white gown and mantle, with an azure blue girdle. A golden rose adorned each of her bare feet. On her first apparition, February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin bade the girl make the sign of the Cross piously and say the rosary with her. Bernadette saw her take the rosary that was hanging from her arms into her hands. This was repeated in subsequent apparitions. With childlike simplicity Bernadette once sprinkled holy water on the vision, fearing that it was a deception of the evil spirit; but the Blessed Virgin smiled pleasantly, and her face became even more lovely. The third time Mary appeared she invited the girl to come to the grotto daily for two weeks. Now she frequently spoke to Bernadette. On one occasion she ordered her to tell the ecclesiastical authorities to build a church on the spot and to organize processions. Bernadette also was told to drink and wash at the spring still hidden under the sand. Finally on the feast of the Annunciation, the beautiful Lady announced her name, "I am the Immaculate Conception." The report of cures occurring at the grotto spread quickly and the more it spread, the greater the number of Christians who visited the hallowed place. The publicity given these miraculous events on the one hand and the seeming sincerity and innocence of the girl on the other made it necessary for the bishop of Tarbes to institute a judicial inquiry. Four years later he declared the apparitions to be supernatural and permitted the public veneration of the Immaculate Conception in the grotto. Soon a chapel was erected, and since that time countless pilgrims come every year to Lourdes to fulfill promises or to beg graces.

**Watch the movie: "Song of Bernadette" + <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMeVzk2ALU8>**



## Thursday, February 12 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

**Holy Gospel: Mark 7:24-30** Jesus went to the district of Tyre. He entered a house and wanted no one to know about it, but he could not escape notice. Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by birth, and she begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first. For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She replied and said to him, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps." Then he said to her, "For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter." When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

**Meditation:** This passage describes the only occasion in which Jesus ministered outside of Jewish territory. (Tyre and Sidon were fifty miles north of Israel and still exist today in modern Lebanon.) A Gentile woman – an outsider who was not a member of the chosen people – puts Jesus on the spot by pleading with him to show mercy to her daughter who was tormented with an evil spirit. At first Jesus seemed to pay no attention to her, and this made his disciples feel embarrassed. Jesus very likely did this not to put the woman off, but rather to test her sincerity and to awaken faith in her.

**Prayer:** Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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:** Jesus praises a Gentile woman for her persistent faith and for her affectionate love. She made the misery of her child her own and she was willing to suffer rebuff in order to obtain healing for her loved one. She also had indomitable persistence. Her faith grew in contact with the person of Jesus. She began with a request and she ended on her knees in worshipful prayer to the living God. No one who ever sought Jesus with faith – whether Jew or Gentile – was refused his help. Do you seek Jesus with expectant faith?

## Friday, February 13 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

**Holy Gospel: Mark 7:31-37** Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (that is, "Be opened!") and immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

**Meditation:** No problem or burden was ever too much for Jesus' careful consideration. The Lord treats each of us with kindness and compassion and he calls us to treat one another in like kind. The Holy Spirit who dwells within us enables us to love as Jesus loves. Pope Saint Gregory the Great commented on this miracle: "The Spirit is called the finger of God. When the Lord puts his fingers into the ears of the deaf mute, he was opening the soul of man to faith through the gifts of the Holy Spirit."

**Prayer:** Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. 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:** Jesus never turned anyone aside who approached him with sincerity and trust. He demonstrated both the beauty and goodness of God in his actions. When Jesus approaches a man who is both deaf and who stutters, Jesus shows his compassion by taking him aside privately. Jesus then puts his fingers into the deaf man's ears and he touches the man's tongue with his own spittle to physically identify with this man's infirmity and to awaken faith in him. With a word of command the poor man's ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. How do you expect the Lord to treat you, when you ask for his help? Do you approach him cynically and with doubt, or with awe, wonder, faith and confidence? Perhaps some relationship building would be useful during Lent? Something to think about and act upon – **Lent begins in five days, folks, with Ash Wednesday!**

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