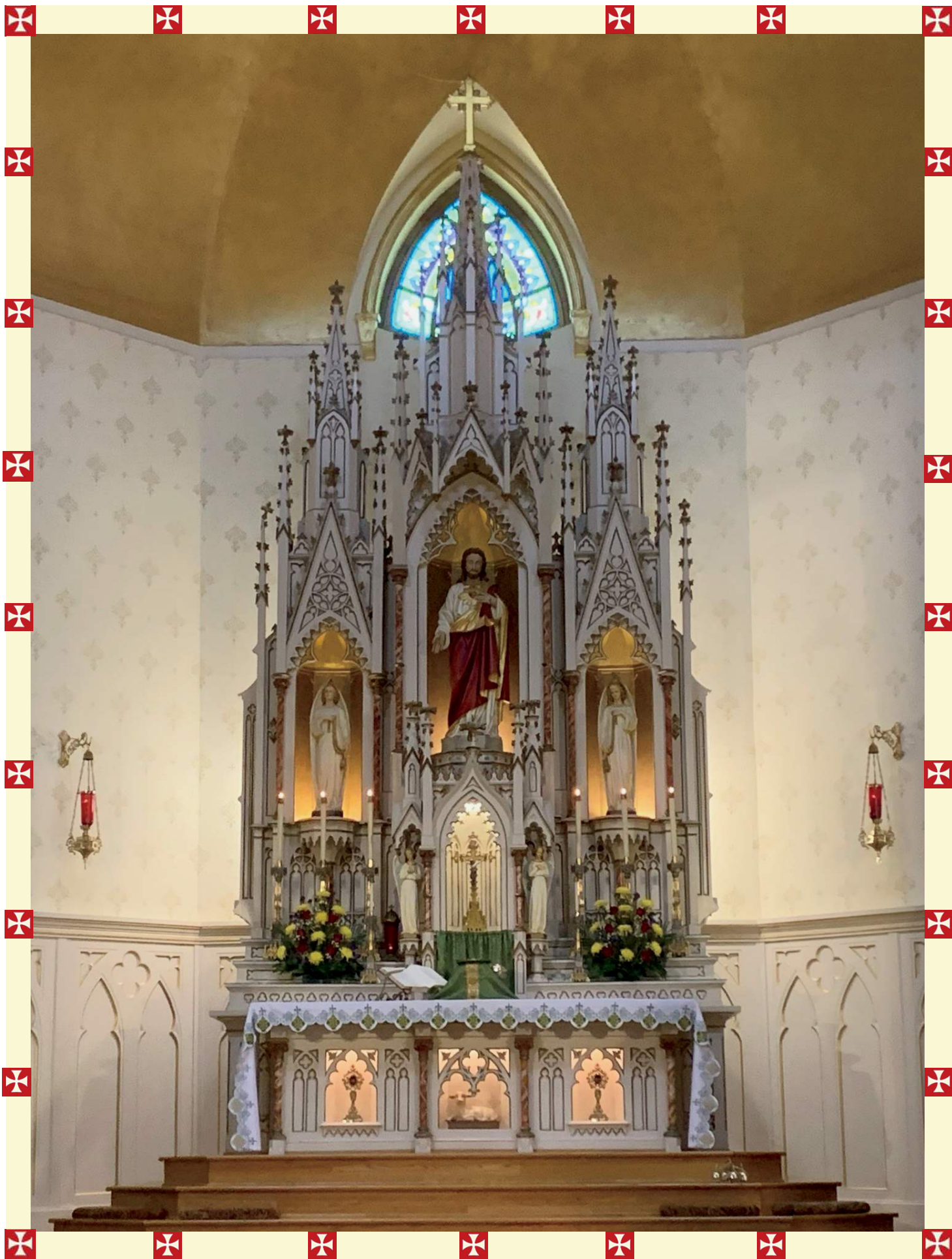




FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 12, 2026



WELCOME TO HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

Served by the Mercedarian Friars USA (www.orderofmercy.org)



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

Open Monday—Thursday: 8:00 a.m.—12 noon
1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.

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

Business Manager Brian Krull

Secretary..... Mary Gamble

Maintenance..... Tim Kearns

Music Director / Organist..... Shawn Kenney

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

Religious Education..... Sr. Bozena Tyborowska LSC

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—*Shawn Kenney, Grand Knight*

Liturgical Ministry—*Linda Hamilton, Coordinator*

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

Respect Life—*Jake & Kennedy Oliger, Coordinators*

SOUP KITCHEN—(backyard of Parish Center building)

Donations...Monday—Friday

8:00 a.m. —12 noon preferred, back of building drop off

12 noon—3:00 p.m. optional, please call in advance

Main No..... 614-221-4323, Option 3

Web..... www.hfsk.org

Email..... Dennis Shope, Director
soupkitchen@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

9:00 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. Mass there is **Act of Consecration of the
Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 12, 2026

MASS INTENTIONS July 12—July 19, 2026

Sun July 12 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 AM * Tim Davis, by ARD
 11:00 AM Deceased Members of Holy Family Alumni
 5:00 PM People of the Parish
 8:00 PM Repose of the Soul of James P. and Olivia A. Gallicchio, by Their Family

Mon July 13 Saint Henry

7:00 AM **CSB**—Susan Morris and Living Family Members, by Eric & Christy Conklin
 12:15 PM Repose of the Soul of Lorraine Wanner by Bob & Natalie Wanner

Tues July 14 Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

7:00 AM **CSB**—Repose of the Soul of Fred Zupp, Jr. by Kathy McKinniss
 12:15 PM Jim and Juanita Lisska by Bill & Theresa Warren

Wed July 15 Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor

12:15 PM Repose of the Soul of Allison Humphreys by The Swigert Family
 4:00 PM **CSB**—The Taylor Family by Sean & Jody White

Thurs July 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel

7:00 AM **CSB**—Holy Souls in Purgatory by The Randolph Family
 12:15 PM Emma Beasley, by Mary Beasley

Fri July 17

7:00 AM **CSB**—Repose of the Soul of Mary Karabinos by Kristi Ziegler
 12:15 PM Carrie Nolan, by Avery Hays

Sat July 18 Saint Camilus de Lellis, Priest

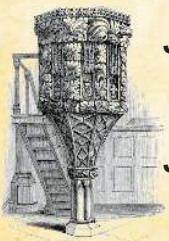
9:00 AM Family Unity, by Mary Zacks

Sun July 19 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 AM * Dennis Fout, by The Fout Family
 11:00 AM Repose of the Soul of Mary Karabinos by Christian Mothers
 5:00 PM Dawn Marable, by Dina Giddens
 8:00 PM People of the Parish

* Incense will be used at this Mass

LECTOR SCHEDULE



July 12	9:00 am	Brandan Litman
	11:00 am	Brett Ballantyne
	5:00 pm	Thomas Martello
July 19	9:00 am	Susan Lau
	11:00 am	Kendy Troiano
	5:00 pm	Dan Hueckel

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY



IN GOD WE TRUST



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 "Mick" 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



250 Years



Congratulations to the families of Roman Dean Struppa & Archangel Valo Onhvandy who were welcomed into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism.

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

June 29—July 5, 2026

Offertory

Collection	\$ 4,539
On-Line	14,143
Mail	+ 935
Total	\$ 19,617
Less: Assessment (10%)	- 1,962
Net	\$ 17,655

Soup Kitchen

Total Capital Campaign Donations \$714,216

The Appeal Pledges

The Appeal Goal

The Appeal Pledges	\$ 13,088
The Appeal Goal	\$ 75,987

God Reward your Generosity

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

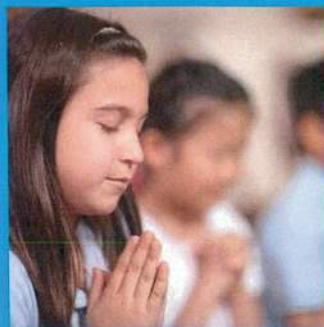
July 12, 2026

REGISTRATION
CCD
IS OPEN NOW!



Please complete the Registration Form from our website and return it (along with the appropriate Registration Fee) as soon as possible, but no later than July 30, 2025. You can mail it. You can put it in any collection basket at Mass. You can drop it off at the Parish Office during regular business hours.

For more information or to register contact Sr. Bozena at sr.bozena73@gmail.com or 856-874-6096



The General Structure of our Program:

- Pre-K and Kindergarten: Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Grade 1: Spirit and Truth
- Grade 2: Spirit and Truth, including preparation for **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion**
- Grade 3: Spirit and Truth
- Grade 4: Spirit and Truth, including **Confirmation preparation**
- Grade 5: Spirit and Truth – The Creed
- Grade 6: Ruah Woods' Revealed Level I, with additional catechesis on the Sacraments
- Grades 7 and 8: Ruah Woods' Revealed Levels II and III on a two-year rotation, with an emphasis on Morality and Prayer.

For more information about the Theology of the Body curriculum offered through Ruah Woods, please visit www.ruahwoodsinsitute.org.

Starts: Sept. 14 @
9:30am

ONLY \$80

Includes CCD
Textbooks

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 12, 2026



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.

Our **monthly Corporate Mass** for the Unborn Children and All Priests and Religious will be on **Sunday August 2, 2026** at the 11am Mass.

Our **monthly Council meeting** will be after the 11am Mass on **Sunday August 2, 2026** at the Parish Center.

Our next **Pancake Breakfast** is scheduled for **Sunday August 30, 2026** after the 11am Mass

If you are interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus, please contact **Jose Rivera** at (614) 256-1425 or fourtonmantis@icloud.com.



HOLY FAMILY RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

The Respect Life Ministry is excited to announce that our **Parish Picnic** will be held on **Sunday, September 20th after the 11am Mass** in the church parking lot. Please see the flyer on bulletin boards for details and to purchase raffle tickets! The raffle prize will be a statue hand selected by our very own Fr. Michael.

- Sign up to pray intentionally for the unborn and those facing abortion **by taking home our traveling St. Raymond statue for 9 days**. A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule near the Holy Family statue.
- Our next meeting is **Monday, August 3rd from 7—8pm** in the Parish Center. Please join us!
- Please drop off any baby donations for our pro-life pregnancy centers in the undercroft **in the St. George room** or in the **donation box outside in the parking lot**. *Thank you for your continued support!*

Email holyfamilyrlm@gmail.com with questions.

HIS INCREDIBLE SENIORS EXERCISE PROGRAM

Our upcoming class is scheduled **1:30—2:30pm Tuesday, July 14 and Wednesday, July 15 in the Parish Center**. Join us to meet all the members and see what we do!

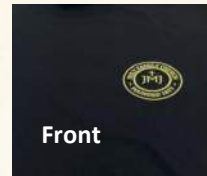


CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS & LADIES GUILD

Serving the Women of Holy Family since 1887

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus Christ, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the blessed souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family.

Holy Family T-shirts can now be ordered at our cost of **\$20.00**. Contact holyfamilyccm@gmail.com for an order form or use the QR code below.



Front



Back



There will be no meeting in July.

Our July Christian Mothers Mass followed by the St. Gerard Blessing will be **July 19th** at 11:00 AM.

Columbus Diocese Christian Mothers Retreat will be held **September 19** at Holy Family. Both Father Donovan and Father Stash will be speakers.

Pasta Dinner will be held **October 17**. Please consider volunteering for this event. If interested you can contact us at holyfamilyccm@gmail.com.

We are always welcoming new members, please send us contact information to holyfamilyccm@gmail.com. Or, join us at a meeting! Our next meeting will be **August 15th** following the 9:00am Mass in the Undercroft.

We still have Mother Love books available for sale at cost. They are wonderful prayer books.

Holy Family Confraternity of Christian Mothers Officers

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



Saint Henry— Feast day July 13 (972—1024)

Patron: of the childless, of Dukes, of the handicapped and those rejected by Religious Order.

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 12, 2026

Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church
9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson, Ohio

Women's Group Annual Rummage Sale
Friday, July 31 and Saturday, August 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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.

PILGRIMAGE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FULTON J. SHEEN

Join Father Jonathan Wilson for a pilgrimage to St. Louis from **September 22—25** for the Beatification of Fulton J. Sheen. This four-day journey includes daily Mass, visits to sacred sites, and participation in the historic Beatification Mass at The Dome at America's Center. **Spots are limited.**

"America, it is said, is suffering from intolerance—it is not. It is suffering from tolerance. Tolerance of right and wrong, truth and error, virtue and evil, Christ and chaos. Our country is not early so overrun with the bigoted as it is overrun with the broadminded."
- Fulton J. Sheen



A 4-Day Pilgrimage to St. Louis, Missouri

THE BEATIFICATION OF FULTON J. SHEEN

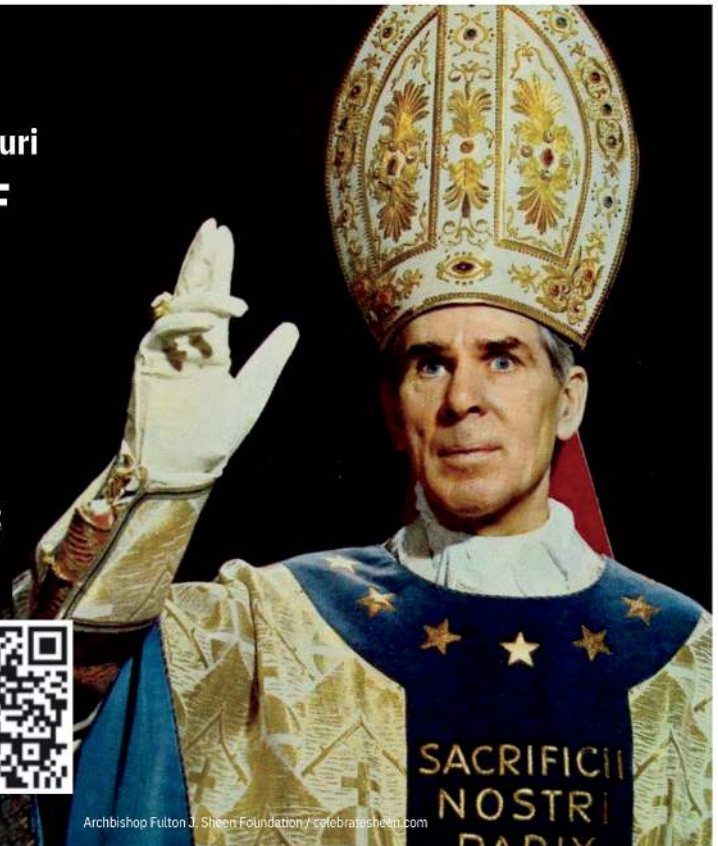
Led by Fr. Jonathan Wilson

September 22-25, 2026

ST. CHARLES
Catholic Pilgrimages

Register at:

stcharlespilgrimages.com/sheen



Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation / celebratesheen.com

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 12, 2026



Saint Kateri Tekakwitha's Story

The blood of martyrs is the seed of saints. Nine years after the Jesuits Isaac Jogues and Jean de Lelande were tomahawked by Iroquois warriors, a baby girl was born near the place of their martyrdom, Auriesville, New York.

Kateri Tekakwitha's mother was a Christian Algonquin, taken captive by the Iroquois and given as wife to the chief of the Mohawk clan, the boldest and fiercest of the Five Nations. When she was four, Tekakwitha lost her parents and little brother in a smallpox epidemic that left her disfigured and half blind. She was adopted by an uncle, who succeeded her father as chief. He hated the coming of the

Blackrobes—Jesuit missionaries—but could do nothing to them because a peace treaty with the French required their presence in villages with Christian captives. She was moved by the words of three Blackrobes who lodged with her uncle, but fear of him kept her from seeking instruction.

Tekakwitha refused to marry a Mohawk brave, and at 19 finally got the courage to take the step of converting. She was baptized with the name Kateri—Catherine—on Easter Sunday. Now she would be treated as a slave. Because she would not work on Sunday, Kateri received no food that day. Her life in grace grew rapidly. She told a missionary that she often meditated on the great dignity of being baptized. She was powerfully moved by God's love for human beings and saw the dignity of each of her people.

She was always in danger, for her conversion and holy life created great opposition. On the advice of a priest, Kateri Tekakwitha stole away one night and began a 200-mile walking journey to a Christian Indian village at Sault St. Louis, near Montreal.

For three years she grew in holiness under the direction of a priest and an older Iroquois woman, giving herself totally to God in long hours of prayer, in charity, and in strenuous penance. At 23, Kateri took a vow of virginity, an unprecedented act for an Indian woman whose future depended on being married. She found a place in the woods where she could pray an hour a day—and was accused of meeting a man there!

Her dedication to virginity was instinctive: Kateri Tekakwitha did not know about religious life for women until she visited Montreal. Inspired by this, she and two friends wanted to start a community, but the local priest dissuaded her. She humbly accepted an "ordinary" life. She practiced extremely severe fasting as penance for the conversion of her nation. Kateri Tekakwitha died the afternoon before Holy Thursday.

Witnesses said that her emaciated face changed color and became like that of a healthy child. The lines of suffering, even the pockmarks, disappeared and the touch of a smile came upon her lips. She was beatified in 1980 and canonized in 2012.

Reflection

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 Christian 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. This young "Lily of the Mohawks" drew countless converts to Christ by the fragrance of her goodness. Through us, does "the aroma of Christ" (2 Corinthians 2:15), attract others to the beauty of His Gospel?

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha is the Patron Saint of:

Indigenous Americans

- *Franciscan Media, Saint of the Day*

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 Most Precious Blood of Jesus

"Hear my prayer, O Lady: upon a firm rock establish my mind. Be thou to me a tower of strength: protect me from the face of the cruel destroyer. Be thou to him terrible as an army in battle array: and may he fall living into the depths of hell. For thou art shining and terrible: a cloud full of dew, and the rising dawn. Thou art beautiful and bright as the full moon: thy sacred aspect is as when the sun shines in its strength."

+FROM THE PSALTER OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY BY SAINT BONAVENTURE

Monday, July 13 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Optional Memorial: Saint Henry

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.

Prayer + Saint Henry: O God, whose abundant grace prepared Saint Henry to be raised by you in a wonderful way from the cares of earthly rule to heavenly realms, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that amid the uncertainties of this world we may hasten towards you with minds made pure. 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.

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.



Tuesday, July 14 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Memorial: Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin ~ the "Lily of the Mohawks"

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: O God, who desired the Virgin Saint 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.

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: 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 15 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Memorial: Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:25-27 At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

Meditation: In today's gospel Jesus thanks the Father in heaven for revealing to his disciples the wisdom and knowledge of God. His prayer also contains a warning that pride can keep us from the love and knowledge of God. What makes us ignorant and blind to the things of God? Certainly intellectual pride, coldness of heart, and stubbornness of will shut out God and his kingdom. Pride is the root of all vice and the strongest influence propelling us to sin. It first vanquishes the heart, making it cold and indifferent towards God. It also closes the mind to God's truth and wisdom for our lives. What is pride? It is the inordinate love of oneself at the expense of others and the exaggerated estimation of one's own learning and importance. Jesus contrasts intellectual pride with child-like simplicity and humility. The simple of heart are "childlike" (not childish) in the sense that they see purely without pretense and acknowledge their dependence and trust in the one who is greater, wiser, and more trustworthy. They seek one thing – the "summum bonum" or "greatest good" who is God himself. Simplicity of heart is wedded with humility, the queen of virtues, because humility inclines the heart towards grace and truth. Just as pride is the root of every sin and evil, so humility is the only soil in which the grace of God can take root. It alone takes the right attitude before God and allows him as God to do all. God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (ref. Book of Proverbs 3:34, James 4:6).

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: Jesus makes a claim which no one would have dared to make – he is the perfect revelation of God. One of the greatest truths of the Christian faith is that we can know the living God. Our knowledge of God is not simply limited to knowing something about God, but we can know God personally. The essence of Christianity, and what makes it distinct from Judaism and other religions, is the knowledge of God as our Father. Jesus makes it possible for each of us to personally know God as our Father. To see Jesus is to see what God is like. In Jesus we see the perfect love of God – a God who cares intensely and who yearns over men and women, loving them to the point of laying down his life for them upon the Cross. Jesus is the revelation of God – a God who loves us completely and unconditionally.

Thursday, July 16 ~ Fifteenth Week in the Season of Ordinary Time
Optional Memorial: Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Optional 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>

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

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 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."

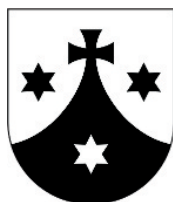
Meditation: What does the commandment "keep holy the Sabbath" mean for us? Or better yet, what is the primary intention behind this command? The religious leaders confronted Jesus on this issue. The "Sabbath rest" was meant to be a time to remember and celebrate God's goodness and the goodness of his 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 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, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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."

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