



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - October 11, 2026

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday—Friday 12:15 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
5:00 & 8:00 p.m.

Convent of St. Birgitta

Mon. Tues. Thurs. Friday 7:00 a.m.
Wednesday 4:00 p.m.

614-221-4323 | Fax 614-221-9818
office@holyfamilycolumbus.org
www.holyfamilycolumbus.org

Pastor

Fr. Michael J. Donovan, O. de M.
frdmichael@holyfamilycolumbus.org

Master of Postulants

Fr. Daniel Bowen, O. de M.
frdanielbowen@gmail.com

Seminarians

Br. Kevin Cush, O. de M.
Cody Evaristo
Matthew T. Stalford

CONFESSIONS

Monday—Friday: 11:30 a.m.
Saturday; 8:30 a.m. (8:15 a.m. First Saturday)
Sunday: 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 4:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.

ADORATION

1:00 p.m. Thursday—12 Noon Friday
First Friday 8:00 p.m.—8:45 a.m. First Saturday

DEVOTIONS

The Holy Rosary 11:30 a.m. Weekdays (Chaplet of Divine Mercy follows)
8:30 a.m. Saturday (8:15 First Saturday)
Sunday: 8:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 4:30 a.m.

St. Anthony of Padua Devotions each Tuesday following 12:15 p.m. Mass

Our Lady of Mercy Devotions each Saturday following 9:00 a.m. Mass

Good Saint Joseph 7:00 p.m. Mass is offered the First Wednesday of each month

Act of Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the
First Friday of each month following the 12:15 and 7:00 p.m. Mass

Sacrament of Baptism call the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism. Children over the age of 6 will require some special instruction.

Sacrament of Matrimony Please call Fr. Michael 614-221-4323 Option 1 at least seven months before the wedding. Diocesan Pre-Cana and Natural Family Planning classes are required and seven 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 Communion Those who desire Holy Communion at home should call the Parish Office.

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



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

Business ManagerBrian Krull

Secretary.....Mary Gamble

Maintenance.....Tim Kearns

Music Director / Organist.....Shawn Kenney

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

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

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Adoration: *Sarah Hill, Scheduling Coordinator*

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: *Ricky Obregon, Coordinator*

Hospitality: *Kathy McKinniss and 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 Olinger, Coordinators*

Please call the Parish Office for contact information.

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



Parish Happenings This Week

Sunday, October 11

Pasta Dinner Sale Before & After Masses

10:30 a.m. CCD (PC)

Monday, October 12

Parish Office Closed

No Bible Study Class this week

Tuesday, October 13

1:30 p.m. His Incredible Seniors (SJH)

No OCIA Class this week

Wednesday, October 14

1:30 p.m. His Incredible Seniors (SJH)

6:30 p.m. Mercedarian 3rd Order (ML)

Thursday, October 15

1:00 p.m. Adoration (C)

Friday, October 16

12M - 12N Adoration (C)

3:00 p.m. Pasta Dinner Set up (U)

Saturday, October 17

10:00 a.m. Christian Mothers Meeting (U)

Pasta Dinner set up following

6:00 p.m. Italian Pasta Dinner(U)

(C) - Church, (CSB) - Convent of St. Birgitta,

(ML) - Marian Library, (PC) - Parish Center,

(SJH) - St. Joseph Hall

Go to our website for complete calendar.

HOMEBOUND AND/OR ILL IN NEED OF PRAYER

Andre Bond

Melody Christ

Sarah Conway

JoAnn Cormack

Mary Jo Fetch

Jack Gookin

John Keller

Charles McKinniss

Debbie Newell

Theresa Piatt

Joe Pinto

Eleanor Rabideau

Maura Renouf

Josh Stroud

Genny Temple

Celeste Trautman

Jane Trumbull

Mary Ann Wirshing

MASS INTENTIONS

October 11 - October 18, 2026

Sun Oct 11 TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 9:00 AM Repose of the Soul of Phero Thua Lo
by Tim & Kim Nguyen
- 11:00 AM * Deceased Members of Holy Family Alumni
- 5:00 PM The Hill Family, by James & Shanna Hill
- 8:00 PM People of the Parish

Mon Oct 12

- 7:00 AM **CSB**-Father Kevin Lutz
by Bill & Theresa Warren
- 12:15 PM Jennifer Padgett, by Kathy McKinniss

Tues Oct 13

- 7:00 AM **CSB** - Repose of the Souls in Purgatory
by Tammy Linard
- 12:15 PM Repose of the Soul of Monica Ryan
by Jim Lisska

Wed Oct 14 Saint Callistus I, Pope and Martyr

- 12:15 PM John William Waidner, by The Swigert Family
- 4:00 PM **CSB**-Repose of the Soul of Thomas O'Reilly
by Sean & Jody White

Thurs Oct 15 Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor

- 7:00 AM **CSB**-Repose of the Soul of Bill Connolly
by Matthew McWhorter
- 12:15 PM Repose of the Souls of James P. and
Olivia A. Gallicchio, by Their Family

Fri Oct 16 Saint Hedwig, Religious

- Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin**
- 7:00 AM **CSB**-Holy Souls in Purgatory, by Anonymous
- 12:15 PM Nydia Stevens, by The Bond Family

Sat Oct 17 Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr

- 9:00 AM Hannah Grady, by Pam Grady

Sun Oct 18 TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 9:00 AM Repose of the Soul
of Monsignor Leonard Fries, by Tom Fries
- 11:00 AM * Jim and Juanita Lisska
by Bill & Theresa Warren
- 5:00 PM People of the Parish
- 8:00 PM Peace and Blessings for my Sister, Tam
by Abby Nguyen

* Incense will be used at this Mass

The Holy Family Parish Office will be Closed
Monday, October 12, 2026 to observe
Columbus Day. We will resume regular
schedule on October 13th.

LECTOR SCHEDULE

October 11	9:00 am	Brandan Litman
	11:00 am	Mary Gamble
	5:00 pm	Thomas Martello
October 18	9:00 am	Susan Lau
	11:00 am	Kendy Troiano
	5:00 pm	Brian Bishop

Join Us For
Holy Family Catholic Church

ITALIAN Pasta Dinner

PARISH FUNDRAISER

Carry Out Available

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026

6:00PM - 8:00PM

Holy Family Catholic Church - Undercroft

Purchase Tickets using QR Code By October 1st



Ticket Price Includes:
Pasta, Bread, Soup or
Salad and Dessert
50/50 Raffle, Silent Auction,
Surprises!

Contact: holyfamilyccm@gmail.com or
614-221-4323

Tickets:
\$20 Adults
Children 0-10 Free

We would like to continue posting
Wedding Anniversaries (10, 20, 25, etc.) in
the first issue of the bulletin each month.
Please share the date of your anniversary
before its month arrives. Contact the Parish
Office if you have any questions.

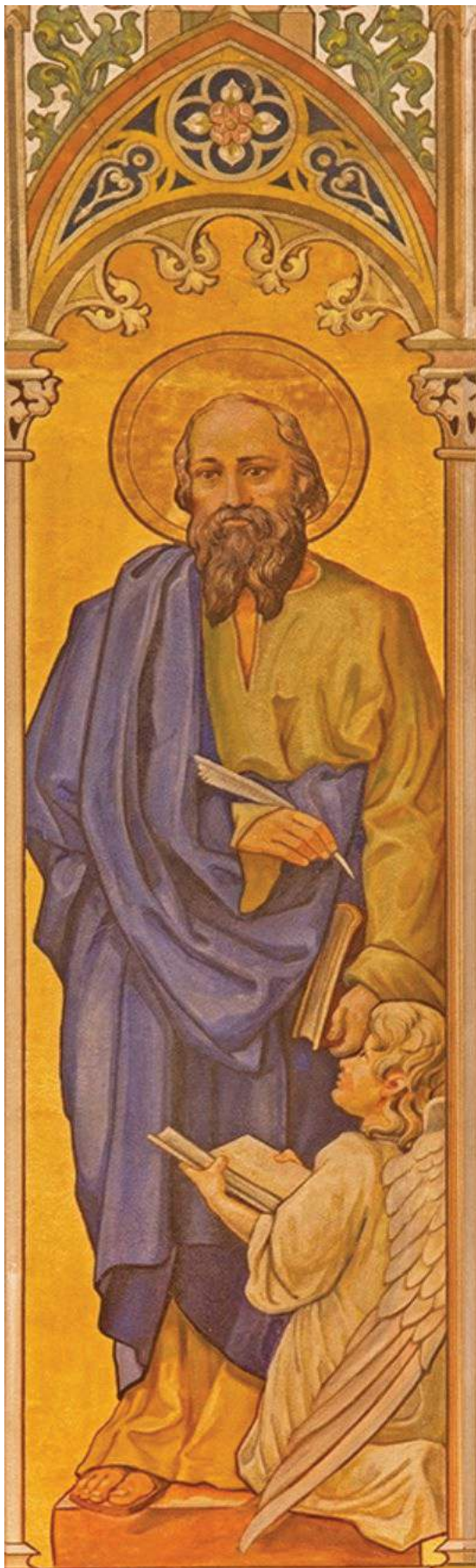
**A 7:00 p.m. Persecuted Christians Mass will be
offered Wednesday, October 21, 2026.**

Matthew 5:10-11: "Blessed are those who are
persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is
the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when
people insult you, persecute you and falsely say
all kinds of evil against you because of me."

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

September 28, 2026 - October 4, 2026

Offertory Collection	\$ 3,183
On-Line	\$12,490
Mail	+ 295
Total	\$15,968
Less: Assessment (10%)	- 1,597
Net	\$14,371
Soup Kitchen	\$11,619
Total Capital Campaign	\$727,522
The Appeal Pledges	\$20,355
The Appeal Goal	\$75,987
God Reward Your Generosity	



Join Fr. Michael for a
Prayerful Study of the

Gospel according to

Matthew



*Every Monday
starting September 14th*

➡ 1:30 pm @ Convent of
St. Birgitta

➡ 7:00 pm @ Holy Family
Parish Center

*No class scheduled October 12th.
Join us when class resumes on October 19th.*



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.

We will hold a special Council meeting on October 18, 2026 after the 11am Mass. This meeting is to discuss and vote on the merger of our Council, Holy Family Council 13428, with Santa Maria Council 2898. Please make an effort to attend.

If you are interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus at Holy Family Council 13428, please contact **Jack Gookin at (614) 309-2519**.



HOLY FAMILY RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

October is Respect Life Month! Please consider praying a pro-life novena with us from October 22nd to October 30th.

You can find the novena on the Hallow App or by visiting the USCCB website:

www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month-novena.

Other ways to celebrate Respect Life Month with us:

1. Attend Adoration on Thursday and pray a rosary for those facing abortion.
2. Light a candle in front of Our Lady of Guadalupe, asking for her intercession over the unborn.
3. Offer up a Mass Intention for the unborn.
4. Pray in front of Planned Parenthood on Main Street.
5. Consider volunteering at a local pro-life pregnancy center.

Baby Donation Drive: Please place any diapers, wipes, baby clothing, etc. in the St. George room in the undercroft. You can also place donations in the donation box in the parking lot. We want to continue supporting our pro-life pregnancy centers who are primarily run off of donations.

Our next meeting is **Monday November 2nd from 7 - 8pm** in the Parish Center.

Email **holyfamilyrlm@gmail.com** with any questions.

**respect life
month
novena**



OCTOBER 22-30
respectlife.org

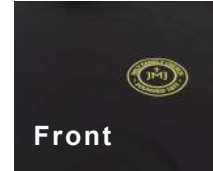


CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS & LADIES GUILD

Serving the Women of Holy Family since 1887

Heavenly Father, as October begins, we thank You for the gift of a new month. May your light shine on our paths and fill our days with peace and goodwill. Guide us with wisdom, protect us with Your Love, and surround our families with joy. Help us to face any challenges with courage and embrace new opportunities. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Holy Family Apparel can be ordered via this QR code:



Our annual Pasta Dinner to be held October 17th is quickly approaching. Reservations are coming in regularly. This dinner was sold out last year. You may reserve via this QR code.



This is a popular event so we are seeking volunteers for set up on Friday the 16th, servers at the dinner and clean-up volunteers after dinner. Please consider signing up.

There will be a meeting Saturday, October 17th in the undercroft after the 9:00 AM Mass followed by last minute set up for dinner.

Please consider an hour of adoration with Fr. Tuscan via EWTN Youtube.

[https://www.youtube.com/live/FVU"vP6gHipA?is+IX4fscjwkiFU5ip7](https://www.youtube.com/live/FVU).

Script is taken from the Mother Love book starting page 265. These books are still available at our cost of \$20. They are wonderful prayer books.

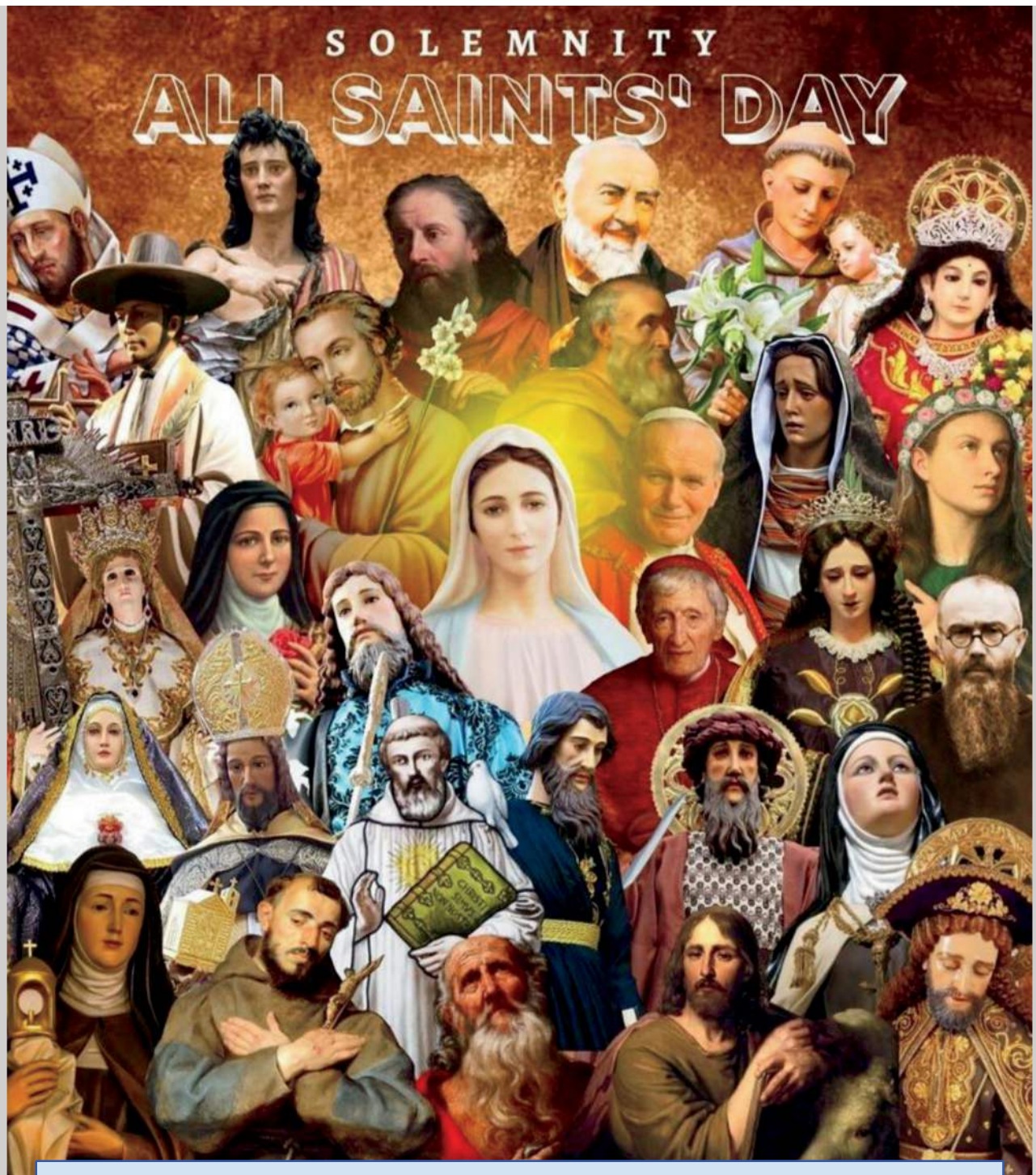
We are always praying for new members to continue the history of this wonderful Archconfraternity. Please contact us at **holyfamilyccm@gmail.com** or join us at a meeting on the third Saturday after the 9:00 AM Mass in the undercroft.

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

HIS INCREDIBLE SENIORS

Our upcoming His Incredible Seniors class is scheduled 1:30 - 2:30pm Tuesday October 13 and Wednesday October 14 in the Parish Center. Join us!



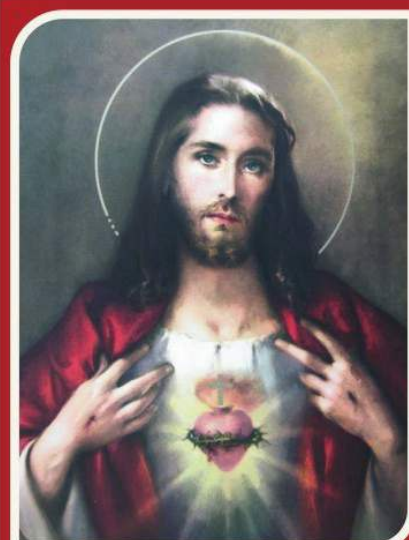
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Sunday November 1, 2026

9:00 a.m. *	Holy Mass offered by Most Rev. Bishop Fernandes
11:00 a.m. *	Holy Mass
5:00 p.m. **	Holy Mass
8:00 p.m. **	Holy Mass

* Hospitality | Art Show & Sale following each morning Mass.

** Young Adult Hospitality following 5:00 & 8:00 p.m. Mass.



15TH ANNUAL **SACRED HEART CONGRESS**

NOVEMBER 7, 2026 | 7:30am - Noon
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH



BISHOP
EARL K. FERNANDES



BISHOP
DONALD J. HYUNG



ANNIE MITCHELL, EWTN &
SONRISE MORNING SHOW HOST



FATHER
JONATHAN WILSON



NATIONAL DIRECTOR
EMILY JAMINET



REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED: \$20 Individuals | \$30 Families
REGISTER AT: www.WelcomeHisHeart.com

Join us for the 15th Annual Sacred Heart Congress as we gather to deepen our love for the Heart of Jesus and renew our homes, parishes, and nation through the power of His Sacred Heart. At this historic moment in the life of the Church - following the Consecration of the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus - we are reminded that every heart, every family, and every parish is invited to return to Christ and welcome His love more fully. Come experience a day filled with:

- Holy Mass
- Inspiring Catholic speakers
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Prayer and fellowship
- Practical ways to live the devotion to the Sacred Heart
- Encouragement for families, parishes, and individuals.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus continues to call souls to trust in His mercy, respond to His love, and build His Kingdom beginning in our homes. Questions, for international online registration or difficulty registering, please email: info@welcomeHisHeart.com.

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 October – a Marian Month – is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary.

“I am pleading with you to become apostles of the Rosary. Promote the Rosary. Urge the Rosary. Teach the Rosary. Shall I say, advertise the Rosary. It is through the Rosary that we can bring countless souls back to Christ from whom they have strayed. It is through the Rosary that we can make them lovers of Christ through the mediation of His Mother, the Mother of Miracles since the marriage feast at Cana even to the dawn of eternity.”

+FATHER JOHN HARDON, S.J., “THE ROSARY: THE INDISPENSABLE PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES”

Monday, October 12 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:29-32 While still more people gathered in the crowd, Jesus said to them, “This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. At the judgment the queen of the south will rise with the men of this generation and she will condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and there is something greater than Solomon here. At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here.”

Meditation: In the busyness of our lives, jumping from one thing to another, sometimes with the attention span of a gnat, multi-tasking all throughout the day, do you pay attention to warning signs? Much harm could be avoided if people took the warning signs seriously. When the religious leaders in today’s Gospel demanded a sign from Jesus, he gave them a warning to avert spiritual disaster. It was characteristic of the Jews that they demanded “signs” from God’s messengers to authenticate their claims. When the religious leaders pressed Jesus to give proof for his claims he says in so many words that he is God’s sign and that they need no further evidence from heaven than his own person.

Prayer: May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works. 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 Lord Jesus came to set us free from slavery to sin and hurtful desires. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit he pours his love into our hearts that we may understand his will for our lives and walk in his way of holiness. God searches our hearts, not to condemn us, but to show us where we need his saving grace and help. He calls us to seek him with true repentance, humility, and the honesty to see our sins for what they really are - a rejection of his love and will for our lives. God will transform us if we listen to his word and allow his Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Ask the Lord to renew your mind and to increase your thirst for his wisdom. James says that “the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity”(James 3:17). A double-minded person cannot receive this kind of wisdom. The single of heart desire one thing alone - God’s pleasure. God wants us to delight in him and to know the freedom of his truth and love.

Tuesday, October 13 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:37-41 After Jesus had spoken, a Pharisee invited him to dine at his home. He entered and reclined at table to eat. The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not observe the prescribed washing before the meal. The Lord said to him, “Oh you Pharisees! Although you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish, inside you are filled with plunder and evil. You fools! Did not the maker of the outside also make the inside? But as to what is within, give alms, and behold, everything will be clean for you.”

Meditation: after hearing Jesus preach, the Pharisee in today’s Gospel invited Jesus to dinner, no doubt, because he wanted to hear more from this extraordinary man who spoke the word of God as no one else



had done before. It was not unusual for a rabbi to give a teaching over dinner. Jesus, however, did something which offended his host. He did not perform the ceremonial washing of hands before beginning the meal. Did Jesus forget or was he deliberately performing a sign to reveal something to his host? Jesus turned the table on his host by chiding him for uncleanness of heart. Which begs the question (and a simple one at that!): which is more important to God - clean hands or a clean mind and heart?

Prayer: May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works. 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 chided the Pharisees for harboring evil thoughts – greed, pride, bitterness, envy, arrogance, and the like – which can be sinful in and of themselves, but can also lead us to commit sins. Why does he urge them – and us – to give alms? When we give freely and generously to those in need we express love, compassion, kindness, and mercy. And if the heart is full of love and compassion, then there is no room for envy, greed, bitterness, and the like. So you might ask yourself today: Do I allow God's love to transform my mind, my heart, and thus undertake actions toward my neighbor? If not, why not?

Wednesday, October 14 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Callistus, Pope and Martyr**

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:42-46 The Lord said: "Woe to you Pharisees! You pay tithes of mint and of rue and of every garden herb, but you pay no attention to judgment and to love for God. These you should have done, without overlooking the others. Woe to you Pharisees! You love the seat of honor in synagogues and greetings in marketplaces. Woe to you! You are like unseen graves over which people unknowingly walk."

Then one of the scholars of the law said to him in reply, "Teacher, by saying this you are insulting us too." And he said, "Woe also to you scholars of the law! You impose on people burdens hard to carry, but you yourselves do not lift one finger to touch them."

Meditation: Why did Jesus lament and issue such a stern rebuke? Jesus was angry with the religious leaders because they failed to listen to God's word and they misled the people they were supposed to guide in the ways of God. The scribes devoted their lives to the study of the Law of Moses and regarded themselves as legal experts in it. They divided the Ten Commandments and precepts into thousands of tiny rules and regulations. They were so exacting in their interpretations and in trying to live them out, that they had little time for anything else. By the time they finished compiling their interpretations it took no less than fifty volumes to contain them! In their misguided zeal, they required unnecessary and burdensome rules which obscured the more important matters of religion, such as love of God and love of neighbor. They were leading people to Pharisaism rather than to God. Jesus used the example of tithing to show how far they had missed the mark. God had commanded a tithe of the first fruits of one's labor as an expression of thanksgiving and honor for his providential care for his people (Deuteronomy 14:22; Leviticus 27:30). They were very attentive to minute matters of little importance, but they neglected to care for the needy and the weak. Jesus admonished them because their hearts were not right. They were filled with pride and contempt for others, neglecting to show charity, especially to the weak and the poor.

Prayer: O God, who raised up Pope Saint Callistus the First to serve the Church and attend devoutly to Christ's faithful departed, strengthen us, we pray, by his witness to the faith, so that, rescued from the slavery of corruption, we may merit an incorruptible 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: Always remember that the essence of God's commandments is love - love of the supreme good - God himself and love of our neighbor who is made in the image and likeness of God. God is love (1 John 4:8) and everything he does flows from his love for us. God's love is unconditional and is wholly directed towards the good of others. True love both embraces and lifts the burdens of others. Paul the Apostle reminds us that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given us" (Romans 5:5). Do you help your neighbors carry their burdens? God gives each of us sufficient grace for each day to love as he loves and to lift the burdens of others that they, too, may experience the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

Thursday, October 15 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church**

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:5-13 The Lord said: "Woe to you who build the memorials of the prophets whom your fathers killed. Consequently, you bear witness and give consent to the deeds of your ancestors, for they killed them and you do the building. Therefore, the wisdom of God said, 'I will send to

them prophets and Apostles; some of them they will kill and persecute' in order that this generation might be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who died between the altar and the temple building. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be charged with their blood! Woe to you, scholars of the law! You have taken away the key of knowledge. You yourselves did not enter and you stopped those trying to enter." When Jesus left, the scribes and Pharisees began to act with hostility toward him and to interrogate him about many things, for they were plotting to catch him at something he might say.

Meditation: How can God's wisdom free us from being double-minded and spiritually blind? God sent his prophets to open the ears of his people to hear and understand God's word and intention for their lives. God's wisdom is personified in the voice of the prophets, a voice that often brought rejection and death because they spoke for God rather than for human favor and approval. Jesus chastised many of the religious leaders of his day for being double-minded and for demanding from others standards which they refused to satisfy. They professed admiration for the prophets from the past by building their tombs while at the same time they opposed the message that the prophets spoke in God's name. They rejected the prophets' warnings and closed their ears to the word of God. Are you guilty of doing the same?

Prayer: O God, who through your Spirit raised up Saint Teresa of Jesus to show the Church the way to seek perfection, grant that we may always be nourished by the food of her heavenly teaching and fired with longing for true holiness. 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 religious lawyers and scribes held the "key of knowledge" since they were the official interpreters of the Scriptures. Unfortunately their interpretation of the Scriptures became so distorted and difficult to understand that others were "shut off" to the Scriptures. They not only shut themselves to heaven - they also hindered others from understanding God's word. Through pride and envy, they rejected not only the prophets of old, but God's final prophet and Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the "key of David" (see Isaiah 22:22; Revelations 3:7) who opens heaven for those who accept him as Lord and Savior. He is the "Wisdom of God" and source of everlasting life. Only the humble of heart - those who thirst for God and acknowledge his word as truth - can truly understand the wisdom which comes from above [see Psalm 119:99ff: "I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation."]. God is ever ready to speak his word to us and to give us true wisdom and understanding so that we make seek perfection as did Saint Teresa of Jesus. These well-known lines she composed are worth contemplating: "Let nothing disturb thee, nothing dismay thee. All is passing, God ever remains. Patience obtains all. Whoever possesses God cannot lack anything for God alone suffices."

Friday, October 16 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin; Saint Gerard Majella, Priest

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:1-7 At that time: So many people were crowding together that they were trampling one another underfoot. Jesus began to speak, first to his disciples, "Beware of the leaven—that is, the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. "There is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the darkness will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed on the housetops. I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body but after that can do no more. I shall show you whom to fear. Be afraid of the one who after killing has the power to cast into Gehenna; yes, I tell you, be afraid of that one. Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows."

Meditation: What does leaven have to do with hypocrisy? To the Jews leaven was a sign of evil. It was a piece of dough from left-over bread which fermented. Fermentation was associated with decay and rotting - the state of foul-smelling decomposition. Why did Jesus warn his disciples to avoid the ways of the Pharisees? The Pharisees wanted everyone to recognize that they were pious and good Jews because they meticulously and scrupulously performed their religious duties. Jesus turned the table on them by declaring that outward appearance doesn't always match the inward intentions of the heart. Anyone can display outward signs of goodness while inwardly harboring evil thoughts and intentions. The word "hypocrite" means "actor" - someone who pretends to be what he or she is not. But who can truly be good, but God alone? Hypocrisy thrives on making a good appearance and masking what they don't want others to see. The good news is that God's light exposes the darkness of evil and sin in our hearts, even the sin which is unknown to us. And God's light transforms our hearts and minds and enables us to overcome hatred with love, pride with humility, and pretense with integrity and truthfulness. God gives

grace to the humble and contrite of heart to enable us to overcome the leaven of insincerity and hypocrisy in our lives.

Prayer ~ Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque: Pour out on us, we pray, O Lord, the spirit with which you so remarkably endowed Saint Margaret Mary, so that we may come to know that love of Christ which surpasses all understanding and be utterly filled with your fullness. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Gerard Majella for an Expectant Mother: Great Saint Gerard, beloved servant of Jesus Christ, perfect imitator of Jesus, and devoted child of the Mother of God, enkindle within my heart one spark of that Heavenly fire of charity which glowed in yours. Because you bore, without murmur or complaint, the calumnies of wicked men when falsely accused of crime, you have been raised up by God as the patron and protector of expectant mothers. Preserve me/her in the dangers of motherhood, and shield the child I/she now bear(s), that it may be brought safely to the light of day, and receive the sacrament of baptism. Amen.

Contemplation: What is godly fear? It is reverence for the One who made us in love and who sustains us in mercy, compassion, love and kindness. The greatest injury or loss which we can experience is not physical but spiritual - the loss of one's soul and life to the power of hell. A healthy fear of God leads to spiritual maturity, wisdom, and right judgment and it frees us from the tyranny of sinful pride, deceit, and cowardice - especially in the face of evil, falsehood, and deception. Do you trust in God's grace and mercy and do you submit to his life-giving word of truth and righteousness? Why settle for anything less?

About Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque: A self-effacing nun in the Visitation Convent at Paray-le-Monial, France, was inspired by the Lord Jesus to establish the devotion of the Holy Hour; her name was St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Our Lord appeared to her often, usually as the Crucified Christ. Her simplicity caused her to feel that these apparitions were also granted to others who had recourse to Jesus in the sacrament of His love. When twenty-four years of age, Margaret entered the cloister. Our Lord entrusted to her the mission of establishing the reign of the Sacred Heart among the children of men. Criticism did not hamper her zeal, and her charity toward her opponents won them over to the cause of the Master. In the first revelation of the Sacred Heart to the nun, Our Lord made known His burning desire to be loved by all men, and His design of manifesting to them His Sacred Heart with its treasures of mercy. Margaret Mary communicated Our Lord's wish that the faithful receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month and observe the Feast of the Sacred Heart on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi. After nineteen years in the convent, St. Margaret Mary died October 17, 1690. Many pilgrims to her tomb have sought and obtained favors. Through her apostolate of devotion to the Sacred Heart many sinners have repented and found grace with God.

About Saint Gerard Majella: St. Gerard was born in southern Italy on April 6, 1726. His father died while Gerard was still young, forcing him to be apprenticed to a tailor. His frail health, quiet disposition, and gentle ways led him to being bullied by fellow workers and by his employers. He was refused admission to the Capuchin Order on account of his youth, so he lived for a time as a hermit. His great love for Jesus crucified caused him to lead a very ascetical lifestyle. Getting to know the Redemptorists, he applied to them but was initially rejected because of his poor health. On his insisting, however, he was reluctantly accepted and sent to the novitiate with a note saying: "I am sending you a useless lay brother." Gerard was professed in July 1752, and quickly disproved the prediction of his uselessness by his excellent service as porter, tailor, and sacristan. His prayerfulness and dedication began to be too great to overlook and so he gained a reputation for sanctity. This brought a large number of persons to him for guidance in the spiritual life. He readily responded, revealing a remarkable gift for sensing the deep interior reality of a person. Because of this genius, of his ability to bring relief to the sick, and of his care for women in childbirth, many miracles were attributed to him and he gained the nickname "The Wonderworker." His popularity eventually led to accusations of sexual misconduct, which he bore patiently until they were proven false. He died on October 16, 1755, worn out by his austerities and by tuberculosis. Very many Catholics throughout the world honor him as the special patron of new mothers and of families, and his reputation as "The Wonderworker" continues to our day.

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