



TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - October 18, 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@holycolumbus.org
www.holycolumbus.org

Pastor

Fr. Michael J. Donovan, O. de M.
frdmichael@holycolumbus.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 18

10:30 a.m. CCD (PC)

*Following 11:00 a.m. Mass: Baptism &
Ss. Gerard & Raymond Nonnatus Blessing*

Monday, October 19

1:30 p.m. Bible Study - Matthew (CSB)

7:00 p.m. Bible Study - Matthew (PC)

Tuesday, October 20

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

7:00 p.m. OCIA (ML)

Wednesday, October 21

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

7:00 p.m. Persecuted Christians Mass

Thursday, October 22

1:00 p.m. - Adoration (C)

Friday, October 23

12M - 12N Adoration (C)

5:00 p.m. - Rehearsal (C)

Saturday, October 24

4:00 p.m. - Wedding

(C) - Church, (CSB) - Convent of St. Birgitta,
(ML) - Marian Library, (PC) - Parish Center,
(SJH) - St. Joseph Hall

Go to our website for complete calendar.

Please remember in your prayers
Thomas Joseph Newman who was laid
to rest this past week.



May God grant him the peace of
Heaven and consolation to his family.



To have Charity is to love God above all things for
Himself and be ready to renounce all created
things rather than offend Him by serious sin.
(Matt.22:36-40)

MASS INTENTIONS

October 18 - October 25, 2026

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

Mon Oct 19 Saints John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues Priests and Companions, Martyrs

- 7:00 AM CSB-Phyllis Fedorchak
by Kathleen Spielvogal
- 12:15 PM Special Intention for Scott Bingham
by Tricia Bingham

Tues Oct 20 Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest

- 7:00 AM CSB- Rebecca Grady, by Pam Grady
- 12:15 PM John E. Barnett, by Brenda Barnett

Wed Oct 21

- 12:15 PM Tyler Tobin, by Stephanie Tobin
- 4:00 PM CSB-Father Michael Watson
by Sean & Jody White
- 7:00 PM Persecuted Christians Mass
by Mercedarian Third Order

Thurs Oct 22 Saint John Paul II, Pope

- 7:00 AM CSB-Nadia Rae Grady, by Pam Grady
- 12:15 PM Monsignor Francis X. Schweitzer
by Sally & Joe Pfeiffer

Fri Oct 23 Saint John of Capistrano, Priest

- 7:00 AM CSB-The White Family
by Jennie & Steve White
- 12:15 PM Special Intentions of Leslie Mahle
by Kathy McKinniss

Sat Oct 24 Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

- 9:00 AM Timothy W. Grady, by Pam Grady

Sun Oct 25 THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 9:00 AM Jane and Jean, by Kristi Ziegler
- 11:00 AM * Shawn Kenney and Choir, by Kristi Ziegler
- 5:00 PM Deceased Members of The McGuire Family
by Elaine Browning
- 8:00 PM People of the Parish

* Incense will be used at this Mass

LECTOR SCHEDULE

October 18	9:00 am	Susan Lau
	11:00 am	Kendy Troiano
	5:00 pm	Elaine Browning
October 25	9:00 am	Austin Hill
	11:00 am	Aurelio Morales
	5:00 pm	Elaine Browning

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO SERVE OUR COUNTRY

Airman 1st Class Kathleen Fruth, US Air Force
Airman William Harding Marable, US Air Force
Airman Lucas JY Tortora, US Air Force
Col. Timothy W. Grady, US Air National Guard
SGT Jeremy Ruthbun, US Army
SGT E5 Logan Christ, US Army Active Duty
1st Lt. John M. Kennedy, US Army Active Duty
1st Lt Michael V Dickerson US Army National Grd
2nd Lt Nicholas C Kennedy US Army National Grd
SPC Brian A. Marsh, US Army National Guard
SPC Trinity P. Roach, US Army National Guard
SPC Zach Sowers, US Army National Guard
Act. 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
SPC / E4 Trey Warner, Ohio National Guard



Mass Intention Offering Envelope

Envelopes are next to bulletins

Mass for _____
☐ Living ☐ Deceased
 Please indicate any additional information _____
 Date(s) Requested **2026 is FILLED!** Time(s) _____
 Requested by _____
 Phone Number _____ Email _____
 Total Amount _____ (\$10 stipend requested per Mass)

SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

October 5, 2026 - October 11, 2026

Offertory Collection	\$ 3,576
On-Line	\$ 4,794
Mail	+ 895
Total	\$ 9,265
Less: Assessment (10%)	- 926
Net	\$ 8,339
Soup Kitchen	\$ 2,756
Total Capital Campaign	\$727,790
The Appeal Pledges	\$20,355
The Appeal Goal	\$75,987
God Reward Your Generosity	



All Souls Day Names

Please include these important names of the faithfully departed either on the back of your OSV envelope marked All Souls Day or on a note listing names along with your donation in a plain white envelope. Envelopes can be mailed to Holy Family Church or placed in the offertory basket whichever Holy Mass you attend. Please note that checks should be made payable to: Holy Family Church with “*All Souls Day Names*” in the notation. Donations can also be made online. Please contact the parish office to inform whose names are to be included should you choose the online method. These important names received will be listed in bulletin issues throughout November.



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.



OCTOBER 22-30
respectlife.org



CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS & LADIES GUILD

Serving the Women of Holy Family since 1887

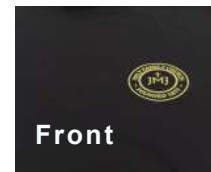
Father in Heaven, Creator of all and source of all goodness and love, please look kindly upon us and receive our heartfelt gratitude in this time of giving thanks.

Thank You for all the graces and blessings. You have bestowed upon us, spiritual and temporal: our faith and religious heritage. Our food and shelter, our health, the love we have for one another, our family and friends.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessings throughout the coming year.

This we ask in the Name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

Holy Family Apparel can be ordered via this QR code:



Front



Back

Our annual Pasta Dinner was held October 17th. Thanks to our Chef Sam Troiano for the authentic meatballs and rigatoni! A special thanks to all who attended and supported this event. Special thanks to all our volunteers. We could never do this without all of you.

Christian Mother's Mass is the 18th at the 11:00am Mass. Please join us before Our Lady's Altar. There will be a St. Gerard and St. Raymond Nonnatus blessing after Mass in front of the altar for expectant mothers and those hoping to conceive.

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 20 and Wednesday October 21 in the Parish Center. Join us!



FORWARD TOGETHER
THE COLUMBUS CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

FR. JOSEPH ROLWING

KARLO BROUSSARD, FR. MICHAEL HAEMMERLE, ABBY DAWES, KACHIL MUHA

BREAKOUTS

ANDREW KEBE

OCTOBER 24, 2026
KLINGER CENTER
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Red Mass

Everyone is invited to attend the annual **Red Mass on October 29, 2026, 5:15 p.m., at St. Joseph Cathedral**. This Mass invokes the wisdom of the Holy Spirit for all justice professions in the Diocese. Even if you don't practice Law, you are encouraged to come to mass and pray alongside those who do.

53rd Annual Holiday Bazaar

**Saturday, November 14, 2026 from 9am to 3pm
9350 High Free Pike, West Jefferson, OH 43162**

The SS. Simon and Jude Catholic Church Women's Group invites you to our 53rd Annual Holiday Bazaar featuring hand-crafted gifts, home decor, basket raffle, homemade baked goods and more!

Special Mass for Breast Cancer

St. Agatha is the Patron Saint of Breast Cancer and October is Breast Cancer awareness Month. Please join St. Agatha Parish, 1860 Northam Rd. Upper Arlington, OH 43221 on **Tuesday, October 20th at 7pm** for a Special Mass to honor those who have been affected in any way by Breast Cancer.



The Sierra Club Priestly Vocation Essay

The Columbus Serra Club is challenging all eighth-grade boys to write an essay of five hundred words or less answering a question about whether God might be calling them to the priesthood. They have October and November to write their essays. Writers of the ten best essays will be awarded a \$1,000 tuition assistance grant to a diocesan Catholic high school. The Catholic school system helps administer the competition for boys in Catholic schools. **Eighth grade boys not attending a Catholic school, scan this QR code, text 614-558-0806 or email vocationessays@outlook.com on how to participate.**



There is hope and healing for you

It's normal to grieve a pregnancy loss, including the loss of a child by abortion.

You are not alone. We are here to help.

Contact Project Rachel
614-696-6188
projectrachel@columbuscatholic.org



Project Rachel is a ministry of the Diocese of Columbus.




Inviting all Women
to the 24th Annual

Among All Women

BRUNCH AND SILENT AUCTION

Featuring and Benefiting the
Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi

Called to a profound intimacy with Christ, and impelled by his love, they respond with an exclusive and total dedication to him through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience lived in multicultural communities.

Registration

\$45 early bird,
\$50 after October 17

the details

Saturday, November 14, 2026
9:30 - 12:30 pm
The Jessing Center
at the Josephinum




Bethlehem Ball
An Evening Of Hope.
A Celebration Of Caring.
Benefiting Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem

Save the Date
December 11, 2026
6pm - 10pm
Villa Milano
1630 Schrock Rd., Columbus, OH 43229



Scan the QR code
or visit the link below to donate
onecau.se/bethlehemball

For more information email
Bethlehemball@saintmichael-cd.org

ART Show & SALE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

AFTER THE 9:00 AM AND 11:00 AM MASSES

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH UNDERCROFT

584 W. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215

Join us for a special exhibition and sale of
original artwork by parishioner

Mary Jo Fetch.



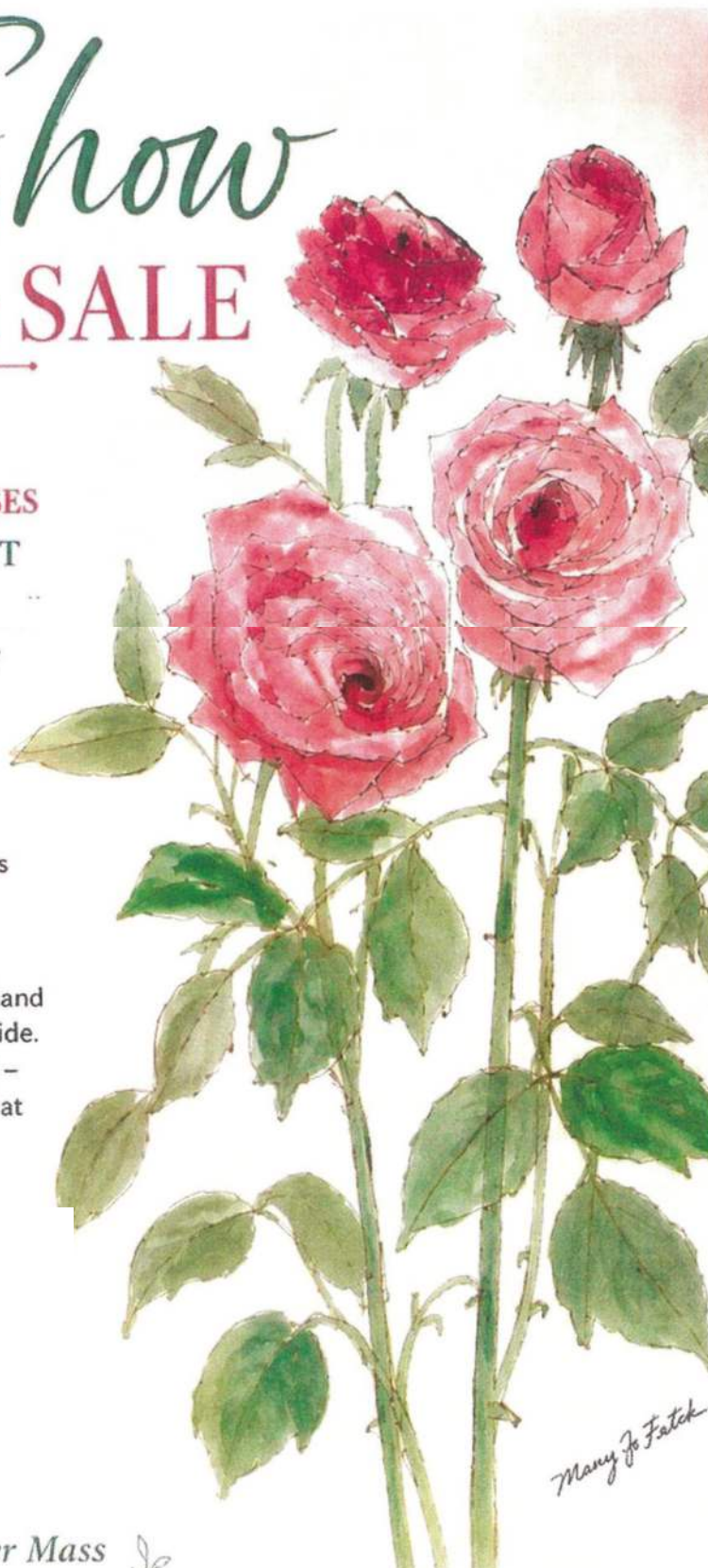
Mary Jo Fetch is a parishioner who paints daily and has dedicated her art to the **Blessed Virgin Mary.**



Mary Jo paints with her non-dominant hand because of a stroke affecting her right side. She began painting in October of 2024 – painting **over 125 Christmas cards** that first year!



Of note is that two of Mary Jo's pieces were selected to be shown in the **Upper Arlington Community Art Exhibit** that were showcased at a reception on July 19 and resided with other artwork in the UA Municipal Services Center located at 3600 Tremont Rd through September.



*Please consider stopping down after Mass
to see many of her beautiful works of art.*

CASH, CHECK OR VENMO, PLEASE



A portion of the proceeds from the art sale will go toward the *building fund* at Holy Family.

SUPPORT LOCAL ART.
SUPPORT OUR PARISH.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



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

“Many of the problems facing contemporary families, especially in economically developed societies, result from their increasing difficulty in communicating. Families seldom manage to come together, and the rare occasions when they do are often taken up with watching television. To return to the recitation of the family Rosary means filling daily life with very different images, images of the mystery of salvation: the image of the Redeemer, the image of his most Blessed Mother. The family that recites the Rosary together reproduces something of the atmosphere of the household of Nazareth: its members place Jesus at the center, they share His joys and sorrows, they place their needs and their plans in His hands, they draw from Him the hope and the strength to go on.” +POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Monday, October 19 ~ Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:13-21 Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me.” He replied to him, “Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?” Then he said to the crowd, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Then he told them a parable. “There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, ‘What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?’ And he said, ‘This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, “Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!”’ But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’ Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God.”

Meditation: Why does Jesus call this wealthy landowner a fool? Jesus does not fault the rich man for his industriousness and skill in acquiring wealth, but rather for his egoism and selfishness - it's mine, all mine, and no one else's. This parable is similar to the parable of the rich man who refused to give any help to the beggar Lazarus (ref. Luke 16:19-31). The rich fool had lost the capacity to be concerned for others. His life was consumed with his possessions and his only interests were in himself. His death was the final loss of his soul! What is Jesus' lesson on using material possessions? It is in giving that we receive. Those who are rich towards God receive ample reward - not only in this life, but in eternity as well.

Prayer: O God, who chose to manifest the blessed hope of your eternal Kingdom by the toil of Saints John de Brebeuf, Isaac Jogues and their companions and by the shedding of their blood, graciously grant that through their intercession the faith of Christians may be strengthened day by day. 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: Where is your treasure? What is your treasure? Who is your treasure? Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of our will, our drive and our focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. What do you treasure above all else? Most importantly, whom do you treasure above all others?

About Saint Isaac Jogues, Saint John de Brébeuf and Companions: French Jesuits were the first missionaries to go to Canada and North America after J. Cartier discovered Canada in 1534. Their mission region extended from Nova Scotia to Maryland. Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf, Gabriel Lalemant, Noel Chabanel, Charles Garnier, Anthony Daniel, Rene Goupil and John de Lalande (the first six Jesuits, the last two laymen) preached the Gospel to the Iroquois and Huron Indians, and after being tortured, they were



martyred in the area of what is now Auriesville, New York. The martyrdoms took place between 1642 and 1649. Ten years after the martyrdom of St. Isaac Jogues, Kateri Tekakwitha was born in the same village in which he died. These martyrs are co-patrons of Canada. The missionaries arrived in Canada less than a century after its discovery by Cartier in 1534, in the hope of converting the Indians and setting up "New France." Their opponents were often the English and Dutch colonists. When Isaac Jogues returned to Paris after his first capture and torture, he said to his superior: "Yes, Father, I want whatever our Lord wants, even if it costs a thousand lives." He had written in his mission report: "These tortures are very great, but God is still greater, and immense."

Tuesday, October 20 ~ Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:35-38 Jesus said to his disciples: "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants."

Meditation: This story illustrates the amazing generous spirit, servant-hearted love, and profound humility of God who is the exalted Lord and Master over all he has created. The Father sent his only begotten Son to become a man for our sake who shed his blood for us on the cross to ransom us from slavery to sin, Satan, and death. Saint Paul the Apostle tells us that Jesus who was equal with the Father, nonetheless, humbled himself and became a servant for our sake (Philippians 2:5-8). Saint Paul of the Cross, whose feast we celebrate today, said: "If you correspond to the designs of God, He will make a saint of you. Be generous, and remember that we ought to walk in the footsteps of Jesus crucified. The servant of God who is not crucified with Jesus Christ, what is he? He is unworthy of divine contemplation who has not fought and conquered some great temptation. God has suffered much for me; ought I not suffer something for Him?" Ah, yes – the reciprocity of love. Do you love Christ as much as he loves you? If not, why not?

Prayer: May the Priest Saint Paul, whose only love was the Cross, obtain for us your grace, O Lord, so that, urged on more strongly by his example, we may each embrace our own cross with courage. 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: Just as Jesus was faithful and ready to obey his Father in everything - even to the point of laying down his life for us on the cross - we, too are called to be faithful and ready to do whatever our heavenly Father's commands us. How can we serve as Jesus served and be faithful to the end of our days? Only the love "which God has poured into our hearts through the Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans 5:5) can transform us and fill us with joy and courage in offering our lives in humble service to God and to one another.

Wednesday, October 21 ~ Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:39-48 Jesus said to his disciples: "Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Then Peter said, "Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property. But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish the servant severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful. That servant who knew his master's will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master's will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."

Meditation: Jesus calls us to be vigilant in watching for his return and to be ready to meet him when he calls us to himself. The Lord gives us his Holy Spirit so that we may have the wisdom, help, and strength we need to turn away from sin to embrace God's way of love, justice, and holiness. The Lord's warning of judgment causes dismay for those who are unprepared, but it brings joyful hope to those who eagerly

wait for his return in glory. God's judgment is good news for those who are ready to meet him. Their reward is God himself, the source of all truth, beauty, goodness, love and everlasting life.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. 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: Safe it to say that all of us want to get to heaven and spend eternity there with Christ. But the question becomes "What am I doing to get to heaven?" Do I live my life according to the way of God and his son, Jesus Christ? Or do I live my life according to the way of the world? Do I follow the divine laws of God? Or do I follow the all-too-human legal rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court, most of which are contrary to the laws of God? Do I actively engage in the Corporal Works of Mercy (six of which are outlined in Matthew 25:31-40)? Or do I live my life focused entirely on myself, not caring about the needs of others? There is only one Savior, and his name is Jesus Christ, the son of God. He has given us everything we need to get to share in his eternal life – his teachings (the "Good News") and his sacraments, all of which nourish us in mind and in body. He also gave us his very life on the cross. What did any supreme court justice do to get you on the path to eternal life with Christ? Nothing. U.S. president, member of congress, library board member? Nothing. What about any advocacy group? Nothing as well, although adhering to the rhetoric and "cause" of some groups actually encourages people to stray from God. So we're back to that original question: "What am I doing to get to heaven?" Turn away, folks, from the way of the world which will lead to eternity, but not with Christ. Turn instead to Christ, our Lord, Savior, and Redeemer – the Good Shepherd who died for our sake, and whose entire life was spent teaching us the way, and the truth, and the life we are invited to live on this earth so that we might live with him for all eternity.

Thursday, October 22 ~ Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time **Pope Saint John Paul II**

***For a complete collection of Pope Saint John Paul II's
encyclicals, messages, homilies, and more, visit the Vatican web page:***

<http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html>

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:45-53 Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

Meditation: Jesus challenges his disciples in today's Gospel – and us as well – 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 family member. 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. If you think that is impossible, think about the times, perhaps, you were on a family vacation or gathering and Sunday rolled around – some chose to worship God during Mass on Sunday, others chose to worship themselves by going to saint mattress of the springs. Arriving back home from Mass the inevitable discussion comes around that "we usually can't make it to Mass." Someone asks "why?" The usual responses "Oh, we're so tired from working all week..." or "our son or daughter has sports practice that day or a game and we need to go to those..." or "we usually go to brunch on Sunday and don't have time to get to Mass..." or "Sunday is family-time day so we usually do something together..." And so it begins – our loyalty to God and our loyalty to following the commandment "Keep holy the Sabbath" goes out the window as we seek personal comfort, the god of sports, or whatever reason people may give for not going to Mass on Sunday. Upon deeper reflection, then, we find that we are not "on fire" for Christ, we do not love God above all things, our faith may be lukewarm at best, and even though the love of Jesus Christ compels us to put God first in all that we do (ref. 2 Corinthians 5:14) we sometimes fail. While this may be the case in one way or another, or on one level or another, this mindset, this way of life is fixable. It begins by recognizing that we are the source of division, sin and separation since we chose people or things over Christ. Now all we need to get back to living a life where we choose God above all things and live a life in Christ by following him instead of a ball (football, soccer ball, basketball, baseball, golf ball, volley ball, tennis ball, rugby ball, meatball, or even the occasional musings that come from that semi-circular ball that rests on top of our neck).



Prayer: O God, who are rich in mercy and who willed that Saint John Paul II should preside as Pope over your universal Church, grant, we pray, that instructed by his teaching, we may open our hearts to the saving grace of Christ, the sole Redeemer of mankind. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When Jesus spoke about division within families he likely had in mind the prophecy of Micah: "a man's enemies are the men of his own household" (Micah 7:6). The essence of Christianity is loyalty to Jesus Christ - the Son of God and Savior of the world - a loyalty that takes precedence over every other relationship. The love of God compels us to choose who will be first in our lives. To place any relationship (or anything else like sports) above God is a form of idolatry, and we have been told "You shall not have false gods before me." Let's keep all of this in mind the next time we are tempted to do something contrary to the way of God and his son Jesus Christ.

Friday, October 23 ~ Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Saint John of Capistrano, Priest

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:1-7 Jesus said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west you say immediately that it is going to rain—and so it does; and when you notice that the wind is blowing from the south you say that it is going to be hot—and so it is. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky; why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

"Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? If you are to go with your opponent before a magistrate, make an effort to settle the matter on the way; otherwise your opponent will turn you over to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the constable, and the constable throw you into prison. I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny."

Meditation: We all stand in need of God's mercy, grace, and protection. The Lord Jesus is our physician and healer and he is ready to set us free from any sinful patterns of thinking, acting, and speaking. If we give our lives over to him he will fill us with his Holy Spirit and give us a new heart and a transformed mind that is filled with his truth, love, and goodness. If you want lasting peace and joy with God, then allow the Lord Jesus to transform every area of your life, your home, your work, your relationships, and possessions so that he may truly be the Lord and Giver of abundant life. Are you ready to surrender all to him, in order to receive all from him? If not, what is holding you back?

Prayer: O God, who raised up Saint John of Capistrano to comfort your faithful people in tribulation, place us, we pray, under your safe protection and keep your Church in everlasting peace. Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. 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: Our need for accurately discerning the spiritual condition and moral climate around us is vital if we want to avert spiritual crisis and moral disaster. The Lord to transform our lives by offering us his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). But we can miss it if we allow a permissive attitude that takes sin lightly or puts off repairing wrongdoing before it is too late to get reconciled.

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