ALL SAINTS DAY - November 1, 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.
frmichael@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
8:00 p.m. First Friday—8:45 a.m. First Saturday

DEVOTIONS

Most 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.

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 Manager ……Brian 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 Oliger, 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, November 1

Hospitality & Art Sale | Show following 9am & 11am Mass in the Undercroft.

Holy Family Young Adults Hospitality following 5:00 pm & 8:00 pm Mass.

10:30 am CCD (PC)

Monday, November 2

1:30 pm Bible Study - Matthew (CSB)
7:00 pm Bible Study - Matthew (PC)
7:00 pm Respect Life Meeting (PC)

Tuesday, November 3

1:30 pm His Incredible Seniors (SJH)
7:00 pm OCIA (ML)

Wednesday, November 4

1:30 pm His Incredible Seniors (SJH)
5:30 pm Choir Practice (C)
7:00 pm Good Saint Joseph Mass

Thursday, November 5

1:00pm-12M Adoration (C)

Friday, November 6

12M-12N Adoration (C)
7:00 pm First Friday Sacred Heart Mass
8:00pm-12M Adoration (C)

Saturday, November 7

12M-8:45am Adoration (C)
8:15 am Confession
Most Holy Rosary (C)
9:00 am First Saturday Devotions Mass

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

Saint Catherine of Bologna stated: "Whenever I desired any favor, I had recourse to the souls in purgatory, and was immediately heard." She even testified that by their intercession she had obtained many graces which she had not been able to obtain by the intercession of the saints.

MASS INTENTIONS

November 1 - November 8, 2026

Sun Nov 1 ALL SAINTS DAY
9:00 AM * Holy Souls in Purgatory, by Kathy McKinniss
11:00 AM * For the Unborn and All Priests and Religious by Knights of Columbus #13428
5:00 PM * People of the Parish
8:00 PM Ian Emrich, by Kristi Ziegler

Mon Nov 2 The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed
7:00 AM **CSB -** All Souls in Purgatory
12:15 PM All Souls in Purgatory

Tues Nov 3 Saint Martin de Porres, Religious
7:00 AM **CSB -** Repose of the Soul of Maria Balolong Paras, by Carmen Levingston
12:15 PM Repose of the Souls of James P. and Livia A. Gallicchio, by Their Family

Wed Nov 4 Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop
12:15 PM Repose of the Soul of John Garcia by Jim Lisska
Good Saint Joseph Mass
7:00 PM Harper Grady, by Pam Grady

Thurs Nov 5
7:00 AM **CSB -** All Souls, by Tim & Kim Nguyen
12:15 PM Donna and Rachel Davis, by ARD

Fri Nov 6 FIRST FRIDAY SACRED HEART MASS
Feast of All Saints of the Order
7:00 AM **CSB -** Tyler Tobin, by Stephanie Tobin
12:15 PM Marilyn Noll, by Jane & Jean
7:00 PM Personal Intention, by Kathy McKinniss

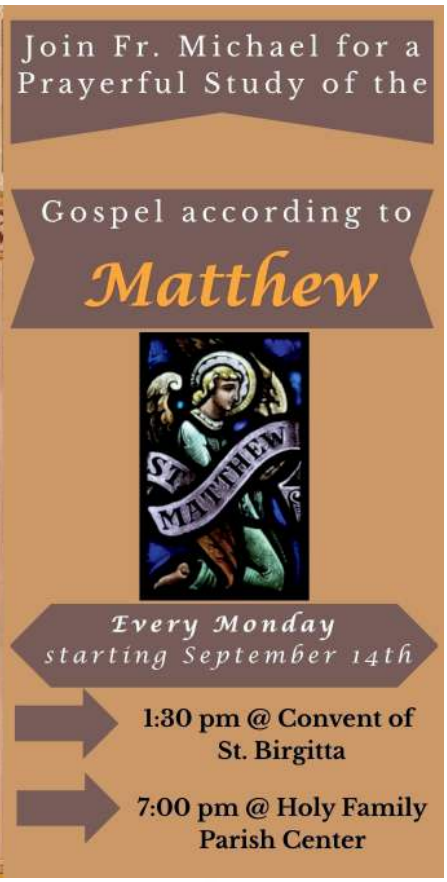
Sat Nov 7 FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS MASS
All the Deceased of the Order Memorial
9:00 AM Repose of the Soul of Jean Ann Donahue

Sun Nov 8 THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:00 AM * Nick and Marie Altamuro by Jennie Gallastegui
11:00 AM Deceased Members of Holy Family Alumni
5:00 PM Repose of the Soul of Louis Steele by Kathy McKinniss
8:00 PM People of the Parish

**** Incense will be used at this Mass***

LECTOR SCHEDULE

November 1	**9:00 am**	**Austin Hill**
	11:00 am	**Knights of Columbus**
	5:00 pm	**Dan Hueckel**
November 8	**9:00 am**	**Vic Kaczkowski**
	11:00 am	**Brett Ballantyne**
	5:00 pm	**Rebecca Rector**



SERMON ON THE AMOUNT

October 19, 2026 - October 25, 2026

Offertory Collection	*$ 5,139*
On-Line	*$ 3,299*
Mail	*+ 1,576*
Total	*$10,014*
Less: Assessment (10%)	*- 1,001*
Net	*$ 9,013*
Soup Kitchen	*$ 1,109*
Total Capital Campaign	*$739,180*
The Appeal Pledges	*$ 23,173*
The Appeal Goal	*$ 75,987*

Holy Family Appeal QR Code:

God Reward Your Generosity

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.

On Sunday November 1, 2026 is our monthly Corporate Mass at the 11am Mass

On Sunday November 8, 2026 is our monthly Council meeting in the Parish Center right after the 11am Mass.

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

Our next Respect Life meeting is **Monday, November 2 from 7 - 8pm** in the Parish Center. Please join us!!

We continue to pray a novena using a traveling St. Raymond statue. If you would like to sign up to bring our St. Raymond statue into your home, to pray for the unborn and those facing abortion, you can do so in the vestibule. Email us with questions.

Baby Donation Drive: We continue to collect 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 local pro-life pregnancy centers who are primarily run off of donations. Email **holyfamilyrlm@gmail.com** with any questions.

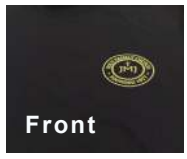
***Join us* for coffee, donuts & fellowship the first Sunday of every month after 9am and 11am Mass in the Undercroft. The hospility committee also provides tea, hot chocolate, water, orange juice & lemonade. Thanks to the Rudolph Family who provides gluten-free donuts each month.**

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS & LADIES GUILD

Servingthe Women of Holy Family since 1887

Lord, you deserve all honor and praise, because your love is perfect and your heart sublime. Our hearts are filled to overflowing with gratitude for the many blessings and graces you have bestowed upon me and those whom I love. Forever undeserving, may I always be attentive and never take for granted the gifts of mercy and love that flow so freely and generously from your Sacred Heart.
Heart of Jesus, I adore you.
Heart of Jesus, I praise you
Heart of Jesus, I thank you.
Heart of Jesus, I love you forever and always.
Amen

Holy Family Apparel can be ordered via this QR code:



We are thrilled to announce we will be inducting several new members into our Confraternity on November 15th after the 11:00 Mass and Ss. Gerard and Raymond Nonnatus blessing for expectant mothers and those hoping to conceive. We are blessed to see our group grow. Please consider staying to witness the ceremony.

Our next meeting is November 21st in the undercroft after the 9:00 AM Mass.

Please consider an hour of adoration with Fr. Tuscan via EWTN Youtube. **https://www.youtube.com/live/FVU"vP6gHipA?is+lX4fscjwkiFU5ip7**.

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.

Holy Family Confraternity of Christian Mothers Officers

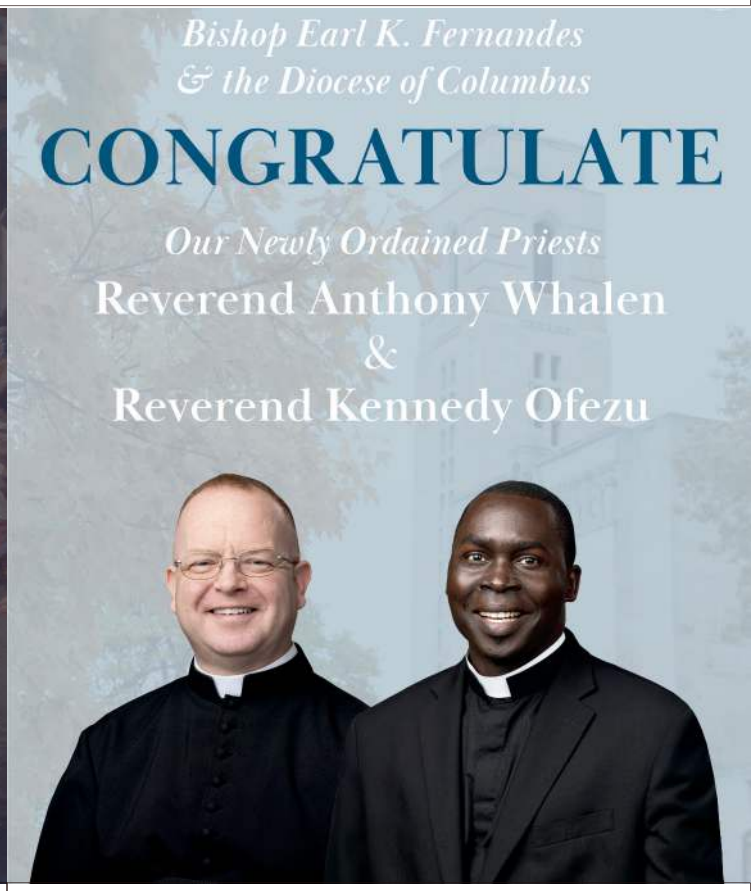
Rita Martinez, President / Louise Popich, Vice President
Anita Van Order, Treasurer / Kendy Troiano, Secretary
Father Michael J. Donovan, O. de M., Director

HIS INCREDIBLE SENIORS

Our upcoming His Incredible Seniors class is scheduled 1:30 - 2:30pm Tuesday November 3 and Wednesday November 4 in the Parish Center.

Annual Census
2026 Holy Family Columbus 2026

Sunday	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.	8:00 p.m.
4 October	159	181	90	156
11 October	167	157	117	152
18 October	116	202	118	155
25 October	194	164	117	154



Support Our Seminarians

November 1st through the 7th is National Vocations Awareness Week, and many of our seminarians will be in our parishes to share their vocation stories. Please consider supporting our seminarians as they pursue their vocation.

Saint Serapion Blessed Oil

Holy Family Mercedarian Third Order will prepare packets that will include the Blessed Oil that will be available at the 9:00am Mass on Saturday November 14th. More information to come.

Catholic Men's Luncheon - Friday November 6 Speaker Father Michael Hartge

Join us Friday, November 6 at St. Patrick Church in dowtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring Father Michael Harge, Diocese Vicar General, Moderator of Mission Advancement and Moderator of the Curia who will speak about the Pastoral Planning Initiative. Learn more about this Catholic organization committed to promoting and supporting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life within the Diocese of Columbus at https://serracolumbus.org/. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 am followed by lunch at 12:10pm and Fr. Hartge's presentation. $12 covers lunch and meeting.

Linda Mace
Jerry Beasley
Shirley Witwer
Tom Collins
William & Thelma Collins
Dan Hawkins
Beatriz & Vasylio Bond
Luis F. Quintero
Walter Stevens
Albert S. Bowen
Leonora J. Bowen
Mary Ann Acton
Marguerite Charvat
Leah Borsich
Frederick M. Parker
The Gamble Family
The Shoults Family
Forgotten Souls in Purgatory
John Holocher
William, Duane & Ruth Davies
Karen Davies Brown
Lisa Davies Schaal
Mary Louise Linard
Judy Linard Rourke
Hank & Elizabeth Linard
Mary Beth Linard Klamar
Alex Linard
Victor Litman
Roberta Cwiekalo
Jasson Cwiekalo
Garrett Chafin
Paul & Verna Mahle
Marty Bennett
Erick Lauber
Charles & Rosemary McKinniss
Carl & Helen Mehrle

Please include additional important names of the faithful 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. 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 click on ***CH All Souls Day*** for online donations and email 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. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

November 1-8 and the Month's Dedication to the Holy Souls

1. Have Masses offered for them.
2. Pray the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the Holy Souls.
3. Pray the Stations of the Cross
4. Offer up little sacrifices and fast.
5. Spread devotion to them.
6. Attend Eucharistic Adoration and pray for them.
7. Gain all the indulgences you can, and apply them to the Holy Souls.
8. Visit to a Cemetery. An indulgence, applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, is granted to the faithful, who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed. The indulgence is plenary each day from the 1st to the 8th of November; on other days of the year it is partial.

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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 November is dedicated to the Poor Souls in Purgatory

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen. **+PRAYER OF SAINT GERTRUDE FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY**

November 2 ~ Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time
Feast of the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)

Holy Gospel: John 6:37-40 Jesus said to the crowds: "Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me. And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

Meditation: Jesus made a promise to his disciples then as he does so today, and a claim which only God can make and deliver: "...that everyone who *sees* the Son and *believes* in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day" (John 6:40). How can we *see* Jesus? The Lord makes his presence known to us in the reading of his words of teaching in sacred scripture (John 14:23), in the Eucharist, and in his church – the mystical body of Christ. The Lord Jesus reveals himself in many countless ways to those who seek him with *eyes of faith* (Hebrews 12:2, 11:27). When we read the word of God in the Bible Jesus speaks to us and he reveals to us the mind and heart of our heavenly Father. When we approach the table of the Lord, Jesus offers himself as spiritual food – his sacred body and blood – which produces the very life of Christ within us (*I am the bread of life,* John 6:35). Jesus promises that he will never break the bonds of fellowship with us and freedom from the fear of being forsaken or cut off from everlasting life with God – conversely, out of love for God, we should not break this bond from our end of the relationship, or cut ourselves off from God through sin. Jesus also offers us the hope of sharing in his resurrection – abundant life without end. Believing him means following him – doing as he has taught us, imitating him in thought, word and deed, living our lives in faithful witness to him. To say "I believe in Jesus" but not to live our lives according to his way shows a disconnect that exists of our own making, our own choosing, and therefore a wake-up call to conversion of mind and heart to align our minds to his, our hearts to his, so that we may life a life of love of God above all things, and love our neighbor as ourselves. If we do this we will turn away from sin simply because we love God above all things and we would not want to sin against him, and by loving our neighbor we would not sin against them. We all have the capacity to live our lives in witness to Christ. The saints did it – they are human beings just like you and I. So let's raise the bar and strive for eternal life with Christ, instead of settling for the ways of the world which lead us nowhere. Walking with Christ will get us to heaven at the end of our earthly journey.

Prayer: Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord, and, as our faith in your Son, raised from the dead, is deepened, so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants also find new strength. 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: All of us want to spend eternity with Christ in heaven. The question is: What are each of us doing to get there? Out of love God created us. And out of greater love God sent his son, Jesus Christ, into the world to shepherd and guide us as the one and only savior on the one and only path which leads to eternal life. Out of love for us Jesus suffered and died on the cross for our sake, then rose on the third say opening up the opportunity to spend eternity with him in heaven. Jesus invites all of humanity to follow him – and does so 23 times in sacred scripture: **Matthew** 4:19, 8:22, 9:9, 10:38, 16:24, 19:21,

19:28; **Mark** 1:17, 2:14, 8:34, 10:21; **Luke** 5:27, 9:23, 9:59, 14:27, 18:22; and **John** 1:43, 8:12, 10:27, 12:26, 13:36, 21:19, 21:22. Take some time to read over these passages and contemplate Christ's invitation. Do not forsake him, but instead follow him! And when we stray from following him and, thus, sin, seek his love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation – not just once, but as many times as necessary. And not just during Advent or Lent, but any time you find yourself in a state of serious sin.

November 3 ~ Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Martin de Porres, Religious Lay Brother

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:15-24 One of those at table with Jesus said to him, "Blessed is the one who will dine in the Kingdom of God." He replied to him, "A man gave a great dinner to which he invited many. When the time for the dinner came, he dispatched his servant to say to those invited, 'Come, everything is now ready.' But one by one, they all began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, 'I have purchased a field and must go to examine it; I ask you, consider me excused.' And another said, 'I have purchased five yoke of oxen and am on my way to evaluate them; I ask you, consider me excused.' And another said, 'I have just married a woman, and therefore I cannot come.' The servant went and reported this to his master. Then the master of the house in a rage commanded his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in here the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame.' The servant reported, 'Sir, your orders have been carried out and still there is room.' The master then ordered the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedgerows and make people come in that my home may be filled. For, I tell you, none of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

Meditation: If a great lord or king invited his friends to a banquet, why would the guests turn down his invitation? A great banquet would take many days to prepare. And personal invitations would be sent out well in advance to the guests, so they would have plenty of time to prepare for the upcoming event. How insulting for the invited guests to then refuse when the time for celebrating came! They made light of the King's request because they put their own interests above his. Jesus probes the reasons why people make excuses to God's great invitation to "dine" with him at his banquet table. The first excuse allows the claims of one's personal business or work to take precedence over God's claim. Do you allow any task or endeavor to absorb you so much that it keeps you from the thought of God? The second excuse allows our possessions to come before God. Do you allow the media, including social media, and other diversions such as sports or work to crowd out time for God in daily prayer and worship? The third excuse puts home and family ahead of God. God never meant for our personal wealth and our relationships to be used selfishly. We serve God best when we invite him into our work, our homes, and our personal lives and when we share our possessions with others.

Prayer: O God, who led Saint Martin de Porres by the path of humility to heavenly glory, grant that we may so follow his radiant example in this life as to merit to be exalted with him in heaven. 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: Do you put other things before God? Before Christ? Do you make excuses not to embrace divine wisdom and to follow the teachings of scripture? God lavishes his grace upon each one of us to draw us closer to himself and he invites each of us to his banquet that we may share more deeply in his joy. Only a fool would turn away from this invitation to dine at the banquet table of God, or put other things as a priority over God and Jesus.

November 4 ~ Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25-33 Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

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Meditation: Today's Gospel is often misunderstood because of the use of the word "hate." The expression "to hate" often meant to "prefer less." And so Jesus uses strong language to make clear that nothing should take precedence or first place over God. God our heavenly Father created us in his image and likeness to be his sons and daughters. He has put us first in his love and concern for our welfare. Our love for him is a response to his exceeding love for us. True love is costly because it is willing to sacrifice all for the sake of the beloved. God sacrificed his Son for our sake and for our salvation. God proved his love for us by sending his only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who offered up his life for us as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Prayer: Preserve in the midst of your people, we ask, O Lord, the spirit with which you filled the Bishop Saint Charles Borromeo, that your Church may be constantly renewed and, by conforming herself to the likeness of Christ, may show his face to the world. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus willingly embraced the cross, not only out of obedience to his Father's will, but out of a merciful love for each one of us in order to set us free from sin, Satan, and death. Jesus knew that the cross was the Father's way for him to achieve victory and glory for our sake. He counted the cost and said "yes" to his Father's will. We, too, must 'count the cost' and be ready to follow the Lord Jesus in the way of the cross if we want to share in his glory and victory. And so we might ask: What is the "way of the cross" for you and me? It means that when my will crosses with God's will, then his will must be done. The way of the cross involves sacrifice, the sacrifice of laying down my life each and every day for Jesus' sake. What makes such sacrifice possible and "sweet" for us is the love of God poured out for us in the blood of Jesus Christ. Paul the Apostle reminds us that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5). We can never give more than God. He always gives us more than we can expect or imagine.

November 5 ~ Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-10 The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus addressed this parable to them. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

"Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.' In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Meditation: The scribes and Pharisees took great offense at Jesus because he went out of his way to meet with sinners and he treated them like they were his friends. The Pharisees had strict regulations about how they were to keep away from sinners, as they would incur ritual defilement. They were not to entrust money to sinners or have any business dealings with them, nor trust them with a secret, nor entrust orphans to their care, nor accompany them on a journey, nor give their daughter in marriage to any of their sons, nor invite them as guests or be their guests. The Pharisees were shocked when they saw Jesus freely meeting with sinners and even going to their homes to eat with them. Many sinners and outcasts of society were drawn to Jesus to hear him speak about the mercy of God and the offer of new life and friendship in the kingdom of God. When the Pharisees began to question Jesus' motive and practice of associating with sinners and outcasts, Jesus responded by giving them two parables about a lost sheep and a lost coin to challenge their way of judging sinners and shunning contact with them.

Prayer: Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. 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: Both the shepherd and the housewife search until what they have lost is found. And their persistence pays off. They both instinctively share their joy with the whole community. What was new in Jesus' teaching was the insistence that sinners must be sought out and not merely mourned for. God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone, but desires that all be saved and restored to fellowship with him. That is why the whole community of heaven rejoices when one sinner is found and restored to fellowship with

God. Seekers of the lost are much needed today, especially in this time when people increasingly withdraw from community and society and bury themselves in front of computers and iPads spending endless hours on social media rather than interacting personally with one another, or texting with one another rather than actually having a conversation with one another. The effects of this form of isolation is twofold, in that people withdraw more and more from the world, and others don't really care about their well-being because they do not see them or hear from them other than what is posted on their Facebook pages or blogs, and what is posted is only what people want others to see – not the whole picture, and more than likely not the whole truth. Also, if people are not connected electronically they do reach out to others. Prior to social media people interacted more with one another personally, face-to-face, interpersonal communication, at the kitchen table over coffee, or talking with one another at dinner as a family. And so we must remember that we are to help one another get to heaven. But the only way we can really do that is to be in touch with one another personally, one-one-one, face-to-face, devoid of electronic means, reaching out to each other in order to care for another, and help on another.

November 6 ~ Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-8 Jesus said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' Then to another he said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.' And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than the children of light."

Meditation: Jesus seemed to praise a steward (a manager entrusted with his master's goods) who misused his employer's money. What did the steward do that made Jesus praise him? The steward was responsible for managing his wealthy landowner's property. The steward very likely overcharged his master's tenants for their use of the land and kept more than his fair share of the profit. When the landowner discovered the steward's dishonest practice he immediately removed him from his job, leaving him penniless and ashamed to beg or do manual work. Before news of his dismissal became public knowledge, the shrewd steward struck a deal with his master's debtors. In discounting their debts he probably was giving up his generous commission. Such a deal won him great favor with the debtors. Since the steward acted as the landowner's agent, such a deal made his master look very generous and forgiving towards those who owned him money. Surely everyone would praise such a generous landowner as the town hero! Since the master could not undo the steward's cancellation of the debts without losing face and making his debtors resent him, he praised the steward for outwitting him and making him appear as a generous and merciful landowner.

Prayer: Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. 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 obviously thought that the example of a very clever steward would be a perfect illustration for a spiritual lesson about God and how God treats those who belong to his kingdom. What's the point of Jesus' parable? The dishonest steward is commended not for mishandling his master's wealth, but for his shrewd provision in averting personal disaster and in securing his future livelihood. Look up the original meaning of "shrewdness" and you will see "foresight." A shrewd person grasps a critical situation with resolution, foresight, and the determination to avoid serious loss or disaster.

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