

Diocese of Columbus
**The Community of
Saint Joseph Cathedral and Holy Cross Church**
“Growing the Catholic Faith in the Heart of Columbus”



SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

**THE MOTHER CHURCH
OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS**

212 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 224-1295
Fax: (614) 224-1176
www.sjchcc.org
www.cathedralmusic.org

**ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL AND
HOLY CROSS OFFICE HOURS**
OFFICE IS LOCATED AT THE
CATHEDRAL

Monday-Thursday – 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Friday – 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday, Sunday & major holidays

CATHEDRAL LITURGY SCHEDULE

Sunday – 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 5:15 p.m.
Monday-Friday – 12:05 p.m.

Masses on Holy Days of Obligation and Holidays:
Will be listed in the bulletin, as they occur

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONS

Tuesday & Thursday – 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Sunday – 9:15-10:00 a.m.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
WITH CONFESSIONS**

Wednesday: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

**THE FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH IN
COLUMBUS**

204 South Fifth Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
www.sjchcc.org

LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Sunday – 9:00 a.m.
Saturday – 11:30 a.m.
followed by Adoration and Confessions



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • JANUARY 21, 2024

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL & HOLY CROSS CHURCH

- + Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes
Bishop of Columbus
- + Most Reverend Frederick F. Campbell
Bishop Emeritus of Columbus
- + Most Reverend James A. Griffin
Bishop Emeritus of Columbus

PRIESTS

- Reverend JCP Sullivan
Cathedral Rector
- Reverend Michael Hinterschied
Parochial Vicar

HOLY CROSS/CATHEDRAL STAFF

- Mr. Michael P. Agriesti
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SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each; only one offering per Mass. All Masses are scheduled by calling the Parish Office. Contact Cathedral Office at 614-224-1295.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF POPE FRANCIS: JANUARY

For the gift of diversity in the Church
During the month of January, Pope Francis has asked the faithful to pray for the gift of diversity in the Church. He emphasized recognizing "the gift of different charisms within the Christian community."

MASS INTENTIONS

Holy Cross

Sunday, January 21

9:00 a.m. The Intention of the Priest

Cathedral:

Sunday, January 21

10:30 a.m. The People of St. Joseph Cathedral and
Holy Cross Church

12:30 p.m. Carter Jack

5:15 p.m. Soul of Princess Jones

Cathedral:

Monday, January 22

12:05 p.m. Soul of Beata Kefauver

Tuesday, January 23

12:05 p.m. The Intention of Pepper Grey Hughes

Wednesday, January 24

12:05 p.m. Soul of Carlos David Rivera

Thursday, January 25

12:05 p.m. Soul of Willard Kitchell

Friday, January 26

12:05 p.m. Souls of Leopoldo & Veronica

Holy Cross:

Saturday, January 27

11:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of the Cullinan Family

WEEKLY READINGS

SUNDAY, January 21

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Monday, January 22 ~ Day of Prayer for the

Legal Protection of Unborn Children

2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10; Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday, January 23 ~ Saint Vincent & Saint Marianne Cope

2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 24 ~ Saint Francis de Sales

2 Samuel 7:4-17; Mark 4:1-20

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 ~ The Conversion of St. Paul

Acts 22:3-16; Mark 16:15-18

Friday, January 26 ~ Saints Timothy and Titus

2 Timothy 1:1-8; Mark 4:26-34

Saturday January 27 ~ Saint Angela Merici

2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mark 4:35-41

THIS SUNDAY'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ JANUARY 21				
	9:00 a.m. HCC	10:30 a.m. SJC	12:30 p.m. SJC	5:15 p.m. SJC
Altar Servers	John Feher	Dan Jurgens	Zachary Smith	Trevor Foley
		Bonnie Maupin	Laura Battocletti	
		Jason Yax	Antonio Tomasi	
Lector - One	Kelly Wagoner	Ron Pizzuti	Marilyn Tomasi	Linda Ruth
Lector - Two		Donna Lent	Lisa Ernst	Ed Hueckel
Eucharistic Minister	Pat Kern Davis Claire Miller	Ann Pizzuti	Fritz Harding	
Hospitality/Ushers	Ann Seren	Steve Horner	David Battocletti	Robert Schoenfeld
		Evelina Horner	Kevin Ernst	Nate Foley
		Sandy Stover	Thom Gall	
		Pam Jurgens		

OUTREACH TO HELPING THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

Twice-Daily Food Distribution at Saint Joseph Cathedral ~ (614) 224-1295

Saint Lawrence Haven, on the grounds of Holy Cross Church ~ Heather Swiger at hswiger@columbuscatholic.org

Joint Office for Inner-city Needs (J.O.I.N.) ~ (614) 241-2530

SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL MUSIC

Cathedral Concert Series ~ JOSHUA STAFFORD, ORGANIST, Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Office of Compline ~ 9:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of the Month. The next one is February 4, 2024

OFFICES, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

For Diocesan offices, please call (614) 228-2457 during regular business hours or visit www.columbuscatholic.org.

LOW-GLUTEN* HOSTS will be served at **All Masses**. Worshippers can receive low-gluten Holy Communion from the center aisle (please identify yourself to the Celebrant.) *Contains less than 0.01% gluten content and meets the standard set by the Holy See and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

Please Keep These Parishioners in Your Prayers

Tim Acton, John Ankrom, Ed Chong, Barbara Cicua, Christopher Clark, Dorothy Deems, Sherri Dembinski, Larry Edwards, Robert & Peggy Halley, Edith Ingram, Dr. Lianna Goetz, Jerzy Grelik, Brittany Grinder, Kim Haring, Ruth Harper, Chris and Anna Katanyuta, Denise Lager, Teresa Mallon, Colleen Olson, Kathy Perkins, Marie Naseman, Maria Paras, Linda Pauley, The Pemberton Family, Maribeth Riepenhoff, John Ryan, Susan Bateman Severs, David Simmons, Sarah Stollenwerk, Sandra Valencia, and Dora Zweydorff

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

+ **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** our home-bound parishioners, and those who are ill: Theresa Elliott, Peter Garrett's Mother and James Worley.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

(Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Please contact Carol at the Cathedral, 614-224-1295.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

(Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Please email Mandy at weddings@saintjosephcathedral.org

NEW PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

For Holy Cross & The Cathedral

Welcome to Saint Joseph Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese of Columbus! We are glad that you are here and invite you to become part of our parish family to be nourished by both Word and Sacrament, and also to become involved in one or more of our parish ministries. To become a registered member, you can pick up a form by the main entrance of our historic church, visit our website, or contact us through the Parish Office. Welcome!

FUNERAL MINISTRY

(Holy Cross & Cathedral)

For parishioners who have died, the family should contact the rector at St. Joseph Cathedral at 614-224-1295 before meeting with the funeral director.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

(Holy Cross & Cathedral)

Those wishing Holy Communion in the Home due to illness, confinement or visits to the hospital or nursing center, please call 614-224-1295.



BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS



With the celebration of Epiphany 2 weekends ago,
We are working towards having a baby shower for Jesus.

I am asking our parishioners to bring a baby item to Mass during the days between the Epiphany of the Lord and February 2, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) The baby items will be taken to the Women's Care Center to support the young mothers and mothers- to-be as these women Choose Life!

The Women's Care Center is a Catholic outreach to at-risk, pregnant women in need. We can support their ministry by providing them with much needed baby items to share with the women who participate in their parenting classes. Since 2019 participation has increased by nearly 60%, from 1,907 participants to 3,023 in 2022!

Throughout the traditional 40 days from Christmas to Candlemas, the crèche scene will remain in the Cathedral. Please bring your new baby items to the creche, celebrating the birth of Jesus, and we will make sure your gifts get to the Women's Care Center to give to their participants.

Here are some of the items which are most in need:

Baby soaps/washes, lotions, Aquaphor/Vaseline

Toddler boys' clothes up to 5T (new) *especially sizes 18, 24 and 2T

Toddler girls' clothes up to 5T (new) *especially sizes 2T, 3T, and Baby girl 0-3-month clothing

Formula *especially Enfamil

Baby wipes

Diapers, Newborn through 6 *especially 4-6



How Will We Respond to Christ's Call?

GAYLE SOMERS



In Ordinary Time, we hear “the preaching of the kingdom of God” through all the lectionary readings. In Sunday’s Gospel, we find a dramatization of what that means for some of us.

Gospel (Read Mk 1:14-20)

In last Sunday’s Gospel, we reflected on Jesus’ first meeting with Andrew, John, and Simon Peter. These men were very interested in the new Rabbi whom John the Baptist, their teacher, had called “the Lamb of God.” Today’s reading describes how they, along with John’s brother, James, moved from being interested in Jesus to becoming His intimate companions and co-workers. How did this happen?

We see that our episode takes place “after John had been arrested.” John’s public ministry had come to an end. His arrest, as well as the appearance of the One for whom John had prepared them, certainly must have deeply stirred his disciples. They had a lot to think about. They returned to their livelihood—fishing. Perhaps quiet times on the water gave them opportunities to mull over all that was happening. Into this setting steps Jesus, preaching in Galilee as the Baptist had once done at the Jordan River: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.” Such a startling message! Words like these could only mean one thing in Israel: the long wait for the Messiah had finally ended. Something new was about to begin.

Jesus passed by Simon and Andrew as they were casting their nets into the sea. He recognized them, of course, and called out over the water: “Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” What a strange invitation to men who caught fish for a living. Why would fishermen want to catch men instead? We can assume that these dramatic words to the men in the boat, coming at a time when their heads must have been full of all the hope and expectation they had received as the Baptist’s disciples, were simply irresistible to them. The invitation answered a desire that was likely already forming in them. Recall that when Andrew first met Jesus, his immediate impulse was to go get his brother and bring him to “the Messiah.” Andrew already gave evidence of wanting to be a “fisher of men.” The Good News about Jesus was meant to be shared.

In response to the call of Jesus, Simon and Andrew “abandoned their nets and followed Him.” They instantly recognized their new vocation in this direct and personal invitation. John and his brother, James, likewise got this specific call to start a new life with Jesus, so they left their father and the other workers in answer to it.

We can’t miss the meaning here. These ordinary fishermen were not simply going to join the crowds that began to gather around Jesus, hearing Him preach and coming to believe in Him. Rather, theirs was a specific call to a specific vocation: to be apostolic “fishers of men.” They would no longer ply their trade in boats on the sea. They were the first of so many, both men and women, in all the centuries that have since passed, for whom the call to discipleship is a call to radical abandonment of all worldly occupations. For them, “to repent, and believe in the Gospel” means singular service, as priests and religious. What about the rest of us?

Possible response: *Lord Jesus, thank You for calling men and women to You in this remarkable way. May many today hear this call read at Mass as the fishermen heard it in their boats.*

First Reading (Read Jonah 3:1-5, 10)

Jonah, a prophet of Israel in about 780 B.C., was called by God to preach a message of repentance to the very wicked Assyrian city of Nineveh. The people of Israel were terrified of the Assyrians, because they were ruthless and cruel in their victories over conquered peoples. They had a vicious policy of deporting anyone who survived their attacks, and because the Israelites knew their land to be a holy land, a gift from God, they hated the thought of ever being sent away from it. Jonah did not want to preach repentance to them; he didn’t think God should offer them that kind of mercy.

Nevertheless, three days in the belly of a fish convinced Jonah he couldn’t avoid the mission. He eventually went to Nineveh and announced, “Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed.” What was the reaction to the reluctant prophet’s

message? When the people heard it, “they believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.” Here we have a picture that helps us begin to answer the question about what happens to those of us who hear God’s call to repentance and belief but do not get a particular call to drop everything for a new vocation, as did the apostles. The people of Nineveh took action to demonstrate their willingness to turn to a new way of life. God’s call to man, all through our history, requires a concrete response, a willful changing of our minds (“repentance” in Greek literally means “change of mind”) about Him and ourselves. Even when we are not asked to “abandon” our vocations, we are asked to make a radical turn away from ourselves and toward God. Surely the Ninevites continued their fishing, their trading, their pottery-making, their parenting. Yet, they were willing to make a clear break from their pride by fasting and wearing sackcloth. They recognized the darkness of their previous way of life and were ready to listen to God.

Happily, we have in our other readings more direction about how those of us not called to a religious vocation can live our lives as disciples of Jesus.

Possible response: *Heavenly Father, help me be as resolute as the Ninevites when I hear Your call to repentance and belief. Psalm (Read Ps 25:4-9)*

The psalmist gives all of us, invited to a religious vocation or not, an excellent way to respond concretely to God’s call to repentance and belief. These verses form a heartfelt prayer for God’s guidance into the life He has for us: “Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me Your paths...for You are God my Savior.” The first mark of repentance’s true humility is a willingness to be taught and directed by God. This is the difference between remorse over sin, which is largely emotional, and true repentance. The psalmist reminds us of something we saw in the story of Jonah. God desires to extend His forgiveness to sinners, even the worst of us: “Good and upright is the LORD; thus He shows sinners the way.”

Whenever we hear God’s call to repentance and belief (as both the Ninevites and apostles did), our first step is to pray, **“Teach me Your ways, O LORD.”**

Possible response: *The psalm is, itself, a response to our other readings. Read it again prayerfully to make it your own. Second Reading (Read 1 Cor 7:29-31)*

How can these verses help us understand how to live our lives in this world, especially since St. Paul says, “For the world in its present form is passing away”? Well, there’s the key. Those of us not called to a religious vocation must understand what St. Paul is teaching us here. The context of these verses is quite important. In this part of his letter, St. Paul is answering questions sent to him from the Corinthian church. There had been some confusion about whether marrying was sinful or not. In vs. 26 (not included in today’s reading), St. Paul says, “in view of the impending distress it is well for a person to remain as he is.” He likely was expecting an outbreak of persecution against Christians from a hostile pagan city. In that case, starting a family would be imprudent.

However, he goes on to say that marrying is not a sin. He also gives a universal maxim for how to live in the world, yet not be of it: hold lightly to everything. Our marriages, the events that cause tears or laughter, our possessions, our occupations—none of these are eternal. Some of us, answering God’s call to repentance and belief in the Gospel, will need to abandon these for Jesus’ sake. In doing so, the religious become for us a foreshadowing of heaven, where God is all to all. The rest of us will answer God’s call while remaining in our worldly lives, but we must live them in the light of what the others, called to religious vocations, teach us. We don’t abandon our vocations; we abandon our attachment to them, never allowing them to become ends in themselves. Even in our marriages, God comes first.

Possible response: *Lord Jesus, please give me the grace to recognize my attachments and to loosen my grip on them.*



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Converting the Nations, One Heart at a Time

FR. NNAMDI MONEME, OMV



The prophet Jonah was stubborn and initially tried to avoid his mission and run away from God. Like the Jews of his time, he harbored a great hatred towards the people of Nineveh to whom God had sent him. His reluctant mission was short, and his message shorter, “Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed.”

However, he was more successful than he could ever imagine, “The people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.” An entire nation was saved from the wrath of God because of the words of a reluctant and angry prophet.

Why would a nation believe the words of a single reluctant prophet from a rival nation? Was it just out of fear of the coming doom that he prophesied? How come the few words of this prophet were powerful enough to convict an entire nation of its sinfulness and bring them to repentance and faith before the living God that they did not know?

Jonah’s words were powerful simply because he spoke God’s words from a heart that had been humbled by God, “The word of the Lord came to Jonah, saying, ‘Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you.’” In his time of forced solitude in the belly of the whale during his unsuccessful attempt to flee from God, he had come to experience his own nothingness, the immensity of God, the need to listen to God alone and act on His words, and the necessity of complete dependence on God alone. The words of God that flowed from such a divinely humbled heart could not be resisted by his audience.

Jesus’s words to the disciples in the Sea of Galilee were also very mysterious, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” These uneducated men left everything – boats, nets, father, hired men, etc. – and followed Him without even asking Him, “What the heck does it mean to be a “fisher of men?”

Again, why were Jesus’ words so powerful and irresistible to these men that they could leave everything at once and follow Him? Jesus’ words are powerful first and foremost because of who He is – the true God in human flesh. But His words are also irresistible because Jesus is the God who lovingly humbled Himself, “He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.”(Phil 2:8) He humbled Himself completely, freely choosing to obey and depend on the Blessed Virgin Mary for everything from the moment of His Incarnation. Lastly, His words were irresistible because His words were all the words of God, “In these last days, God spoke to us through a son,

whom He made heir of all things and through whom He created the universe,”(Heb 1:2) Jesus’ words were not the mere opinions of a learned rabbi!

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this same Jesus Christ is alive in us. He wants to save us and all of humanity by drawing people of all nations to Him through us, “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing.” (Lk 12:49) He wants to save the world a heart at a time through us as we act as His ambassadors whose constant message and lifestyle screams to the whole world, “We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled with God.” (2Cor 5:20)

But for our words to be powerful, we too must allow God to humble us first, leading us to both experience and express our humility in action. Then we are to speak His irresistible words alone to bring souls from darkness to His liberating light.

God humbles us with both humbling events and His gifts. Such humbling events include our unrelenting struggle with sin, nagging temptations, weaknesses in character and conduct, failures in life, insults from others, difficulty in prayer, disappointments in life, unresolved personal issues, etc. If such things like the clergy sexual abuse scandals and numerous scandalous Catholic politicians cannot humble us, I doubt that any event in life will ever humble us.

God’s gifts that humble us are those things that He lovingly offers us that we just cannot earn or merit. They include His unconditional love, forgiveness, grace, truth, and mercy, Holy Spirit, etc. Our relationship with the saints, especially with Mary, the Mother of God, can also bring us to a humble stance. If God’s overwhelming gift of Himself in the Eucharist cannot humble us, nothing will ever humble us.

When we have been humbled by God’s gifts and providential events, we must also speak His words alone. Sinful hearts cannot resist our divinely inspired words of hope, love, truth, forgiveness, warnings, etc. No matter how strongly we may feel about them, our empty opinions and ideologies are utterly useless to touch the many hardened hearts of our time.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we see so many obstinate hearts within and outside the Church today. We see and hear of people tenaciously holding on to sin and sinful choices, both in their personal life and in the public domain, all in the name of personal freedom. How are they going to be touched and brought to Christ? We cannot transform our nations by simply issuing more Church documents, multiplying synods, holding public rallies, signing petitions, or electing pro-life politicians into public office.

We must first personally respond to God’s first calling to us, “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” This is how we are brought to that humble state that disposes us to abandon all form of self-dependence and choose to listen to and depend on God alone. With this humble faith in us, God can do great things in us and through us, especially saving the world one heart at a time as we speak His words. Unless we humbly repent and come to living faith in Jesus Christ, Jesus cannot make us true “fishers of men” that He promises to us as His disciples.

May our Eucharist truly humble us in the midst of all those things that also humble us personally and communally, so that we become the “humble and contrite hearts” (Ps 51:17) that God loves to see in us. When we speak God’s words alone from such divinely humbled hearts, our words cannot be ignored and our nations will be converted, one heart at a time.

Glory to Jesus!!! Honor to Mary!!!

Answering the Call

MARCELLINO D'AMBROSIO, PH.D.



Peter and Andrew were businessmen. So were their neighbors, James and John. They tried to wring a living out of the Sea of Galilee, and it probably took nearly all of the time and energy that they had.

So, it would have been easy to pass on the chance to hear some new prophet proclaim that the Kingdom of God had finally arrived. And then, having heard this message, they could have rolled their eyes and chuckled about how they hoped that this Kingdom would put more fish in the lake. Or they could have made excuses that this was all very interesting, but following the wandering rabbi from Nazareth was more suitable for single men with no mouths to feed.

No, when Jesus invited them to learn to catch men instead of fish, they dropped their nets, abandoned their businesses, and went on the road.

Is it wrong to have a family? Is it wrong to be in business? Are these secular activities inappropriate for a disciple of Jesus?

Not in the least. The Church teaches that we can serve the Lord and grow in holiness through any honest task, whether we are single or married. But St. Paul also tells us that the Christian engaged in secular activities must inwardly detach from them: “those who have wives should live as though they have none . . . buyers should conduct themselves as if they owned nothing, and those who make use of the world as though they were not using it, for the world as we know it is passing away.” (1 Cor 7:29-31)

The word “secular” means “of this world.” Now it is true that God likes this world. After all, he created it. But when sinful humanity gets a hold of the things of this passing world, it doesn’t want to let go. It becomes engrossed, absorbed, consumed with them to the neglect of what lasts forever, namely the Kingdom of God.

In Jesus, the Kingdom has touched down on planet earth. We need to re-form our lives, which is not only to say repent from sin, but actually structure our lives totally around the kingdom and its priorities. Kingdom priorities might dictate that many enter into the sacrament of matrimony in order to raise up new heralds of the kingdom and leaders of God’s people. And Christ may call others to involve themselves in business so as to provide financially for God’s work and to infuse Christian values into the marketplace.

Detachment does not mean that you shouldn’t enjoy your secular pursuits and approach them with energy and enthusiasm. It just means that your daily activity must be placed on the altar, offered up to God as a living sacrifice. And you must be ever ready to walk away from your activities at a moment’s notice, should Jesus call you to do so. Moments of truth will come to test just how serious we about living for God rather than for sports, careers and even families.

Yes families. There are times when duty calls soldiers to leave their families. The same holds true for breadwinners—my great-grandfather left family behind in Italy for several years while he prepared a better place for them in America. So why should we be surprised that at times some may be called to leave family for the sake of the Kingdom of God?

We may not be called literally to leave all behind to walk the dusty trails of Israel. But there will come a moment when we may hear an invitation to decline a scholarship, or a promotion, or a romance for the sake of the Kingdom.

As the gospel story unfolds, we learn that the apostles had more than a few shortcomings. But we have to admit this—that when that initial call came, as challenging as it was, they made no excuses. Can the same be said for us?

Marcellino D’Ambrosio (aka “Dr. Italy”) writes from Texas. Connect with him at dritaly.com or on social media @DrItaly. It appears here with the permission of the author.

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 January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus.

“Faithfully attend to your obligations, but know that you have no greater obligation than that of your salvation and of the saving progress of your soul on the way to true devotion.” +SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

Monday, January 22 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time
Day of Penance and Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14 At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me. “See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father. What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost.

Meditation on this special day of prayer: Love is not merely a feeling, but is rather the desire for the best possible good for those whom we love. Through our natural intelligence and through Divine Revelation we become aware of the value of this most basic of all gifts which is life. Mere reason leads us to comprehend that it is better to be alive than never have had been in existence. The knowledge of the value of life that comes through revelation leads us to understand better this gift and to appreciate it: as a result, we worship and love more and more the Giver of this gift. This love is what moves us to protect the life of the unborn or any who might be unjustly treated. We are also led to protect women that might feel tempted or forced to commit abortion, as we know the devastating consequences that abortion will have in their lives. Last but not least we have to love, even if most of them seem to be utterly unlovable, the many perpetrators of abortion: medical personnel, and pro-abortion activists and politicians. We have to do everything that we can to convince them of their errors so that they repent and change their ways, both for their own benefit and for the benefit of society.

Prayer: God our Creator, we give thanks to you, who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. 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 on this special day of prayer: All human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. Using a traditional scholastic term, we can state that He is the exemplary cause of every human being, in other words, He is the model on which all human beings are created. He looked upon himself and wished that other beings would share in His own happiness. So if we reflect upon ourselves, we can begin to understand our participation in the greatness of our Creator. This participation on His greatness leads us to comprehend that He has brought us out of nothing with a purpose, because knowing His intelligence and His loving nature it is clear that all His actions are always guided by a magnificent purpose. The first intention for which He has created us is that we should enjoy for an eternity His loving company in Heaven. All human persons are called to this eternal and loving company, no one is excluded, save those who, through their own actions, exclude themselves. This manner of creation brings us to understand the unique essential dignity of every human being. A dignity that is not lost for any deprivation of the many external perfections that we might expect to find in a human person. A person might be born with a

disability, or may suffer disability through injury or disease, but these deprivations do not affect his basic dignity. A Christian also has the hope that one day when the doors of Paradise will be opened for those children, all their human imperfections will be healed and they will enjoy forever the beatific vision that we all long for.

Tuesday, January 23 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon and Martyr

Holy Gospel: Mark 3:31-35 The mother of Jesus and his brothers arrived at the house. Standing outside, they sent word to Jesus and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Meditation: Jesus is God's love incarnate – God's love made visible in human flesh (1 John 4:9-10). That is why Jesus describes himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep and the shepherd who seeks out the sheep who have strayed and lost their way. God is like the father who yearns for his prodigal son to return home and then throws a great party for his son when he has a change of heart and comes back (Luke 15:11-32). Jesus offered up his life on the cross for our sake, so that we could be forgiven and restored to unity and friendship with God. It is through Jesus that we become the adopted children of God – his own sons and daughters. That is why Jesus told his disciples that they would have many new friends and family relationships in his kingdom. Whoever does the will of God is a friend of God and a member of his family – his sons and daughters who have been ransomed by the precious blood of Christ.

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, mercifully pour out your Spirit upon us, so that our hearts may possess the strong love by which the Martyr Saint Vincent triumphed over all bodily torments. 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: One of the early martyrs of the Church, Lucian of Antioch, once said: "a Christian's only relatives are the saints" – namely those who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and adopted as sons and daughters of God. Those who have been baptized into Jesus Christ and who live as his disciples enter into a new family, a family of "saints" here on earth and in heaven. Jesus changes the order of relationships and shows that true kinship is not just a matter of flesh and blood. Our adoption as sons and daughters of God transforms all of our relationships and requires a new order of loyalty to God first and to his kingdom of righteousness and peace. Do you want to grow in love and friendship? Allow God's Holy Spirit to transform your heart, mind, and will to enable you to love freely and generously as he loves.

Wednesday, January 24 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Patron Saint of the Diocese of Columbus

Holy Gospel: Mark 4:1-20 On another occasion, Jesus began to teach by the sea. A very large crowd gathered around him so that he got into a boat on the sea and sat down. And the whole crowd was beside the sea on land. And he taught them at length in parables, and in the course of his instruction he said to them, "Hear this! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep. And when the sun rose, it was scorched and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no grain. And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit. It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." He added, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." And when he was alone, those present along with the Twelve questioned him about the parables. He answered them, "The mystery of the Kingdom of God has been granted to you. But to those outside everything comes in parables, so that they may look and see but not perceive, and hear and listen but not understand, in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven." Jesus said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand any of the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown. As soon as they hear, Satan comes at once and takes away the word sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground who, when they hear the word, receive it at once with joy. But they have no roots; they last only for a time. Then when tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Those sown among thorns are another sort. They are the people who hear the word, but worldly

anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

Meditation: Jesus' parable of the sower is aimed at the hearers of his word. There are different ways of accepting God's word and they produce different kinds of fruit accordingly. There is the prejudiced hearer who has a shut mind. Such a person is unteachable and blind to what he or she doesn't want to hear. Then there is the shallow hearer. He or she fails to think things out or think them through; they lack depth. They may initially respond with an emotional reaction; but when it wears off their mind wanders to something else. Another type of hearer is the person who has many interests or cares, but who lacks the ability to hear or comprehend what is truly important. Such a person is too busy to pray or too preoccupied to study and meditate on God's word. Then there is the one whose mind is open. Such a person is at all times willing to listen and to learn. He or she is never too proud or too busy to learn. They listen in order to understand. God gives grace to those who hunger for his word that they may understand his will and have the strength to live according to it. Do you hunger for God's word?

Prayer: O God, who for the salvation of souls willed that the Bishop Saint Francis de Sales become all things to all, graciously grant that, following his example, we may always display the gentleness of your charity in the service of our neighbor. 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: This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole church. All believers have been given a share in this task – to be heralds of the good news and ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of his Holy Spirit. Today we witness a new Pentecost as the Lord pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people to renew and strengthen the body of Christ and to equip it for effective ministry and mission world-wide. Do you witness to others the joy of the gospel and the hope of the resurrection?

About Saint Francis de Sales: Francis was born on August 21, 1567, and ordained to the priesthood in 1593. From 1594 to 1598 he labored at the difficult and dangerous task of preaching to the Protestants of Chablais and effected the return of some 70,000 souls to the Catholic faith. In 1602 he became bishop of Genf. His zeal for souls is attested in 21,000 extant letters and 4,000 sermons which exemplify how he applied St. Paul's words: "I have become all things to all men." You may epitomize his character in two words: (1) kindness and (2) loveliness — virtues that were the secret of his success. His writings reflect his kindheartedness and sweet disposition. Most widely known is the saint's *Introduction to the Devout Life*, which, with the *Imitation of Christ*, is rightly considered the finest outline of Christian perfection. Francis' *Introduction* proves to the world that true piety makes persons amiable, lovable and happy. In recognition of the *Introduction* and his other writings Francis was declared a doctor of the Church.

Thursday, January 25 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Holy Gospel: Mark 16:15-18 Jesus appeared to the Eleven and said to them: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Meditation: Jesus' departure and ascension into heaven was both an end and a beginning for his disciples. While it was the end of Jesus' physical presence with his beloved disciples, it marked the beginning of Jesus' presence with them in a new way. Jesus promised that he would be with them always to the end of time. Now as the glorified and risen Lord and Savior, ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, Jesus promised to send them the Holy Spirit who would anoint them with power on the Feast of Pentecost, just as Jesus was anointed for his ministry at the River Jordan. When the Lord Jesus departed physically from the apostles, they were not left in sorrow or grief. Instead, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' last words to his apostles point to his saving mission and to their mission to be witnesses of his saving death and his glorious resurrection and to proclaim the good news of salvation to the entire world. Their task is to proclaim the good news of salvation, not only to the people of Israel, but to all the nations. God's love and gift of salvation is not just for a few, or for a nation, but it is for the whole world – for all who will accept it. The gospel is the power

of God, the power to forgive sins, to heal, to deliver from evil and oppression, and to restore life. Do you believe in the power of the gospel?

Prayer: O God, who taught the whole world through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Paul, draw us, we pray, nearer to you through the example of him whose conversion we celebrate today, and so make us witnesses to your truth in the world. 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: This is the great commission which the risen Christ gives to the whole church. All believers have been given a share in this task – to be heralds of the good news and ambassadors for Jesus Christ, the only savior of the world. We have not been left alone in this task, for the risen Lord works in and through us by the power of his Holy Spirit. Today we witness a new Pentecost as the Lord pours out his Holy Spirit upon his people to renew and strengthen the body of Christ and to equip it for effective ministry and mission world-wide. Do you witness to others the joy of the gospel and the hope of the resurrection?

About Saint Paul: St. Paul, originally named Saul, a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin, was born at Tarsus, the capitol of Cilicia. He was a Roman citizen. He was brought up as a strict Jew, and later became a violent persecutor of the Christians. While on his way to Damascus to make new arrests of Christians, he was suddenly converted by a miraculous apparition of Our Lord. From a fierce persecutor he became the great Apostle of the Gentiles. He made three missionary journeys which brought him to the great centers of Asia Minor and southern Europe, and made many converts. Fourteen of his Epistles are found in the New Testament. He was beheaded in Rome in the year 66 A.D.; his body is kept in the Basilica of St. Paul near the Ostian Way.

Friday, January 26 ~ Third Week in Ordinary Time Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Holy Gospel: Mark 4:26-34 Jesus said to the crowds: "This is how it is with the Kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the Kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

Meditation: What can mustard seeds teach us about the kingdom of God? The tiny mustard seed literally grew to be a tree which attracted numerous birds because they loved the little black mustard seed it produced. God's kingdom works in a similar fashion. It starts from the smallest beginnings in the hearts of men and women who are receptive to God's word. And it works unseen and causes a transformation from within. Just as a seed has no power to change itself until it is planted in the ground, so we cannot change our lives to be like God until God gives us the power of his Holy Spirit.

Prayer: O God, who adorned Saints Timothy and Titus with apostolic virtues, grant through the intercession of them both, that, living justly and devoutly in this present age, we may merit to reach our heavenly homeland. 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 of the Universe is always ready to transform us by the power of his Spirit. Are you ready to let God change you by his grace and power? The kingdom of God produces a transformation in those who receive the new life which Jesus Christ offers. When we yield to Jesus Christ, our lives are transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. Paul the Apostle says, "we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). Do you believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit?

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

frlumpe:2024



~ TAKING PLACE IN THE CATHEDRAL PARISH ~

BANNS OF MARRIAGE: St. Joseph Cathedral happily announces the coming nuptials of Sunny Cox and Kyle Appel on February 3, 2024. Please keep them in prayer as they prepare for their wedding.

CATHEDRAL BIBLE STUDY: Cathedral Bible study meets every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. There is interest in having a daytime Bible study as well. If you are interested in joining either session, please contact Carol at 614-224-1295 or at cathedral@sjhcc.org.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH COFFEE MAKING AND SETTING UP FOR FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS. Please Contact Ed Hueckel, Emmett2381@yahoo.com.

~ TAKING PLACE AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH ~

HAPPY NEW YEAR! It is already the 3rd Sunday of Little Larry Sandwich making, and we're just sending this message to ensure that the parishioners see that we can use their help this Sunday as well as the 3rd Sunday of every month in making the sandwiches!

IN, AROUND AND NEAR THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

JOINT ORGANIZATION FOR INNER-CITY NEEDS, (JOIN), is an agency of the Diocese's Catholic Charities Office, located at 578 E Main Street in downtown Columbus. Sharing God's love and word through the assistance provided to our brothers and sisters is our daily aspiration. Because of the generosity throughout our Diocese, JOIN is able to help our neighbors with their essential needs such as food, personal care, household items and diapers. We can also assist with more complicated issues, such as prescriptions, utilities, birth certificates and transportation. The Ash Wednesday collection of your church and others is instrumental in our mission to serve our neighbors with these various needs and more. All donations go directly to improve the quality of life for those we serve. It is a modest but significant way to begin Lent, for you and the community. On behalf of all of us here at JOIN, and from the neighbors we serve, thank you for all you do through your ministries that serve our brothers and sisters. You are always welcome to visit JOIN or feel free to call or email me, Lisa Keita, director of JOIN, any time 614-241-2530 or lkeita@columbuscatholic.org. God bless you with His Grace and Peace!



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, which will be held Saturday, February 17, 2024. Get registered TODAY at www.columbuscatholicwomen.com/

St. Padre Pio Relic at The Columbus Catholic Women's Conference: The glove of St. Padre Pio will be displayed for veneration at the upcoming Columbus Catholic Women's Conference in February. Scan the QR code to register for the Conference.



ODU TO HOST ST. THOMAS AQUINAS LECTURE ON JANUARY 25: Ohio Dominican University will host its Annual St. Thomas Aquinas Lecture on Thursday, January 25, as theologian and scholar Fr. Justin Brophy, OP, Ph.D. presents, "Thomas Aquinas: What is Truth in the Modern World." The free lecture will take place at 11:00 a.m. in the Matesich Theatre, located inside Erskine Hall on ODU's main campus, 1216 Sunbury Road, Columbus, 43219. Fr. Brophy currently serves as an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island. More information is available at ohiodominican.edu.



CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – Friday, February 2, 2024 – Join us at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a Luncheon to award the 2024 Catholic Man of the Year. The award will be presented by Bishop Earl Fernandes. The Luncheon is sponsored by The Order of Foresters, a Catholic Fraternal Benefit Life Insurance Society since 1883. More information is available at <https://www.catholicforester.org/> or by contacting Mike Dippold at (614) 847-0649. If you are interested in sponsoring a Luncheon, contact Pat Foley at foley513@gmail.com. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m., followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Bishop Fernandes' presentation of the award. No reservations are necessary; \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting.

DR. ALAN MOSTROM: On Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Parish at 20 E. Dominion Boulevard, Columbus will be hosting Dr. Alan Mostrom. Dr. Mostrom will present a talk as part of the parish's Eucharistic Revival Speaker Series. The talk is titled: *The Presence of God in the Soul, and the Presence of Christ in the Eucharist*. For more information, including bio info, please contact [@KatyWyatt](mailto:KatyWyatt@OLP) at OLP.

ST. CHARLES SPAGHETTI DINNER AND CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK ACTIVITIES: St. Charles will host its Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, February 4, from 1:00-6:30 p.m., in the school's Walter Student Commons. Dinner will be prepared by the Susi Family and their staff from Berwick Manor. Entertainment will be provided by the SC Concert & Jazz Band, which will perform at 2:15 and 4:00 p.m. Guests will enjoy a bountiful meal of spaghetti with meatball, salad, rolls, ice cream, and a beverage. \$14.00 for Adults; \$10.00 for Senior Citizens; \$7.00 for Children 4-12 (3 and under are free). There is also a \$55.00 Family rate (dine-in, up to six immediate family members). Carry-out orders will be available.

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SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL
 Updated January 16, 2024
 2023 Appeal Report

Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 42,645.24
TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE	\$ 61,138.00
Exceeds Diocesan Goal by	\$ 18,492.76

Thank you all for your Generosity and may God bless you.
 Percent of Parishioner Participation – 16.6%

Offertory for Saint Joseph Cathedral

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Mail-in	\$ 1,050.00
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8% Diocese	(\$ 332.72)
TOTAL	\$ 3,826.28
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HOLY CROSS CHURCH
 Updated January 16, 2024
 2023 Appeal Report

Goal established by the Diocese	\$ 21,018.43
Enhanced Goal	\$ 26,018.43
TOTAL PLEDGES TO DATE	\$ 20,900.00
Diocesan AMOUNT STILL NEEDED	\$ 118.43

Thank you all for your Generosity and may God bless you.
 Percent of Parishioner Participation – 18.7%

Offertory for Holy Cross

Offertory	\$ 1,024.05
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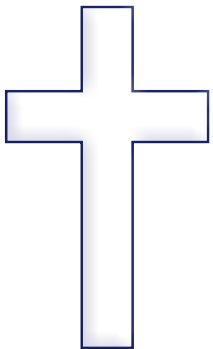
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