

# Sacred Heart

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Corner of E. First Avenue  
& Hamlet Street*

Church Mailing Address:  
168 E. Lincoln Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Parish Office  
(614) 294-5319

**Msgr. Frank Lane, Administrator**  
*(Territorial Parish ~ Est. 1875)*

### **MASSES:**

**Saturday:** 4:00 p.m.; **Sunday:** 11:00 a.m.

### **WEEKDAYS & HOLY DAYS:**

*See Mass Schedule inside the Bulletin.*

### **PARISH OFFICE/STAFF:**

Administration is done through the office of Saint John the Baptist, 168 Lincoln Street. Requests for copies of sacramental records, scheduling of Masses and other sacramental celebrations, and non-emergency needs should be made during regular office hours or email [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org).

Please notify the Parish Office of any changes such as address or telephone number, etc., by calling during regular office hours.

### **MUSIC MINISTRY:**

**Gina M. Bishop**, Music Director  
**John C. Huffman**, Organist

### **PARISH MEMBERSHIP:**

We welcome you into our Parish Families.  
Membership in the parish consists of two parts:

**Registration:** Please complete the parish registration and return to Parish Office.

### **OFFICE STAFF**

Aggie Howard, Executive Assistant, [ahoward@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:ahoward@sjbitaliana.org)  
Victoria Scruggs, Secretary & Bulletin Editor, [vgammell@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:vgammell@sjbitaliana.org)  
**Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

### **RECONCILIATION:**

**Saturday:** 3:30 p.m.; **Sunday:** 10:30 a.m.

### **BAPTISM:**

Preparation is required for the reception of the sacrament.  
Parents are encouraged to call the office  
and set up an appointment before the birth of their child.

### **MATRIMONY:**

Arrangements should be made at least six or more months in advance.  
A marriage preparation program is required.

### **SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:**

**In cases of emergencies, please call anytime.**  
**Please notify the Parish Office for Communion calls to the sick, shut-ins.**

Due to privacy laws, if parishioners wish to be visited in the hospital, they should contact the Parish Office directly and give the information regarding the hospitalization.

**If you are scheduled for surgeries or other medical procedures,** please contact the Parish Office in advance so that a priest can administer Anointing of the Sick prior to the procedure.

### **BULLETIN DEADLINE:**

Announcements must be submitted in writing by Tuesday at noon.

**[www.sacredheartchurchcolumbus.org](http://www.sacredheartchurchcolumbus.org)**



## SACRED HEART

**Dear Friends in Christ,  
Thank You!**

I want to thank everyone who contributed to the great success of our Festival. Certainly, thanks go to **Adam**, the **Board** and all the workers – many too many to name. Thanks also to **Jeremy** for coordinating the parking at **Sacred Heart** and all those who assisted him.

The Festival had too many highlights to be able to choose any specific component, but certainly the entertainment was spectacular, as were the food opportunities. It was great to see the church as a very busy place the whole three days.

The **Festival** is not only a food and entertainment venue but a real gathering of people who get to see what a community of believers can accomplish for others on a rather grand scale. Faith can accomplish great things for others also in a quieter and ongoing way.

As life begins to return to normal, let's go forward in our daily parish lives with some renewed energy and enthusiasm. Thank you all again! Everyone rest up for next year!!!

**OCIA** classes are now being offered for both **Sacred Heart** and **St. John the Baptist** parishes. **Mass** is scheduled at **St. John's** at 6:00 p.m., followed by **OCIA class** at 7:00 p.m. in the parish library located on the **second** floor. This class is required for anyone who wants to enter the **Catholic Church**, for those baptized **Catholic** but did not complete the Initiation **Sacraments**, as well as those who simply desire to deepen their understanding of **Catholicism**. **Questions:** Sharon Curtin at 614-563-8405, or [SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org).

**Many Blessings!**  
**Msgr. Frank Lane**

If you are interested in becoming Catholic, receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, or Baptism, please contact Sacred Heart Office at 614-294-5319 for more information.

For Weddings and Funerals, please contact Aggie Howard at [ahoward@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:ahoward@sjbitaliana.org) or call the Office at 614-294-5319.

## WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT SACRED HEART

October 8, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 5

In Env:	\$	178.00
Loose:	\$	621.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>799.00</b>
<b>Less Diocesan 8% Assessment</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>-(63.92)</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>735.08</b>
<b>Votives</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>53.00</b>
<b>Capital Repair</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>78.00</b>

? \$ ? \$ ? \$ HOW IS SACRED HEART DOING? \$ ? \$ ?

**Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/23-6/30/24)**

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Difference (\$)</b>
<b>This Wk.:</b>	\$2,800.00	\$799.00	-(2,001.00)
<b>FYTD:</b>	\$35,000.00	\$27,012.00	-(6,988.00)

**Mass Time Change:** Mass times at Sacred Heart are Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and at St. John the Baptist are Mondays and Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. As of October 11, Masses on Wednesdays at Sacred Heart are held at St. John the Baptist at 6:00 p.m. with RCIA following at 7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist parish Library on the second floor.

**Income and Expenses from August 1, through August 31, 2023.**

<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 20,777.67</b>
<b>Expense:</b>	<b>\$ 26,135.44</b>
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>-\$ 5,357.77</b>

## MASSES AT SACRED HEART

<b>Saturday</b> 10/14		<b>+ Alfred &amp; Tony Schoch</b> by Erna Schoch
<b>Sunday</b> 10/15	11:00 a.m.	<b>+ Antonio Caradonna</b> by Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Di Cristoforo
<b>Monday</b> 10/16	10:00 a.m.	<b>Living &amp; Deceased Members of Sacred Heart</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 10/19	6:30 p.m.	<b>+ Dorothy M. Hardgrove</b> by Mary Hardgrove Sutphen
<b>Saturday</b> 10/21	4:00 p.m.	<b>+ Robert Stefanov</b> by Joe & Debbie Stefanov
<b>Sunday</b> 10/22	11:00 a.m.	<b>+ Peyton Broyles</b> by Dennis Jacob & Family



**DONATION QR CODE AND WEBSITE INFORMATION:** Please help Sacred Heart maintain this beautiful 100-year-old building with a donation by using the QR code. Thank you!

**SH Collection Counters for Monday, October 16, 2023**  
Donna Bowers and Mike Padovan

**SH Collection Counters for Monday, October 23, 2023**  
Donna Bowers and Rita Ward



**Office Hours:** Parish Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Praying the Rosary:** You are invited to join fellow **Sacred Heart Parishioners** in praying the **Rosary** prior to **Sunday Mass**. Parishioners meet at **10:30 a.m.**

**Mass Intentions:** Sacred Heart is in need of Masses to cover for Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Please consider having a Mass said for your loved ones. Thank you!

**Requesting a Mass Intention:**

To request a **Mass Intention** at **Sacred Heart**, please put the following information in an envelope and place it in the collection basket.

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the **person** for whom the intention is being requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Please put if person is **deceased** or **living** \_\_\_\_\_

Date you would prefer the **Mass** to be offered: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stipend (The suggested stipend for a **Mass Intention** at **Sacred Heart** is **\$10.00.**)

**Join Us in Ryan Hall:** Please consider coming over to **Ryan Hall** after **Mass** for coffee, donuts, and fellowship. This is a time to get to know fellow parishioners and just relax with a good cup of coffee. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Parish School of Religion:** Growing in faith means living a life centered on **Christ**, through active participation in **Sunday** liturgy (**Mass**), the sacraments, and generous service to others. Children with strong faith and values make for happier homes and have proven to do better in school.

**Our Parish School of Religion** is held every **Sunday** at **St. John the Baptist** following the **9:30 a.m. Mass** in the parish library on the second floor. Everyone is welcome, including non-Catholic children. Hope to see you there! Questions: **Sharon Curtin** at **614-563-8405**, or **SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org**.



**A huge Sacred Heart "Thank You" to everyone who generously volunteered their time to help with parking cars for the 2023 Italian Festival!! A special shout out to Jeremy Polk for organizing and spearheading this very**

**important fundraiser! Your efforts are truly appreciated! The total received for this year is \$4,660.00. WONDERFUL JOB AND A THANK YOU TO EACH ONE OF YOU. God Bless you.**



**Coming to Columbus in Fall 2024:** A classical high school in the **Catholic** tradition – **Chesterton Academy of**

**St. Benedict (grades 9-12).** Learn about the school and meet the founding team at an information session, **Tuesday, October 24, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** in **St. John the Baptist** Marrapese Hall. For additional details and to RSVP, visit **www.chestertonacademy.stbenedict.org**.

## AROUND US

**Liturgical Calendar:** **October** falls during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. Green is a symbol of hope, as it is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The month of **October** is dedicated to the **Holy Rosary**. The **Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary** is celebrated on **October 7**.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of October 2023:** *We pray for the Church that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.*

**Diocese of Columbus Vocal Training Program:** The diocesan **Vocal Training Program** is being developed to strengthen the vocal skills of our parish singers and to introduce chant singing in a way that everyone can understand and appreciate. **Dr. Richard K. Fitzgerald, Director of Music of the Diocese of Columbus** and **Dawn Beckman, Head Instructor of the Diocesan Vocal Training Program** will offer training workshops in **October** and **November 2023**. The first workshop will be held on **October 28** from **10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon** at **The Basilica of St. Mary of the Assumption in Lancaster, Ohio**. The second workshop will be hosted by **Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Marysville, Ohio** on **November 4**, also from **10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**. We invite parishes to join a workshop close to them, and we hope to welcome everyone from the diocese by the end of the season. Please register for this free workshop by emailing **Dawn** at **rtbddd@aol.com**. We hope to see you there!

**Relic of St. Jude:** A relic of **St. Jude the Apostle**, known as the patron saint of hope and impossible causes, will be displayed at three sites in the **Columbus** area on three consecutive days. The relic will be at **Westerville St. Paul Church, 313 N. State Street**, on **Monday, October 30**; the **Columbus St. Thomas More Newman Center, 64 W. Lane Avenue**, on **Tuesday, October 31**; and the **New Albany Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road**, on **Wednesday, November 1**. **Veneration of the Relic** at all three places will be from **1:00 to 10:00 p.m.**

**October 31 Adoration:** First Called, **St. Andrew's Youth Group**, is planning an **ADORATION NIGHT** on **October 31** from **6:00-9:00 p.m.** with **Jesus** being the best **TREAT** we have in our lives. **October 31** is also the **EVE** of **ALL SAINTS** and for many **High Schoolers** it could be a night to pray with their **Confirmation Saints**, too. First Called has partnered with **Bishop Watterson High School** to attract as many **YOUTH** as possible and invites all parishes in the diocese to reach out to their youth to participate. Contact **Maria Moore, St. Andrew Youth Minister**, for more information.

12TH ANNUAL

# SACRED HEART CONGRESS

**NOVEMBER 4, 2023 | 8:00am - Noon**  
**ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CHURCH**

BISHOP  
**EARL K. FERNANDEZ**

HONORABLE  
**FRANK LANE**

FATHER  
**STASH DALEY**

NATIONAL DIRECTOR  
**EMILY JAMMET**

REGISTRATION IS REQUESTED AND APPRECIATED: \$15 Individuals | \$25 Families  
REGISTER AT: **www.WelcomeHisHeart.com**

**Today's Gospel:** The Gospel is taken from **Matthew 22:1-14**. How foolish the **Pharisees** were in not listening to our **Lord's** warnings. **He** gave them every opportunity to turn away from the false path which their pride had chosen for them. **His** divine heart was ever ready to embrace them if only they would allow it. **"God created us without our cooperation,"** says **St. Augustine**, **"but he cannot save us unless we cooperate."** This implies a daily carrying of the cross, a daily struggle against our evil inclinations, a daily endeavor to acquire true love of **God** and neighbor. This may sound superhuman, but **Christ** did not ask anyone to do the impossible. **He** led the way, and millions have followed Him to eternal glory. **He** has called us, too, and has placed within our easy reach in His Church all the grace we need. If we fail to use these divine helps, if we are found without the wedding garment, we will have no one to blame but ourselves. We have been called with the many, and we can be among the "chosen."

– Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings*  
by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

**"Jesus reminds us of what happens when someone forgets to be grateful. Ungratefulness generates violence, while a simple "thank you" can bring back peace." @Pontifex**

I CAN DO  
**ALL** things through  
**CHRIST** who  
strengthens  
**ME.** Philippians 4:13

**Prayer:** *May Your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen*

# Lectio Divina

## SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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“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)

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*The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary.*

***"All the pleasures of the world, and all the kingdoms of this earth, shall profit me nothing. It is better for me to die in behalf of Jesus Christ, than to reign over all the ends of the earth. 'For what shall a man be profited, if he gain the whole world, but lose his own soul?' Him I seek, who died for us: Him I desire, who rose again for our sake."*** +SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

**Monday, October 16 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time**  
**Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin;**  
**Saint Gerard Majella, Priest**

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

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

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

**Prayer ~ Saint Gerard Majella:** O good Saint Gerard, powerful intercessor before God and wonder worker of our day, confidently I call upon you and seek your aid. On Earth you always fulfilled God's designs, help me now to do the holy will of God. Implore the Master of Life, from whom all paternity proceeds, to render me fruitful in offspring, that I may raise up children to God in this life, and in the world to come heirs to the Kingdom of His Glory. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Many fatalities could be avoided if people took the warning signs seriously. When the religious leaders demanded a sign from Jesus, he gave them a warning to avert spiritual disaster. It was characteristic of the Jews that they demanded "signs" from God's messengers to authenticate their claims. When the religious leaders pressed Jesus to give proof for his claims he says in so many words that he is God's sign and that they need no further evidence from heaven than his own person. The Ninevites recognized God's warning when Jonah spoke to them, and they repented. Jonah was God's sign and his message was the message of God for the people of Nineveh. Unfortunately the religious leaders were not content to accept the signs right before their eyes. They had rejected the message of John the Baptist and

now they reject Jesus as God's Anointed One (Messiah) and they fail to heed his message. Do you pay attention to warning signs?

## **Tuesday, October 17 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time**

### **Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr**

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

**Meditation:** Is the Lord welcomed at your table? Are you ready to feast at his table? A Pharisee, after hearing Jesus preach, invited him to dinner, no doubt, because he wanted to hear more from this extraordinary man who spoke the word of God as no one else had done before. It was not unusual for a rabbi to give a teaching over dinner. Jesus, however, did something which offended his host. He did not perform the ceremonial washing of hands before beginning the meal. Did Jesus forget or was he deliberately performing a sign to reveal something to his host? Jesus turned the table on his host by chiding him for uncleanness of heart.

**Prayer:** Almighty ever-living God, who adorn the sacred body of your Church with the confessions of holy Martyrs, grant, we pray, that, just as the glorious passion of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, which we celebrate today, brought him eternal splendor, so it may be for us unending protection. 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:** Which is more important to God — clean hands, or a clean mind and a clean heart? Jesus chided the Pharisees for harboring evil thoughts that make us unclean spiritually — such as greed, pride, bitterness, envy, arrogance, and the like. Why does he urge them, and us, to give alms? When we give freely and generously to those in need we express love, compassion, kindness, and mercy. And if the heart is full of love and compassion, then there is no room for envy, greed, bitterness, and the like. Do you allow God's love to transform your heart and mind? If not, why not?

**About Saint Ignatius of Antioch:** In the *Martyrology* we read: "At Rome, the holy bishop and martyr Ignatius. He was the second successor to the apostle Peter in the see of Antioch. In the persecution of Trajan he was condemned to the wild beasts and sent in chains to Rome. There, by the emperor's order, he was subjected to most cruel tortures in the presence of the Senate and then thrown to the lions. Torn to pieces by their teeth, he became a victim for Christ." The bishop and martyr Ignatius of Antioch occupies a foremost place among the heroes of Christian antiquity. His final journey from Antioch to Rome was like a nuptial procession and a Way of the Cross. For the letters he wrote along the way resemble seven stations of the Cross; they may also be called seven nuptial hymns overflowing with the saint's intense love for Christ Jesus and his longing to be united with Him. These letters are seven most precious jewels in the heirloom bequeathed to us by the Church. The year of St. Ignatius' death is unknown.

## **Wednesday, October 18 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time**

### **Saint Luke, Evangelist**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 10:1-9** The Lord Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"

**Meditation:** There is a significance of Jesus appointing 72 disciples to the ministry of the word, one of whom was Saint Luke, the Evangelist, who himself was a convert from paganism. Seventy-two was a significant number in biblical times. Moses, for example, chose 72 elders to help him in the task of leading the people through the wilderness. In Jesus' times, 72 was held to be the number of nations throughout the world. Jesus commissioned the 72 disciples to a two-fold task: to speak in his name, and to act with

his power. Jesus gave them instructions in how they were to carry out their ministry. They must go and serve as men without guile, full of charity and peace, and simplicity. They must give their full attention to the proclamation of God's kingdom and not be diverted by other lesser things. They must travel light — only take what was essential and leave behind whatever would distract them — in order to concentrate on the task of speaking the word of God. They must do their work, not for what they can get out of it, but for what they can give freely to others, without expecting special privileges or reward.

**Prayer:** Lord God, who chose Saint Luke to reveal by his preaching and writings the mystery of your love for the poor, grant that those who already glory in your name may persevere as one heart and one soul and that all nations may merit to see your salvation. 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:** When Jesus commissioned 72 of his disciples to go on mission, he gave them a vision of a great harvest for the kingdom of God. Jesus frequently used the image of a harvest to convey the coming of God's reign on earth. The harvest is the fruition of labor and growth — beginning with the sowing of seeds, then growth, and finally fruit for the harvest. In like manner, the word of God is sown in the hearts of receptive men and women who submit to God and honor him as their Lord and King. The harvest Jesus had in mind was not only for the people of Israel, but for all the peoples (or nations) of the world. God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). It also bears contemplation of the meaning when Jesus says his disciples must be lambs in the midst of wolves. The prophet Isaiah foretold a time when wolves and lambs will dwell in peace (Isaiah 11:6 and 65:25). This certainly refers to the second coming of Christ when all will be united under the Lordship of Jesus after he has put down his enemies and established the reign of God over the heavens and the earth. In the meantime, the disciples must expect opposition and persecution from those who oppose the gospel. Jesus came as the true "sacrificial lamb" who atones for the sin of the whole world. We, as disciples of Jesus, the Lamb of God, must also be willing to stand up and promote the truths of the Gospel in the face of societal challenges and lifestyles that are contrary to the Gospel, and be willing to sacrifice our lives in humble service of our Lord and Master.

### **Thursday, October 19 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time Saints Isaac Jogues and John de Brebeuf, Priests and Martyrs, and Companions, Martyrs**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 11:47-54** The Lord said: "Woe to you who build the memorials of the prophets whom your fathers killed. Consequently, you bear witness and give consent to the deeds of your ancestors, for they killed them and you do the building. Therefore, the wisdom of God said, 'I will send to them prophets and Apostles; some of them they will kill and persecute' in order that this generation might be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah who died between the altar and the temple building. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be charged with their blood! Woe to you, scholars of the law! You have taken away the key of knowledge. You yourselves did not enter and you stopped those trying to enter." When Jesus left, the scribes and Pharisees began to act with hostility toward him and to interrogate him about many things, for they were plotting to catch him at something he might say.

**Meditation:** What does Jesus mean when he says they have taken away the key of knowledge? The religious lawyers and scribes held the "office of the keys" since they were the official interpreters of the scriptures. Unfortunately their interpretation of the scriptures became so distorted and difficult to understand that others were "shut off" to the scriptures. They not only shut themselves to heaven; they also hindered others from understanding God's word. Through pride and envy, they rejected not only the prophets of old, but God's final prophet, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the "key of David" (see Isaiah 22:22; Revelations 3:7) who opens heaven to those who accept him as Lord and Savior. He is the "Wisdom of God" and source of everlasting life. Only the humble of heart — those who thirst for God and acknowledge his word as true — can truly understand this wisdom.

**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:** Do you revere God's word and submit to it as true and authoritative for your life? Or does God's word make for a good phrase on a t-shirt or coffee mug, and that's about as far as it goes?



God sent his prophets to open the ears of his people to hear and understand God's word and intention for their lives. God's wisdom is personified in the voice of the prophets, a voice that usually brought rejection and martyrdom because they spoke for God rather than for human approval and favor. Jesus chastised many of the religious leaders of his day for being double-minded and for demanding from others standards which they refused to satisfy. They professed admiration for the prophets by building their tombs while at the same time they opposed their message and closed their ears to the word of God. Are your ears open to God's word – enough to transform your mind and heart?

## **Friday, October 20 ~ Twenty-Eighth Week in Ordinary Time**

### **Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest**

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

**Meditation:** You might be wondering why Jesus warned his disciples to avoid the ways of the Pharisees. The Pharisees wanted everyone to recognize that they were pious and good Jews because they meticulously and scrupulously performed their religious duties. Jesus turned the table on them by declaring that outward appearance doesn't always match the inward intentions of the heart. Anyone can display outward signs of goodness while inwardly harboring evil thoughts and intentions. The word hypocrite means actor – someone who pretends to be what he or she is not. But who can truly be good, but God alone? Hypocrisy thrives on making a good appearance and masking what they don't want others to see. The good news is that God's light exposes the darkness of evil and sin in our hearts, even the sin which is unknown to us. And God's light transforms our hearts and minds and enables us to overcome hatred with love, pride with humility, and pretense with integrity and truthfulness. God gives grace to the humble and contrite of heart to enable us to overcome the leaven of insincerity and hypocrisy in our lives.

**Prayer:** 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:** What does fear have to do with the kingdom of God? Fear is a powerful force. It can lead us to panic and flight or it can spur us to faith and action. The fear of God is the antidote to the fear of losing one's life. "I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears...O fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no want! ...Come, O sons, listen to me, I will teach you the fear of the Lord." (Psalm 34:4,9,11) What is fear of God? It is reverence for the One who made us in love and who sustains us in mercy and kindness. The greatest injury or loss which we can experience is not physical but spiritual – the loss of one's soul to the power of hell. A healthy fear of God leads to spiritual maturity, wisdom and right judgment and it frees us from the tyranny of sinful pride, deceit and cowardice – especially in the face of evil and spiritual deception. Do you trust in God's grace and mercy and do you submit to his word?

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;  
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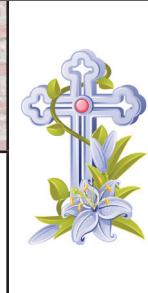
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