

(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. 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 Victoria Scruggs, Secretary & Bulletin Editor, 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

SACRED HEART CHURCH COLUMBUS, OHIO

SACRED HEART

Dear Sacred Heart Parishioner

November the 19th we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Church. Bishop Fernandes will be here to celebrate the 11:00 a.m. Anniversary Mass. There will be a reception after the Mass in Ryan Hall. The celebration is open to anyone who would like to attend. We especially invite our neighbors from St. John the Baptist and anyone who has ever had an affiliation with Sacred Heart. More information will follow in the bulletin and other media sources, but just plan ahead and be ready to join with those of us at Sacred Heart in a celebration of all that Sacred Heart has been for the Diocese and the City of Columbus this last century!

Also, please remember that we need to increase our offertory to just cover our operation costs. We all know that no one lives on nothing! Attendance and financial support will strengthen our community and guide us safely into the years to come. So – Thank You for your support and your concern for Sacred Heart!

Thank you and many Blessings! Msgr. Frank Lane

P.S. OCIA classes are now being offered for both Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist parishes on Wednesday evenings right after the 6:00 p.m. Mass at St. John. OCIA class starts 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? Contact Sharon Curtin at 614-563-8405, or SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org.

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 or call the Office at 614-294-5319.

MASSES AT SACRED HEART				
Saturday 10/28	4:00 p.m.	+ Carolyn & Michael Palmer by John & Nancy Pawlowski		
Sunday 10/29	11:00 a.m.	+ Ruth Berger by Jim & Gloria Merckling		
Wednesday 11/1	10:30 a.m.	+ Eugenio Sinang by Jim & Gloria Merckling		
Thursday 11/2	6:30 p.m.	+ Ralph Guggenbiller by Carla Guggenbiller		
Saturday 11/4	4:00 p.m.	+ Albert Root by Patrick Martin & Thomas Sinacola		
Sunday 11/5	11:00 a.m.	Carole Morbitzer by William & Suzanne Paszke		

<u>Office Hours:</u> Parish office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Mass Time Change: Mass times at Sacred Heart are Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and St. John the Baptist are Mondays and Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m., followed by OCIA at 7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish Library on the second floor.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT SACRED HEART October 22, 2023 Number of Envelopes used Sunday 7

In Env: Loose:	\$ \$	420.00 1,753.00
Total Less Diocesan 8% Assessment		2,173.00 -(173.84)
	\$	1,999.16
Community Outreach World Mission Sunday	\$ \$	71.25 84.00
Capital Repair	\$	20.00
Total	\$	175.25

? \$? \$? HOW IS SACRED HEART DOING? \$? \$? Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/23-6/30/24)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)
This Wk.:	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,173.00	-(\$ 627.00)
FYTD:	\$40,600.00	\$31,744.00	-(\$8,856.00)

Income and Expenses from August 1, through August 31, 2023.
Income: \$ 20,777.67
Expense: \$ 26,135.44
Difference: \$ 5,357.77

DONATE 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 30, 2023

Dave and Gilda Cottrill

SH Collection Counters for Monday, November 6, 2023

Rita Ward and Mike Padovan

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.)

<u>Praying the Rosary:</u> 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!

MEMORIAL BOOK: Once again, this year, we have an opportunity to list loved ones in our **Memorial Book**. The book is located at the rear of the church near the center aisle. The names entered in the book will be remembered at every **Mass** celebrated at **Sacred Heart** during the month of **November**.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN CHURCH: In preparation for the 100th anniversary of the first Mass offered in this building, we will do a cleaning of the church on Saturday, November 11 at 9:30 a.m. Many hands will make short work of a large task. While we have a company that takes care of general cleaning, we will be cleaning in the sanctuary to include both altars, marble steps on the high altar, ledges on the high altar, all furniture, i.e., ambo, stalls, presiders chair, credence table, communion rail, and anything else that doesn't move. We will also clean the chapel and side altars to include kneelers and votive candle stands. In the Sacristy and main body of the church, we will clean the door ledges, pews, Stations of the Cross, confessionals, and anything else that may have dust on it. With a large turnout, we should be able to complete the task in less than two hours. Sign-up sheets will be at all entrances. Please write your name and telephone number legibly so that in case something causes a change in the schedule we can notify you. Questions? See Jim before/after Mass.

Announcement

Sacred Heart's 100th Anniversary Celebration will be November 19, 2023. If you would like to volunteer to put this celebration together, sign-up sheets will be in the back of the church and the side entrance of the church. Thank you!



Join Us in Ryan Hall: Please consider coming over to Ryan Hall after Mass on 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? Contact Sharon Curtin 614-563-8405, or SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org.

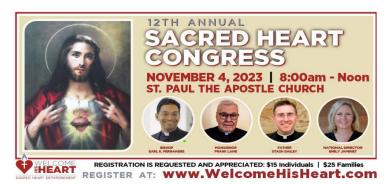
AROUND US

<u>Liturgical Year:</u> The entire month of **November** falls during the liturgical season known as <u>Ordinary Time</u>, which is represented by the liturgical color green. The month is dedicated to the <u>Holy Souls in Purgatory</u> whose feast is celebrated on **November 2**.

November 1: Today is the **Solemnity of All Saints**. The **Church** celebrates all the saints: canonized or beatified, and the multitude of those who are in heaven enjoying the beatific vision that are only known to **God**.

November 2: Today is the Commemoration of the All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day). The Church, after celebrating the Feast of All Saints, today prays for all who, in the purifying suffering of Purgatory, await the day they will join in heavenly glory.

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.



Today's Gospel: The Gospel is from Matthew 22:34-40. The Pharisees may have had poor intentions when asking Christ, the question as to the greatest commandment. But they have done us a good service by getting this crystal-clear answer from Him. In this answer, He tells us that the man who loves God and neighbor fulfills all his obligations and carries out all the duties that God's self-revelation in "the law and the prophets" imposes on him. God revealed Himself to us that the Old Testament as our Creator and divine benefactor. He had no need of us, since He is infinitely perfect in Himself, But out of His infinite goodness, He wished to share His eternal kingdom of happiness with mankind and so He created us. That we should love such a benefactor and be grateful to Him is not asking much of us; such love should surely be the spontaneous reaction of a rational being, and yet there were and there are many who fail to acknowledge any such obligation. Where Christians can, and too often do fail, is in their true love of neighbor. Yet Christ says that this commandment is like the first. Love of neighbor is an essential part of our obligations toward God. If we fail in this, we fail in our love for God, for we refuse to carry out this sacred duty. If we do not recognize our neighbor as our brother, we do not recognize God as our Father, and we do not love Him. As St. John puts it: "Anyone who says, 'I love God' and hates (does not love) His neighbor is a liar." (1 Jn.3: 20) Remember that whatever spiritual or material help is given out of true charity to a neighbor in need, is given to God, and whatever is given to God is soundly invested in heaven, and heaven pays handsome dividends.

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



God calls each of us to spend time with Him. Being in His presence will transform you. All are welcome!

Want to know more? Email mariafrommeyer@yahoo.com

<u>Prayer:</u> Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what You command, so that we may merit what You promise. 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

"What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?" ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

"Be sure that you first preach by the way you live. If you do not, people will notice that you say one thing, but live otherwise, and your words will bring only cynical laughter and a derisive shake of the head." +SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO

Monday, October 30 ~ Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath. And a woman was there who for eighteen years had been crippled by a spirit; she was bent over, completely incapable of standing erect. When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said, "Woman, you are set free of your infirmity." He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, said to the crowd in reply, "There are six days when work should be done. Come on those days to be cured, not on the Sabbath day." The Lord said to him in reply, "Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath until his ox or his ass from the manger and lead it out for watering? This daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years now, ought she not to have been set free on the Sabbath day from this bondage?" When he said this, all his adversaries were humiliated; and the whole crowd rejoiced at all the splendid deeds done by him.

Meditation: There are a plethora of things that, at times, can keep any of us bound up or oppressed – especially physical, emotional, or spiritual infirmities, which can befall us. Notice that when Jesus encountered an elderly woman who was spent of her strength and unable to stand upright, he gave her words of faith and freedom and he restored her to health. She must have suffered much, both physically and spiritually for eighteen years, since Jesus remarked that Satan had bound her. How can Satan do this? The scriptures indicate that Satan can act in the world with malice and can cause injuries of a spiritual nature, and indirectly even of a physical nature. Satan's power, however, is not infinite. He cannot prevent the building up of God's kingdom or reign in our lives. Jesus demonstrates the power and authority of God's kingdom in releasing people who are oppressed by physical and emotional sickness, by personal weakness and sin, and by the harassment of the evil one in their lives. It took only one word from Jesus to release this woman instantly of her infirmity. Do you believe in the power of Jesus to release you from affliction and oppression?

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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 Jewish leaders were indignant that Jesus would perform such a miraculous work on the Sabbath, the holy day of rest. They were so caught up in their ritual observance of the Sabbath that they lost sight of God's mercy and goodness. Jesus healed on the Sabbath because God does not rest from showing his mercy and love, ever. God's word has power to change us, spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Is there anything that keeps you bound up or that weighs you down? Let the Lord speak his word to you and give you freedom.

Tuesday, October 31 ~ Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:18-21 Jesus said, "What is the Kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that a man took and planted in the garden. When it was fully grown, it became a large bush and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches." Again he said, "To what shall I compare the Kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch of dough was leavened."

Meditation: What can mustard seeds and leaven 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. Leaven is another powerful agent of change. A lump of dough left to itself remains just what it is, a lump of dough. But when the leaven is added to it a transformation takes place which produces rich and wholesome bread when heated -- the staple of life for humans. 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 Cor. 4:7). Do you believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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 answers his own rhetorical questions with marvelous images: the tiny seed that grows into the large bush, the yeast that transforms the flour into an abundance of bread. We know this, that a small thing can have a big effect, as we have known a suggestion, a hope, an idea – followed – to lead to a whole career or way of life. From a chance meeting comes a fruitful relationship; from a small kindness comes – well, salvation. To me, this is about Faith and Hope – especially that my little faith and smaller abilities may yet help build "the Kingdom of Heaven." So although I continue to weep and groan, I pray each day, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done." A good question for today is: What can I do today that might be the seed or the bit of yeast that will grow into the Kingdom for others? That's a good question, and may be the right question for my readers. But – true confession here! – having considered this Gospel, I've discovered the question truly rhetorical (because I have an answer) that I've been trying to avoid -- that I am finally asking myself today is: What apparently little thing must I change in my life so that God may Reign in me?

Wednesday, November 1 ~ Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time Solemnity of All Saints ~ A Holy Day of Obligation ~

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

Meditation: The beatitudes respond to the natural desire for happiness that God has placed in every heart. They teach us the final end to which God calls us, namely the coming of God's kingdom (Matthew 4:17), the vision of God (Matthew 5:8; 1 John 2; 1), entering into the joy of the Lord (Matthew 25:21-23) and into his rest (Hebrews 4:7-11). Jesus' beatitudes also confront us with decisive choices concerning the life we pursue here on earth and the use we make of the goods he puts at our disposal. God alone satisfies. Theresa of Avila's prayer book contained a bookmark which she wrote: "Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you; all things pass: God never changes. Patience achieves all it strives for. Whoever has God lacks nothing, God alone suffices." Is God enough for you? God offers us the greatest good possible – abundant life in Jesus Christ (John 10:10) and the promise of unending joy and happiness with God. Do you seek the highest good, the total good, which is above all else?

Prayer: Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. 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 is the good life which God intends for us? And how is it related with the ultimate end or purpose of life? Is it not our desire and longing for true happiness, which is none other than the complete good, the sum of all goods, leaving nothing more to be desired? Jesus addresses this guestion in

his sermon on the mount. The heart of Jesus' message is that we can live a very happy life. The call to holiness, to be saints who joyfully pursue God's will for their lives, can be found in these ten beatitudes. Jesus' beatitudes sum up our calling or vocation – to live a life of the beatitudes. The word beatitude literally means "happiness" or "blessedness." Living a life of Christ will bring us true joy, true happiness – everything else of this world is fleeting.

About All Saints Day: Today the Church celebrates all the saints: canonized or beatified, and the multitude of those who are in heaven enjoying the beatific vision that are only known to God. During the early centuries the Saints venerated by the Church were all martyrs. Later on the Popes set November 1 as the day for commemorating all the Saints. We all have this "universal call to holiness." What must we to do in order to join the company of the saints in heaven? We "must follow in His footsteps and conform [our]selves to His image seeking the will of the Father in all things. [We] must devote [our]selves with all [our] being to the glory of God and the service of [our] neighbor. In this way, the holiness of the People of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good, as is admirably shown by the life of so many saints in Church history" (Lumen Gentium, 40).

Thursday, November 2 ~ Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed ~ All Souls' Day

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: What kind of future are you preparing for? What about the life to come after our death? God puts in the heart of every living person the desire for unending life and happiness with him. While death claims each of us at the appointed time, God gives us something which death cannot touch -- his own divine life and sustaining power. In the Old Testament, one of the greatest testimonies of faith and hope in the midst of great suffering and pain is that of Job: For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another (Job 19:25-27).

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.

An additional prayer for those who have died: Almighty God, through the death of Your Son on the Cross, You destroyed our death; through His rest in the tomb You hallowed the graves of all who believe in You; and through His rising again You restored us to eternal life. God of the living and the dead, accept our prayers for those who have died in Christ and who are buried with Him in the hope of rising again. Since they were true to Your name on earth, may they praise You forever in the joy of heaven. Amen.

Contemplation: Yesterday we celebrated "All Saints" day; today we celebrate "All Souls" day as a day of remembrance and honor to those who have died. As we commemorate this day, it seems much like our Memorial Day civic holiday – without the veteran aspect of the holiday. What is the difference between our celebrations? On All Saints Day we pray to those saints in heaven to intercede for us. And on occasion this includes someone we know and who has been a strong part of our life. But on All Souls Day we pray for our loved ones who have died and ask the Lord to admit them to their eternal reward. Our readings encourage us to open up our minds and hearts to the mystery of God's love for us. We very easily can focus our attention on what we are missing as we remember our family and friends who have died. And this very human emotion is strong and is good and is part of our human nature which God has created. But God also has called us to trust in His promises of salvation and an eternal reward. Jesus reveals himself in many countless ways to those who seek him with eyes of faith. When we read the word of God in the Bible, Jesus speaks to us and reveals to us the truth – the mind and heart of God the Father.

All Souls Indulgences: An indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory (a specific person, or to any soul 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 November 1-8; on other days of the year it is partial. + A plenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted to the faithful, who on the day dedicated to the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed [November 2 (as

well as on the Sunday preceding or following, and on All Saints' Day)] piously visit a church. In visiting the church it is required that one Our Father and the Creed be recited. + To acquire a plenary indulgence it is necessary also to fulfill the following three conditions: sacramental Confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the intention of the Holy Father. The three conditions may be fulfilled several days before or after the performance of the visit; it is, however, fitting that communion be received and the prayer for the intention of the Holy Father be said on the same day as the visit. + The condition of praying for the intention of the Holy Father is fully satisfied by reciting one Our Father and one Hail Mary. A plenary indulgence can be acquired only once in the course of the day. For more information, visit:

https://www.ncregister.com/blog/here-s-how-you-can-help-the-holy-souls-in-purgatory

Friday, November 3 ~ Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Martin de Porres, Religious

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1-6 On a Sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees, and the people there were observing him carefully. In front of him there was a man suffering from dropsy. Jesus spoke to the scholars of the law and Pharisees in reply, asking, "Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath or not?" But they kept silent; so he took the man and, after he had healed him, dismissed him. Then he said to them "Who among you, if your son or ox falls into a cistern, would not immediately pull him out on the Sabbath day?" But they were unable to answer his question.

Meditation: In our increasingly busy world where we regularly try to pack ten pounds of activities into a five pound bag, today we should give an honest assessment of how each of us approaches the commandment to observe the Sabbath as a day of rest to honor the Lord. Obviously there is a balance to be struck here. The Pharisees were convinced that Jesus was a reckless Sabbath-breaker. The Gospels record seven incidents in which Jesus healed people on the Sabbath - the seventh day of the week set apart for rest and the worship of God. You would think Jesus' miracles on the Sabbath day of rest would draw admiration and gratitude from all. Unfortunately, each incident seemed to incite increasing hostility from the religious leaders who held an interpretation that went beyond God's intention for the Sabbath day of rest. They were certain that Jesus was a dangerous and irreligious man, a Sabbath-breaker, who must be stopped at all costs. But what about ourselves? How do we treat Sunday (the Sabbath for Christians)? Do we make going to Mass a priority because we want to give fitting praise, worship and thanksgiving to God, and to be nourished by the words of sacred scripture and the Body and Blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ? Do we have a desire to "want" to go to Mass, versus a drag-vour-feet attitude of "do I have to go to Mass?" Do I place sports, practices, rehearsals, sleep, shopping, travel, time in the office to catch up, yard work, et cetera above Mass? Or do I make Mass a priority recognizing that I can do these other things later? After Mass, am I cheating myself out of a much-needed day of rest by choosing instead to pack ten pounds of activities into a five-pound bag?

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: Why did God give the commandment to keep holy the Sabbath and enjoined his people to refrain from work on that day? The "Sabbath rest" was (and is still) meant to be a time to remember and celebrate God's goodness and the goodness of his works, both in creation and redemption. It was (and still is) a day set apart for the praise of God, his work of creation, and his saving actions on our behalf. It was (and still is) intended to bring everyday work to a halt and to provide needed rest and refreshment. It was not, however, intended to put a stop to love of God and love of neighbor. The law of love supersedes the law of rest! Jesus shows the fallacy of the Pharisees' legalism by pointing to God's intention for the Sabbath: to do good and to heal. Are hospitals closed on Sundays? Of course not. The need for physical healing is a constancy in our lives. So is spiritual healing, which is just as important. That is why the Sabbath remains an important day in our lives to get the spiritual nourishment we need to keep ourselves spiritually fit in order to live our lives as disciples of Christ.

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.

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COLUMBUS PIAVE CLUB "Celebrating 100 Years"

Be of service to the Italian Community in Columbus and St. John the Baptist Church Meeting first Tuesday of every month at St. John www.columbuspiaveclub.com

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