



## SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Corner of E. First Avenue and Hamlet Streets*

Church Address: 893 Hamlet Street, Columbus, Ohio 43201

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

*(Territorial Parish ~ Est. 1875)*

(614) 294-5319

Fax: (614) 294-4303

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

**Msgr. Frank P. Lane, Parochial Administrator**

### **MASSES:**

**Saturday:** 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday:** 11:00 a.m.

### **Weekdays and Holy Days:**

(See Mass Schedule inside Bulletin)

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

**Aggie Howard**, Executive Assistant, [ahoward@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:ahoward@sjbitaliana.org)

**Victoria Scruggs**, Secretary, [vgammell@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:vgammell@sjbitaliana.org)

Office Hours, St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart Church:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Administration of both parishes is done through the office at St. John the Baptist – 168 E. Lincoln Street. Requests for copies of sacramental records, scheduling of Masses and other sacramental celebrations, hall rental and other 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, etc., by calling during regular hours or email [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org).

### **MUSIC MINISTRY:**

**Gina M. Bishop**, Music Director

**John C. Huffman**, Organist

### **BULLETIN DEADLINE:**

Announcements must be submitted in writing by Tuesday at noon.

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

**Registration:** Please fill out form and return to Office.

**Participation:** As a member of the Church, you are accepting the responsibility of weekly worship as well as supporting God's work here through giving of yourself, your time and talents, and a worthy Sunday offering to show your love for God and your gratitude for His many favors.

**RECONCILIATION: Saturday:** 3:00-3:45 p.m.

### **BAPTISM:**

Preparation is required for the reception of the sacrament. Parents are encouraged to call the Rectory 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.

## SACRED HEART

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

There are a few things happening at **Sacred Heart** that we should all be aware of. We have found a way to repair the roof and replace broken slates that is affordable. We have found a way to repair, clean and replace tiles on the slate roof and fix the leaks that have come through the lower metal roofs for **\$55,000.00**. This is a far cry from the daunting **\$400,000.00** estimate to replace the roof. We have **Ruscilli Construction** to thank for helping us find this solution and helping us to implement it. The work may have already begun by the time you read this. Needless to say, we would welcome anyone who could, to come forward and help us defray that cost. We are not flush as you know and whatever help we could get, would be of great benefit to the parish.

In addition to the roof repairs, the new carpet for the sanctuary is long overdue but may be coming soon. I know we talked about this a long time ago, but it is finally going to happen. The people of **Sacred Heart** should know that **Bishop Fernandes** is personally paying for this as his gift to the parish. The money is not coming out of our account or the diocesan account. We are very grateful to him for his generosity to us.

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

### WELCOME TO SACRED HEART

**Sacred Heart** is a welcoming community, rooted in the traditions, teachings, and beauty of our **Catholic** faith. We recognize that every person is on his or her own journey of faith, and we seek to meet you where you are in your journey. At **Sacred Heart**, the beauty of the **Mass** is embraced, while maintaining a welcoming spirit for our **Italian Village** neighbors and greater **Columbus Community**.

To learn more about the Parish, please visit our website: [www.Sacredheartchurchcolumbus.org](http://www.Sacredheartchurchcolumbus.org)  
*Thank you for choosing Sacred Heart!*

Please contact Sacred Heart or St. John the Baptist Church if you are interested in becoming Catholic, receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation or Baptism. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 614-294-5319.

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

### LECTORS

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 4:00 p.m.	Joe Stefanov
Sunday, November 3, 2024, 11:00 a.m.	Chris Urban
Saturday, November 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m.	Joe Stefanov
Sunday, November 10, 2024, 11:00 a.m.	Dennis Jacob

If you are unable to attend Mass, please contact Bob Longstreth. Thank you!

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ADORATION:** In celebration of the Jubilee 350th year of the apparition of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Sacred Heart Church will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. every **Thursday** until the **Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 27, 2025**. During that time, the **Blessed Sacrament** will be exposed for **Adoration**, there will be a **6:30 p.m. Mass** followed by **Confessions and Benediction until 7:30 p.m.** There must be someone present throughout the entire day and help is needed! Please, sign up for an hour or half-hour of **Adoration on Thursday**. There are sign-up sheets at both church entrances. **Your help is needed for this especially important mission!**

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday:**  
**November 3**  
**St. John the Baptist – 9:30 a.m.**  
**+ Gaetana & Cesidio Capoccia**  
*by Maria Capoccia & Family*  
**Sacred Heart – 11:00 a.m.**  
**+ Halie D.**
- Monday:**  
**November 4**  
**St. John's – 12:00 Noon**  
**Living & Deceased Members of St. John's**
- Tuesday:**  
**November 5**  
**St. John's – 12:00 Noon**  
**+ Richard Lumpe**  
*by Fr. Michael Lumpe*
- Wednesday:**  
**November 6**  
**St. John's – 6:00 p.m.**  
**+ Uncle Joe Pishitelli & Intention for Judy Pishitelli**  
*by Mr. & Mrs. John McAvoy*
- Thursday:**  
**November 7**  
**Sacred Heart – 6:30 p.m.**  
**Living & Deceased Members of Sacred Heart**
- Friday:**  
**November 8**  
**No Mass**
- Saturday:**  
**November 9**  
**Sacred Heart – 4:00 p.m.**  
**+ Aunt Jane Steining**  
*by Tom & Kim Duncan & Sandy Bertrand*
- Sunday:**  
**November 10**  
**St. John's – 9:30 a.m.**  
**+ Antonio (Tony) Polletta**  
*by Italia Ciotola*  
**Sacred Heart – 11:00 a.m.**  
**+ Lena Colatruglio**  
*by Colatruglio Family*

### CONFESSION AND ADORATION

- Confessions:** **St. John's – Sunday – 8:30 a.m.**  
**Sacred Heart – Saturday – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Sacred Heart – Thursday – 7:00 p.m.**

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:**  
**Sacred Heart, Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.**

**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** The process in which adults enter the **Roman Catholic Church** is known as **OCIA**, “The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.” Who is eligible for this process?

**The Unbaptized.** The primary focus of the **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults** is on those who are not already **Christian** and have had little or no religious education.

**Baptized but un-catechized** are those who have been baptized in the **Roman Catholic Church** but need further catechetical instruction to celebrate the **Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist.**

**Those Seeking Full Communion with the Catholic Church** are baptized, practicing **Christians** from another **Christian Tradition** who seek entry, or full communion with the **Roman Catholic Church.**

*If you know someone who might be interested,* please call **Sharon Curtin** at **614-563-8405**, or email at [sharon@mcurtin.com](mailto:sharon@mcurtin.com). Classes are held at **St. John the Baptist Church** in the parish library on the second floor on **Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m.** and began **September 18, 2024.**



**Sacred Heart Alumni** from left to right: **Pat Byrne Trenor, Linda Rowe Posten, Rose Rizek Fancelli, Mary Hardgrove Sutpken.**



**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION 2024-2025**

One of the most important aspects a parish must have to survive is a strong religious education program. **Sacred Heart Parish** began on **September 15th** in the rectory living room. **Grandchildren are welcome if the grandparents are registered in the parish.** Non-Catholic children are also invited. Class begins immediately following the **11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass** and will last **45 minutes.** Please call **Sharon Curtin** at **614-563-8405**, or email at [sharon@mcurtin.com](mailto:sharon@mcurtin.com) for information. Thank you.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT SACRED HEART**

**October 27, 2024**

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 15

In Env:	\$	645.00	
Loose:	\$	603.00	
Total	\$	1,248.00	
Less Diocesan 9% Assessment	\$	-(112.32)	
	\$	1,135.68	
<b>This Week:</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Difference (\$)</b>
	\$2,800.00	\$1,248.00	-\$1,552.00

**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 – Monday, November 4, 2024**

**Rita Ward and Mike Padovan**

**SH Collection Counters – Monday, November 11, 2024**

**Donna Bowers and Rita Ward**

**AROUND US**

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR:** The **Catholic Church** dedicates the month of **November** to honoring the dead and relieving the suffering of **souls in purgatory.** Some of the main feast days in **November 2024** include:

- **November 1: Solemnity of All Saints,** which honors all the holy men and women that the **Catholic Church** has canonized.
- **November 2: All Souls’ Day,** which commemorates all the faithful departed.
- **November 9: Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome**
- **November 24: Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**
- **November 30: St. Andrew**
- The liturgical season for most of **November** is **Ordinary Time,** which is represented by the color green. The liturgical color changes to purple at the beginning of **Advent.**

**ALLOW US TO PRAY FOR YOUR BELOVED DEAD:** As is our custom, we will be praying for our deceased relatives and friends during the month of **November.** Please print the names of your loved ones in the notebook located in the entrance to the church so that they may be included in our prayers.

**WE INVITE YOU TO PRAY for the Holy Father’s Intentions for the Month of November 2024:** *We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.*



**PRAYER:** *Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift Your faithful offer You right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things You have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen*

# 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 November is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory.*

*November 1-8 is the Octave of All Saints. For information on how to obtain a Plenary Indulgence for the Souls in Purgatory during this Octave, or a Partial Indulgence during November, please visit:*  
<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=3888>

***“Do not idle away your time; but produce ever more good works while you still have time.” +SAINT CHARLES BORROMEIO***

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

**Holy Gospel: Luke 14:12-14** On a Sabbath Jesus went to dine at the home of one of the leading Pharisees. He said to the host who invited him, “When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or sisters or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Rather, when you hold a banquet invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**Meditation:** Who do you honor at your table? The Lord is always ready to receive us at his table. As far as we can tell from the gospel accounts, Jesus never refused a dinner invitation! Why, in this particular instance, does Jesus lecture his host on who he should or shouldn't invite to dinner? Did his host expect some favor or reward from Jesus? Did he want to impress his neighbors with the honor of hosting the "miracle worker" from Galilee? Jesus probes our hearts as well. Do you show favor and generosity to those who will repay you in kind? What about those who do not have the means to repay you — the poor, the sick, and the disadvantaged? Generosity demands a measure of self-sacrifice. It doesn't impoverish, but rather enriches the soul of the giver. True generosity springs from a heart full of mercy and compassion. God loved us first, and our love is a response of gratitude to his great mercy and kindness towards us. We cannot outgive God in his generosity towards us. Do you give freely as Jesus gives without expectation for personal gain or reward?

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

**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.

**About Saint Charles Borromeo:** Charles Borromeo, the bishop of Milan, came from a wealthy, aristocratic Italian family. He was born in the family castle, and lived a rather lavish life, entertaining sumptuously as befit a Renaissance court. He personally enjoyed athletics, music, art, and the fine dining that went along with lifestyles of the rich and famous of the sixteenth century. His maternal uncle, from the powerful Medici family, was pope. As was typical of the times, his uncle-pope made him a cardinal-deacon at age twenty-three and bestowed on him numerous offices. He was appointed papal legate to Bologna, the Low Countries, and the cantons of Switzerland, and to the religious orders of St. Francis, the Carmelites, the Knights of Malta, and others. When Count Frederick Borromeo passed away, many people

thought Charles would give up the clerical life and marry now that he had become head of the Borromeo family. But he did not. He deferred to another uncle and became a priest. Shortly thereafter he was appointed bishop of Milan, a city that had not had a resident bishop for over eighty years. Although raised to the grand life, Borromeo spent much of his time dealing with hardship and suffering. The famine of 1570 required him to bring in food to feed three thousand people a day for three months. Six years later a two-year plague swept through the region. Borromeo mobilized priests, religious, and lay volunteers to feed and care for the sixty thousand to seventy thousand people living in the Alpine villages of his district. He personally cared for many who were sick and dying. In the process, Borromeo ran up huge debts, depleting his resources in order to feed, clothe, administer medical care, and build shelters for thousands of plague-stricken people. As if the natural disasters facing Borromeo were not enough, a disgruntled priest from a religious order falling out of favor with Church authorities attempted to assassinate him. As Charles knelt in prayer before the altar, the would-be assassin pulled a gun and shot him. At first, Charles thought he was dying, but the bullet never passed through the thick vestments he was wearing. It only bruised him. Borromeo combined the love of the good life with the self-sacrificing zeal one would expect of a Renaissance churchman. Once when he was playing billiards, someone asked what he would do if he knew he only had fifteen more minutes to live. "Keep playing billiards," he replied. He died at age forty-six, not at the billiard table but quietly in bed.

## **Tuesday, November 5 ~ Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time**

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

**Meditation:** In the ancient world, the most notable sign of favor and intimate friendship was the invitation to "share bread" at the dinner table – "break bread" as we know it today. Who you ate with showed who you valued and trusted as your friends. A great banquet would involve a lavish meal of several courses and a large company of notable guests and friends. One of the most beautiful images of heaven in the scriptures is the royal wedding celebration and banquet given by the King for his son and close friends. We, in fact, have been invited to the most important banquet of all! The last book in the bible ends with an invitation to the wedding feast of the Lamb and his Bride, the church: The Spirit and the Bride say, Come! (Rev. 22:17). The 'Lamb of God' is the Lord Jesus Christ and his bride is the people he has redeemed by his own precious blood which was shed upon the cross for our salvation.

**Prayer:** Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** Notice how Jesus probes the reasons why people make excuses to God's great invitation to "eat bread" with him at his banquet table. The first excuse allows the claims of one's business to take precedence over God's claim. Do you allow any task or endeavor to absorb you so much that it keeps you from the thought of God? The second excuse allows material things and possessions to come before God. Do you allow the media or other diversions to crowd out time for God in daily prayer and worship? The third excuse puts home and family ahead of God. God never meant for our home and relationships to be used selfishly. We serve God best when we invite him into our work, our homes, and our personal lives and when we share our possessions with others.

## **Wednesday, November 6 ~ Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 14:25-33** Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and

calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

**Meditation:** What does the parable of the tower builder and a ruler on a war campaign have in common? Both risk serious loss if they don't carefully plan ahead. In a shame and honor culture people want to avoid at all costs being mocked by their community for failing to complete a task they began in earnest. This double parable echoes the instruction of Proverbs: "By wisdom a house is built" and "by wise guidance you can wage a war" to ensure victory (Proverbs 24:3-6). Every landowner who could afford it walled in his orchard as a protection from intruders who might steal or harm his produce. A tower was usually built in a corner of the wall and a guard posted especially during harvest time when thieves would likely try to make off with the goods. Starting a building project, like a watchtower, and leaving it unfinished because of poor planning would invite the scorn of the whole village. Likewise, a king who decided to wage a war against an opponent who was much stronger, would be considered foolish if he did not come up with a plan that had a decent chance of success. Jesus tells his would-be disciples that they, too, must count the cost if they want to succeed as his disciples. Jesus assures success for those willing to pay the price. All it cost is everything! What does Jesus have to offer that's worth giving up everything else? More than we can imagine! Jesus offers the gift of abundant life and everlasting peace and happiness with God.

**Prayer:** Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The love of God compels us to choose who or what will be first in our lives. To place any relationship or any possession above God is a form of idolatry. Jesus challenges his disciples to examine who they love first and foremost. Jesus' way to glory and power is opposite the world's way of glory and power. The choice is ours, but the Lord does not leave us alone if we choose to follow him. Does the love of Christ compel you to put God first in all you do (read 2 Corinthians 5)?

### **Thursday, November 7 ~ Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time**

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

**Meditation:** Shepherds normally counted their sheep at the end of the day to make sure all were accounted for. Since sheep by their very nature are quite social, an isolated sheep can quickly become bewildered and even neurotic. The shepherd's grief and anxiety is turned to joy when he finds the lost sheep and restores it to the fold. The housewife who lost a coin faced something of an economic disaster, since the value of the coin would be equivalent to her husband's daily wage. What would she say to her husband when he returned home from work? They were poor and would suffer greatly because of the loss. Her grief and anxiety turn to joy when she finds the coin. Both the shepherd and the housewife "search until what they have lost is found". Their persistence pays off. They both instinctively share their joy with the whole community. The poor are particularly good at sharing in one another's sorrows and joys. What was new in Jesus' teaching was the insistence that sinners must be sought out and not merely mourned for. God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone, but desires that all be saved and restored to fellowship with him. That is why the whole community of heaven rejoices when one sinner is found and

restored to fellowship with God. Seekers of the lost are much needed today. Do you persistently pray and seek after those you know who have lost their way to God?

**Prayer:** Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The scribes and Pharisees took great offense at Jesus because, among other things, he associated with sinners and treated them graciously. The Pharisees had strict regulations about how they were to keep away from sinners, lest they incur ritual defilement. They were not to entrust money to them or have any business dealings with them, nor trust them with a secret, nor entrust orphans to their care, nor accompany them on a journey, nor give their daughter in marriage to any of their sons, nor invite them as guests or be their guests. They were shocked with the way in which Jesus freely received sinners and ate with them. Sinners, nonetheless, were drawn to Jesus to hear him speak about the mercy of God. Jesus characteristically answered the Pharisees' charge with a parable or lesson drawn from everyday life.

### Friday, November 6 ~ Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time

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

**Meditation:** Notice how the dishonest steward is commended not for mishandling his master's wealth, but for his shrewd provision in averting personal disaster and in securing his future livelihood. The original meaning of "shrewdness" is "foresight". A shrewd person grasps a critical situation with resolution, foresight, and the determination to avoid serious loss or disaster. Jesus is concerned here with something more critical than a financial or economic crisis. His concern is that we avert spiritual crisis and personal moral disaster through the exercise of faith and foresight. If Christians would only expend as much foresight and energy to spiritual matters which have eternal consequences as much as they do to earthly matters which have temporal consequences, then they would be truly better off, both in this life and in the age to come.

**Prayer:** Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Contemplation:** Saint Ambrose once said: "The bosoms of the poor, the houses of widows, the mouths of children are the barns which last forever." So, thus, true wealth consists not in what we keep but in what we give away. Possessions are a great responsibility. The Lord expects us to use them honestly and responsibly and to put them at his service and the service of others. We belong to God and all that we have is his as well. He expects us to make a good return on what he gives us. God loves generosity and he gives liberally to those who share his gifts with others. The Pharisees, however, had no room for God or others in their hearts. The gospel says they were lovers of money (Luke 16:14). Love of money and wealth crowd out love of God and love of neighbor. Jesus makes clear that our hearts must either be possessed by God's love or our hearts will be possessed by the love of something else. What do you most treasure in your heart?

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 Catholic Culture.



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**COLUMBUS PIAVE CLUB**  
"Celebrating 100 Years"  
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