

# 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,*

First, let me thank all of you who have responded so generously to the financial appeal letter you have received. You can watch the bulletin and see the results of your kindness to the **Church**. Next – remember the **100th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Church** will be celebrated at the **Sunday Mass at 11:30 a.m.** on **November 19**. Everyone from both **Sacred Heart and St. John the Baptist** are more than welcome.

- **St. John the Baptist** parish is going to begin an **Italian Cooking Class**. Watch the bulletin for details.

- Remember also that anyone interested in **Religious Education** for their children, the opportunity is available after the **9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. John the Baptist**. If you think you might be interested next year, please check with **Sharon Curtin** after **Mass on Sunday**.

- At present there is an opportunity for adult faith formation by attending the **RCIA** session on **Wednesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Library at St. John the Baptist**.

**Many Blessings for the week!**

Fr. 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 or call the Office at 614-294-5319.

**MASSES AT SACRED HEART**

Saturday 11/11	4:00 p.m.	+ Ann M. Pizzurro by John & Nancy Pawlowski
Sunday 11/12	11:00 a.m.	+ Clara L.
Thursday 11/16	6:30 p.m.	+ Ralph Guggenbiller by Carla Guggenbiller
Saturday 11/18	4:00 p.m.	+ Mary Ann Neff by John & Nancy Pawlowski
Sunday 11/19	11:00 a.m.	+ Dick L.
Thursday 11/23	6:30 p.m.	Deceased Members of Merullo Family by Theresa Thurn

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT SACRED HEART**

November 5, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday 19

In Env:	\$ 1,015.00
Loose:	\$ 959.00
Holy Day:	\$ 20.00
EFT: October:	\$ 1,395.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,389.00</b>
<b>Less Diocesan 8% Assessment</b>	<b>\$ -(271.12)</b>
	<b>\$ 3,117.88</b>
<b>Votives</b>	<b>\$ 11.00</b>
<b>Anniversary Flowers</b>	<b>\$ 400.00</b>
<b>Capital Repair</b>	<b>\$ 127.00</b>
<b>Community Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 548.00</b>

**Mass Time Change:** Mass times at Sacred Heart are **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** and **St. John the Baptist** are **Mondays, 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.**

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

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

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)
This Wk.:	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 3,389.00	\$ 589.00
FYTD:	\$ 46,200.00	\$ 36,296.25	-( \$ 9,903.75)

**Income and Expenses from September 1, through September 30, 2023.**

Income:	\$ 15,440.20
Expense:	\$ 25,023.45
Difference:	-\$ 9,583.25

**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, November 13, 2023**

Donna Bowers and Rita Ward

**SH Collection Counters for Monday, November 20, 2023**

David and Gilda Cottrill



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

**RCIA:** 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**. **RCIA 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.**

**S.H. Young Adult Group:** Reminder that the **Sacred Heart Young Adult Group** will meet after **6:30 p.m. Mass** followed by **30 minutes** of Adoration and Confession on **November 16**. Please join us afterwards in **Ryan Hall** for fellowship and a talk with **Msgr. Frank Lane!**


**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.**



**Congratulations to the family of Matthew and Lauren Garbacz, whose son, Elliot Anthony Garbacz was baptized on Sunday, November 5, 2023. May the Holy Spirit be with you all!**

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Sacred Heart is in need of Mass Intentions to cover **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**.



*In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first Mass offered at Sacred Heart, Bishop Fernandes will be celebrating Mass with our parish on November 19, at 11:30 a.m. After Mass, there will be a parish potluck, a tradition at Sacred Heart. Roast chicken, beverages, and cake will be provided. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a side dish or dessert to share. We look forward to celebrating this wonderful milestone in our history with faith, fellowship, good food, and you!*



**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? Contact **Sharon Curtin** at **614-563-8405**, or [SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org).

## AROUND US

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

**CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – FRIDAY DECEMBER 1, 2023 – SPEAKER BISHOP EARL FERNANDES.** Join us **Friday, December 1** at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown **Columbus** for a luncheon featuring his **Excellency Bishop Earl Fernandes, Bishop of the Columbus Diocese**, who will present his annual address to the luncheon club. The **December** luncheon is sponsored by **The Catholic Foundation**. Started in **1984**, the **Catholic Foundation** has provided over **\$200 million** in funding for organizations throughout the **Columbus Diocese** and beyond. More information about the **Catholic Foundation** is available at <https://catholic-foundation.org/>. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, please contact **Pat Foley** at [foleyp513@gmail.com](mailto:foleyp513@gmail.com). **Holy Mass** (optional) begins at **11:45 a.m.** followed by lunch at **12:10 p.m.** and **Bishop Fernandes'** presentation. No reservations are necessary. **\$12.00** covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **There is no luncheon in January, but plan on attending our luncheon on Friday, February 2, 2024**, when **Bishop Fernandes** will return to present the **Catholic Man of the Year Award**.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of November 2023:** *We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.*

**November 26: Solemnity of Christ the King:** The last **Sunday of the Liturgical Year**. This feast is a public, social, and official declaration of the royal rights of **Jesus**, as **God the Creator**, as **The Word Incarnate**, and as **Redeemer**.

**Gold Mass:** **Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, Diocesan Director of Music**, would like to encourage parish members throughout the **Diocese**, as well as **Christians** from other church communities, to attend the **Second Annual Gold Mass** at **St. Joseph Cathedral** on **Friday evening, November 17** at **7:30 p.m.** The **Gold Mass** is the **Votive Mass** of the **Holy Spirit** offered for our musicians, to affirm them in their ministries, and to foster a greater sense of community among them. The color gold has been chosen because of its association with instruments, celebration, and performance. Priests from the **Diocese** are welcome to concelebrate with **Bishop Earl Fernandes** for this joyful and majestic liturgy, enhanced by the exquisite music of **Palestrina, Orlando di Lasso**, and current **Mass** settings by **Dr. Fitzgerald**. **Musicians** from various parishes will be participating along with the renowned cathedral choir, and all will be uplifted by the magnificent resonance of the **Fritts Grand Gallery organ**.

**Today's Gospel:** The **Gospel** is from **St. Matthew 25:1-13**. Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our **Lord** described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival to bring home to His listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in His service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. It seems incredible that there are many among us on this very day who, like the foolish bridesmaids, doze and sleep contentedly holding empty lamps in their hands, while at any moment they may be awakened by: **Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go forth to meet him.** It is up to us now to decide, aided by **God's** grace, where we shall be found on the last day – with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish.

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

“Let us ask God to grant us a compassionate gaze and a humble heart. May we never tire of asking for this, for it is on the path of compassion and humility that the Lord gives us His life, which triumphs over death.” @Pontifex



### Prayer:

*Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are Yours. 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 Holy Souls in Purgatory.*

***"We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend on material success; nor on sciences that cloud the intellect. Neither does it depend on arms and human industries, but on Jesus alone."*** +SAINT FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

**Monday, November 13 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time  
Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 17:1-6** Jesus said to his disciples, “Things that cause sin will inevitably occur, but woe to the one through whom they occur. It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck and he be thrown into the sea than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. And if he wrongs you seven times in one day and returns to you seven times saying, ‘I am sorry,’ you should forgive him.” And the Apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.” The Lord replied, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

**Meditation:** While Jesus warns against the sin of bad example and scandal, he also demonstrates the power of faith for overcoming temptation and obstacles. We often encounter challenges and difficulties in life which seem beyond our power or capacity to handle. What appears impossible to human power is possible to those who believe in God's power. Faith is a gift freely given by God to help us know God personally, to understand his truth, and to live in the power of his love. God expects more from us than we can do by ourselves. Faith in God is the key for removing obstacles and difficulties which keep us from doing his will. We are his servants, and he is ever ready to work through us and in us for his glory. For faith to be effective it must be linked with trust and obedience — an active submission to God and a willingness to do whatever he commands. Do you trust in the grace and strength which God freely gives to help us resist temptation and overcome obstacles in doing his will?

**Prayer:** God our Father, who called Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini from Italy to serve the immigrants of America, by her example, teach us to have concern for the stranger, the sick, and all those in need, and by her prayers help us to see Christ in all the men and women we meet. 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:** So what is the driving force in your life? Jesus speaks of two forces at work in our lives — the power of temptation to sin and cause harm and the power of faith to overcome obstacles and difficulties that stand in the way of loving God and our neighbor. The Greek word for temptation (*scandalon*) is exactly the same as the English word “scandal.” The original meaning of scandal is a trap or a stumbling block which causes one to trip and fall. The scriptures warn us about the snare or enticement to go astray and to do what is evil. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers! (Psalm 141:9) Whoever loves a brother or sister lives in the light, and in such a person there is no cause for stumbling (1 John 2:10). The Jews held that it was an unforgivable sin to teach another to sin. If we teach another to sin, he or she in turn may teach still another, until a train of sin is set in motion with no foreseeable end. Jesus warns his disciples of the terrible responsibility that they must set no stumbling block in the way of another, that is, not give offense or bad example that might lead another to sin. The young in faith are especially vulnerable to the bad example of those who should be passing on the faith.

**Tuesday, November 14 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 17:7-10** Jesus said to the Apostles: “Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here immediately and take your place

at table'? Would he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished'? Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

**Meditation:** How can we love others selflessly and unconditionally? God himself is love (ref. 1 John 4:16) and he fills our hearts with the boundless love that gives whatever is good for the sake of another (Romans 5:5). If we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us (ref. 1 John 4:12). God honors the faithful servant who loves and serves others generously. He is ever ready to work through and in us for his glory. We must remember, however, that God can never be indebted to us. We have no claim on him. His love compels us to give him our best! And when we have done our best, we have simply done our duty. We can never outmatch God in doing good and showing love. God loves without measure. Does the love of God compel you to give your best?

**Prayer:** Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. 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:** Are you ready to give the Lord your best, regardless of what it might cost you? Perhaps we are like the laborer in Jesus' parable who expected special favor and reward for going the extra mile? How unfair for the master to compel him to give more than what was expected! Don't we love to assert our rights, with expressions of "I will give only what is required and no more!" But who can satisfy the claims of love? Jesus used this parable of the dutiful servant to explain that we can never put God in our debt or make the claim that God owes us something. We must regard ourselves as God's servants, just as Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28). We must remember that service of God and of neighbor is both a voluntary or "free act" in addition to being a sacred duty. One can volunteer for public service or be compelled to do service for one's country. Likewise, God expects us to give him the worship and praise which is his due. And he gladly accepts the free-will offering of our lives to him and to his service. What makes our offering pleasing to God is the love we express in the gift of self-giving. True love is sacrificial, generous, and selfless.

### **Wednesday, November 15 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time Saint Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 17:11-19** As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" And when he saw them, he said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, "Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?" Then he said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."

**Meditation:** The word "mercy" literally means "sorrowful at heart." But mercy is something more than compassion, or heartfelt sorrow at another's misfortune. Compassion empathizes with the sufferer. But mercy goes further; it removes suffering. A merciful person shares in another's misfortune and suffering as if it were his own. And he or she will do everything in their power to dispel that misery. Mercy is also connected with justice. Saint Thomas Aquinas once said that mercy "does not destroy justice, but is a certain kind of fulfillment of justice...Mercy without justice is the mother of dissolution; (and) justice without mercy is cruelty." Pardon without repentance negates justice. So what is the significance of these ten lepers asking for mercy? They know they are in need of healing, not just physical, but spiritual healing as well. They approach Jesus with contrition and faith because they believe that he can release the burden of guilt and suffering and make restoration of body and soul possible. Their request for mercy is both a plea for pardon and release from suffering. Jesus gives mercy to all who ask with faith and contrition.

**Prayer:** O God, who made the Bishop Saint Albert great by his joining of human wisdom to divine faith, grant, we pray, that we may so adhere to the truths he taught, that through progress in learning we may come to a deeper knowledge and love of you. 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 only one leper out of ten – a Samaritan – return to show thanks and gratitude? Gratefulness is related to grace – gratitude is the homage of the heart which responds with graciousness in expressing an act of thanksgiving. The Samaritan approached Jesus reverently and gave praise to God. If we do not recognize and appreciate the mercy shown to us we become ungrateful. Ingratitude is forgetfulness or a poor return for kindness received. Ingratitude easily leads to lack of charity and intolerance towards others, as well as to other sins, such as discontent, dissatisfaction, complaining, grumbling, pride and presumption. How often have we been ungrateful to our parents, pastors, teachers, and neighbors? Do you express gratitude to God for his mercy towards you and do you show mercy to your neighbor? When is the last time you thanked God for all that he has given you?

## **Thursday, November 16 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time Saint Margaret of Scotland; Saint Gertrude, Virgin**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 17:20-25** Asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God would come, Jesus said in reply, "The coming of the Kingdom of God cannot be observed, and no one will announce, 'Look, here it is,' or, 'There it is.' For behold, the Kingdom of God is among you." Then he said to his disciples, "The days will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. There will be those who will say to you, 'Look, there he is,' or 'Look, here he is.' Do not go off, do not run in pursuit. For just as lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must suffer greatly and be rejected by this generation."

**Meditation:** Jesus identified himself with the "Day of the Lord." "Son of man" was understood as a Messianic title for the one who would come not only to establish God's kingdom but who would come as Judge of the living as well as the dead. Jesus points to his second coming when he will return to complete the work of restoration and final judgment. While we do not know the time of his return, we will not mistake it when it happens. It will be apparent to all, both believers and non-believers as well. When the Pharisees asked Jesus what sign would indicate the "Day of the Lord," Jesus replied that only one sign would point to that day and that sign was Jesus himself. Jesus surprised the Jews of his time by announcing that God's kingdom was already present among them in his very person — the Son of God sent from the Father to redeem the world from sin and destruction.

**Prayer (Saint Margaret of Scotland):** O God, who made Saint Margaret of Scotland wonderful in her outstanding charity towards the poor, grant that through her intercession and example we may reflect among all humanity the image of your divine goodness. 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.

**Prayer (Saint Gertrude):** O God, who prepared a delightful dwelling for yourself in the heart of the Virgin Saint Gertrude, graciously bring light, through her intercession, to the darkness of our hearts, that we may joyfully experience you present and at work within us. 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.

**About Saint Margaret:** Saint Margaret of Scotland was the great-niece of Saint Edward the Confessor. She was a Saxon princess, raised in Hungary in exile. Returning to England, she had to flee once again after the Battle of Hastings, to the court of Malcolm, the King of Scotland, whom she married shortly thereafter. She proved to be a model mother and exemplary queen who brought up her eight children in an atmosphere of great devotion and worked hard to improve the morality of her subjects.

**About Saint Gertrude:** Saint Gertrude was a Benedictine nun of the monastery of Helfta, in Saxony, is one of the great mystics of the Middle Ages. She was favored by visions of our Savior and has left a marvelous account of them in a book which she called *Revelations*. Saint Gertrude introduced the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus which, four centuries later, Saint Margaret Mary spread throughout the Church. She died at the beginning of the thirteenth century. Her prayer to the Sacred Heart follows:



*O Sacred Heart of Jesus, living and life giving fountain of eternal life, infinite treasury of the Divinity, and glowing furnace of love, Thou art my refuge and my sanctuary. O adorable and glorious Savior, consume my heart with that burning fire that ever inflames Thy Heart. Pour down on my souls those graces that flow from Thy love. Let my heart be so united with Thine, that our wills may be one, and mine may in all things be conformed to Thine. May Thy will be the rule of both my desires and my actions.*

**Contemplation:** Jesus warned the Pharisees that the "Son of man" (a title from the prophet Daniel for the Messiah) would come in like manner, quite suddenly and unexpectedly, on the clouds of heaven to

bring God's judgment on the "Day of the Lord." No special sign will be needed to announce his appearance. Nor will his presence and power be veiled or hidden, but all will recognize him as clearly as the lightning in the sky. In Jesus we see the power and the glory of God's kingdom. His power overthrew the powers of darkness and sin. Jesus knew that the only way to victory was through the cross. On that cross he defeated death and canceled the debt of sin for us. The victory of his cross opens the way for us to become citizens of God's kingdom. Do you seek the coming of God's kingdom with joyful hope?

## **Friday, November 17 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 17:26-37** Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be in the days of the Son of Man; they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage up to the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Similarly, as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building; on the day when Lot left Sodom, fire and brimstone rained from the sky to destroy them all. So it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, someone who is on the housetop and whose belongings are in the house must not go down to get them, and likewise one in the field must not return to what was left behind. Remember the wife of Lot. Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it. I tell you, on that night there will be two people in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. And there will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken, the other left." They said to him in reply, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the body is, there also the vultures will gather."

**Meditation:** What does Jesus mean when he says that one person will be taken and another left? God judges each person individually on how they have responded to his grace and invitation to live as citizens of his kingdom. We cannot pass off personal responsibility to someone else, such as family, spouse, or friends. No one can discharge his or her duty by proxy or association. No playing the blame game or point fingers. The good news is that God gives grace and help to all who seek him with faith. The Lord Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit so that we may have the wisdom, help, and strength we need to turn away from sin to his way of love and holiness. The Lord's warning of judgment causes dismay for those who are unprepared, but it brings joyful hope to those who eagerly wait for his return in glory. God's judgment is good news for those who are ready to meet him. Their reward is God himself, the source of all truth, beauty, goodness, love and everlasting life. The people in Noah's time ignored the Lord's warning of judgment. They missed the boat, literally! So whose boat are you taking — the world's boat to fleeting success and happiness, or God's boat to heaven and eternal bliss with him? Those whose hope is firmly anchored in heaven will not be disappointed when God's judgment comes.

**Prayer:** O God, by whose gift Saint Elizabeth of Hungary recognized and revered Christ in the poor, grant, through her intercession, that we may serve with unflinching charity the needy and those afflicted. 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 quotes a familiar proverb to his audience: "Where the body is, there the eagles (or vultures) will be gathered together." Eagles, like vultures, are attracted to dead or decaying flesh. The Book of Job describes the eagle spying out its prey from afar (ref. Job 39:29). What's the point of this analogy? It's inevitable that a thing will happen when the necessary conditions are fulfilled. The return of the Lord is certain, but the time is unknown — despite supermarket tabloid predictions. The Lord's judgment comes swiftly and often unexpectedly. Jesus warns his listeners to not be caught off guard when that day arrives. It will surely come in God's good time! The question is, are you ready — ready right now, this very minute — for the second coming of Jesus Christ? If not, there is no time like the present.

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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