



33rd SUNDAY *in ordinary time*

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." - Mk 13:31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, Nov. 15 St. Albert the Great

8 am Charles Rose by family

6:30 pm +Kathleen Pressey by family
+Jim & Kate O'Connor by O'Connor Family

**Tuesday, Nov. 16 St. Margaret of Scotland
and St. Gertrude**

8 am Charles Rose by family

Wed., Nov. 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary

8 am +Feliks Sidor by family
+John Tobin 1st ann. by Parish

Thurs., Nov. 18 St. Rose Duchesne

8 am +Irene Choike by Bedard Family

Friday Nov. 19 Weekday

8 am +Ronald Witkowski by Lorraine Witkowski

Saturday, Nov. 20 Weekday

4 pm +Robert Favot by Eugene Suda Family
+Dominick Silette by Shirley & Family

Sunday, Nov. 21 Christ King of the Universe

8 am +Irene Pastuszka
+Richard Lund by wife Bernice

10 am +John Schade

+Lou Nagy by friends

5 pm People of the Parish

SANCTUARY LAMP burns brightly this week
in remembrance of:



†Irene Pastuszka



Please remember in your prayers
the souls of **John Schade and
Irene Pastuszka** who were bur-
ied from our parish this week.
May Christ the Good Shepherd
welcome them to Paradise and
may their families be consoled in
the hope of the resurrection.

PARISH RENEWAL DAY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

This year's Parish Day of Renewal will explore the "Witness" phase of the Encounter/Grow/Witness paradigm, featuring Mary Healy, Ph.D., professor of Sacred Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, as the keynote speaker. Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron will also address the attendees. Register online for free at: www.egwdetroit.org/pdr2021

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Every human being asks and answers a very important existential question. What happens to us when we die? The answer we provide will determine how we chart the course of our existence. It will also determine whether the Second



Coming of Christ will be of any concern to us. For many, life is simply a random occurrence with no significant intention or meaning about it. For these people, their eventual death, and the end of the earth as they know it, have little importance beyond their personal consequences. But, for people of faith our natural death and the Second Coming of Christ have huge implications. It is to these things that our faith speaks volumes and can bring a keen understanding and direction that the secular world simply cannot provide. This is where the call to vigilance and the primordial virtues of faith, hope, and love become useful and meaningful. We are works in progress who can either resist the inspirations of the Divine Artist or give into the wonderful surprising creativity of his will. ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading: The prophet Daniel foresees a time of "unsurpassed distress" where all receive divine judgement of either everlasting life or everlasting disgrace. Do thoughts of the end times bring you comfort or concern?

Second Reading: The author of Hebrews continues to emphasize Jesus' death as the definitive and final sacrificial offering for sins. Why do you think this is a central theme in the Letter to the Hebrews?

Gospel: Jesus speaks of his Second Coming at the end of time and warns his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert!" How are you preparing for judgment day? ©LPi

"To adopt a child is a great work of love. When it is done, much is given, but much is also received. It is a true exchange of gifts."

– St. John Paul II, *Address to Adoptive Families*

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in the clouds’ with great power and glory.” Take a moment to ponder these words from today’s Gospel. How does this image make you feel? For people to truly understand the significance of this message, something profound has to happen within. If we find ourselves reacting with a sense of dread or fear, we have to step back and ask why. Our answer will reveal a great deal about our relationship with God. It’s hard to fall in love with a God of whom we are afraid. God does not want us to be afraid. Nor does He want us to align our wills to His in order to avoid some kind of horrendous eternal consequence. That sounds like too much of a superficial power play on the part of God who continues to seek out His children in love.



In order for these words to carry any type of significant meaning for us, they have to resonate with and touch us on a deeper level. They have to be able to connect some dots and have meaning for us in order for this promise to change our lives. Sometimes we get preoccupied with the uncertainty of our deaths. Not knowing when or how we will eventually die can be unsettling. But, more so than needing an answer to the “when” of death, the “what” of death answer we provide has more significance. What happens to us when we die? Whether we die during the natural course of our lives or when Christ comes again, the experience is the same. If we believe that we are meant to live in union with God eternally and that death completes and does not diminish us, then it is worth our time and effort to wait in vigilant hope of the Lord’s coming in glory. Our journey back to God is something beautiful to be desired, not dreaded or feared.

Sadly, many folks believe that life is no more than a random occurrence without any purposeful direction or meaning. Death is simply death and nothing more. For them, the Second Coming of Christ and God’s eternal promise have no meaning. When we understand the truth about who we are, it changes things up. We then can see ourselves as works in progress who have the choice to either resist the inspirations of the Divine Artist or give into the wonderful creativity of His will. Life awaiting the fullness of Christ to come becomes an unfolding of Divine surprises and abundant joy. God is eternally merciful, forgiving, and welcoming. It is only when we directly reject this gift and turn our backs on Love itself that we have anything to fear. ©LPI

STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS Giving Until it Hurts

In the time of Christ, sacrifice was nothing new to the Jewish people. The Israelites were experts at sacrifice. So, after centuries of every kind of offering imaginable, what was so special about Christ’s? What made it so different from the sacrifices offered by the Levitical priests for centuries before his death?

Well, to adequately answer that question would consume whole volumes. And, of course, the first and most important reason is that Christ was the son of God and the savior of the world, not a random (if “unblemished”) lamb offering. It was only by the blood of Christ that we could be redeemed.

But another answer is this: Christ’s sacrifice cost him. In fact, it cost him everything. The offerings made by the Israelites through their priests cost them too, of course. They gave of their flocks, of their household stores, of their wealth. But Christ gave differently. He gave of himself. He gave until it was all gone.

Such is the highest form of stewardship: the gift of self to the point of discomfort. It can take a multitude of forms and I am not saying we are all called to be nailed to the cross. In fact, for most of us, our gifts will not involve physical discomfort at all. But certainly, stewardship demands discomfort. It demands that we go against our human nature of putting ourselves first, of thinking primarily of our own needs and desires. And most of all, it demands love. For that, above all else, distinguished the gift Christ gave us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI





A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME

Deacon Regis

Last week we did an overview of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. This week, let's dive into the Corporal Works of

Mercy. Recall that there are seven of them: 1. Feed the hungry; 2. Give drink to the thirsty; 3. Shelter the homeless; 4. Visit the sick; 5. Visit the prisoners; 6. Bury the dead, and last but not least; 7. Give alms to the poor.

So, where did these works come from? Like many things, the answer to that question is a little complicated. The first five are pretty easy. In Matthew 25 (31-46), Jesus talks about the Last Judgement and separating the sheep from the goats. He proceeds to tell the sheep that they will inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. Why? Because, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." He goes on to explain, "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

The last two, burying the dead and giving alms to the poor were included as time went on. Funerals give us the opportunity to grieve and show others support during difficult times. Through our prayers and actions during these times we show our respect for life, which is always a gift from God, and comfort to those who mourn.

By donating money to organizations that have the ability to provide support and services for those in need we care for our neighbor.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are first found in manuscript illumination in the twelfth-century. They've been around for a long time! Even longer than me! As we noted last week, when you perform these works of mercy, you're following Jesus whose whole three-year ministry was dedicated to these acts of mercy. Secondly, by these actions, you are "loving your neighbor".

Finally, performing these works of mercy is one of the ways that our venial sins are forgiven. One other benefit to performing Works of Mercy is that Pope Francis has continued the indulgences associated with these pious acts. "The pontiff also extends the possibility for forgiveness of sin to anyone who performs one of the traditional spiritual or corporal works of mercy during the year. 'I have asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy,' he writes. 'The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us,' states the pope. 'Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.'"

Next week, The Spiritual Acts of Mercy

**God Is Good All the Time!
All the Time God Is Good!**

Don't forget, join us this Friday and every Friday at 3PM to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM. See the ad in our bulletin or on the parish website for details on how to join in. Hope to see you there!

St. Elizabeth of Hungary | Feast Day November 17

Though her life was short, St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1207 – 1231) is recognized for her love of the poor and suffering, and as patroness of Catholic charities



and the Secular Franciscan Order.

The daughter of the King of Hungary, she chose a life of penance instead of leisure, which made an impact on the "commoners" she served.

St. Elizabeth married Louis of Thuringia when she was 14. Deeply in love, they had three children. Despite their wealth, she led a life of prayer, sacrifice, and service to the poor and sick under the spiritual direction of a Franciscan friar.

After six years of marriage, her husband died in the Crusades, and St. Elizabeth was grief-stricken. Her husband's family did not look kindly upon her and mistreated her before finally throwing her out of the palace. However, the return of her husband's allies from the Crusades resulted in her being reinstated, since her son was legal heir to the throne.

St. Elizabeth joined the Secular Franciscan Order in 1228 where she cared for the poor in a hospital she founded in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

She died in 1231, but her great popularity resulted in her being named a saint only four years later. ©LPi

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO MINISTRY TO OTHER MARRIED COUPLES?

The Marriage Support Office of the Archdiocese of Detroit is seeking to expand the team of coaching couples for the Archdiocesan sponsored Marriage Coaching Ministry. We are inviting married couples who may feel called and gifted for ministry as a couple to other couples in need of help for their marriage to learn more about this ministry opportunity.

What is Marriage Coaching Ministry? Marriage Coaching is a short-term, couple-to-couple mentoring program designed to invite couples to live out more fully God's plan for their marriage. The coaching couple comes alongside a couple in their marriage and offers them the support, practical tools, and guidance to promote a greater sense of closeness and unity in their relationship. It is intended to take the couple to a deeper understanding of their sacrament and commitment in their marriage and guide them on their spiritual journey as a couple. Marriage Coaching is not counseling or therapy.

The program is strictly confidential, no cost, and is structured along seven main coaching sessions:

1. Relationship building and family of origin factors
2. God's plan for marriage and the importance of forgiveness
3. Priorities in marriage and praying together as a couple
4. How to love and serve each other
5. Open and healthy communication
6. Sexuality in marriage
7. Spiritual relevance and growth in marriage

The goal of the Marriage Coaching program is to accompany and help couples to restore, strengthen and enrich their marriages as God intended.

The team of coaching couples is made up of seasoned married couples who feel called and gifted to give back and assist other couples in their Catholic marriage journey. They have received extensive training, ongoing formation, and team support to minister as a coaching couple.

Couples who have benefitted from the Marriage Coaching program have ranged from young marrieds to empty nesters and elderly. Some couples are simply seeking a refresher for their marriage, while many are experiencing varying degrees of struggles, stagnation, or problems in their marriage.

If you feel that God is wanting you to learn more about this ministry opportunity as a couple, then please contact the Marriage Support Office:

David Grobbel, L.M.S.W.

Marriage Support Office, Archdiocese of Detroit
grobbel.david@aod.org Tel. 248-930-9141

Question: Why do some sacraments leave a character or mark on the soul? Don't all sacraments affect the soul?

Answer: All sacraments mediate grace and connect us to Christ and to the Church. Some sustain us in our faith journey, while others help us heal from the effects of sin. Each one offers a share in God's life, giving us what we need to be faithful followers of Jesus. But some sacraments change us in ways that are irreversible.

The three sacraments that leave a character are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. We are literally different people because of the effect of the grace of those sacraments. We are changed at the core of our being in such a fundamental way that we can not go back to what we once were.

In Baptism, we are freed from original sin, initiated into the Body of Christ as adopted sons and daughters. In Confirmation, we are given the fullness of God's Spirit, sealed in his grace and gifted with what we need to live a Christian life. In Holy Orders, a priest is marked as an 'alter Christus,' another Christ, and is once and forever a priest who offers sacrifice, forgives sin, and acts in the person of Christ. In these three sacraments, we are conformed more closely to Christ, reflecting his love and truth. ©LPi

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Scripture readings from the Prophet Daniel and St. Mark's Gospel refer to the end times — Christ's glorious second coming.

The Letter to the Hebrews describes Jesus's sacrifice once for sins and His seating at the right hand of God, waiting for judgment. At that time, we will be asked to render a final account of our stewardship of God's gifts to us.

Daniel is especially clear that those who embrace evangelization of their brothers and sisters through their Christian stewardship by leading *many to justice shall be like the stars forever*.

Consider joining a local chapter of St. Paul Street Evangelization to learn how to bring back those who have left the Church, or invite those who do not know Christ to the Church.



Please
Pray
for...



Norm Abramczyk
Louise Ames
Anna Axe
Joyce Babosh
Harry Bacalia
Sue Bacalia
Norma Bak
Violet Barrette
Bob Behmer
Bob Bellottie
Jim Bellottie
Vincent Bellottie
Judy Bennett
Sharon Bieniek
Cynthia Blaha
Marilyn Block
Evelyn Boettger
Aaron Boyless
Thomas J. Brennan, Jr.
Joan Buzo
Jacob Cassar
Michaeline Chwastek

Richard Cline
Zoe Cossin
Betty Ann Crawford
Sylvia Cyncewicz
Tina Doney
Marsha Farmer
Geraldine Filippi
Cecil Fernandez
Tina Fernandez
Rosemary Fisher
Lisa Foster
Rose Fraley
Duane Glossa
Roseann Gomez
Bob & Lori Gonzales
Gary Graham Jr
Abigail Graves
Jennifer Hanna Green
Charlotte Gutierrez
Eileen Halpin
Annie Hapunowicz
Ronald Hetner
Tina Hovis
Sue Jagodka
Joanne Kacher
Norman Kaletto
Brenda Kaletto
Jeanine Kemp
Fr. Terry Kerner
Phyllis Kinnell
Evelyn Kisell

Joan Klimchalk
Chris Kovac
John Kovac
Jenene Kozinski
George Kramar
Patrica Lacopelli
Joseph Lasky
Henry Lemmens
Guadalupe Madrigal
Phyllis Mareck
Donald Martin
Erin Martin
Patricia MCoy
Larry & Carol McGrew
Frank & Jane Mellnick
Linda Molek
Steven Monroe
Pat Mozdzen
Suzanne Nicholas
Gigi Novak
Daniel O'Connor
Diane Owens
John Palmer
Mary Pellegrini
Helen Petroski
Jimmy Piche
Kathleen Pietras
Mary Pike
Jeff Pingilley
Jess Pingilley
Linda Pingilley

Robert Pingilley
Sam Pingilley
Wayne Pingilley
Carol Regnier
Whitney Regnier
Noemia Reid
Linda Robb
Richard Roberts
Laura Salazar
Fred Sanscrainte
Matt Sanscrainte
Joann Sanscrainte
Dennis Scanland
Darlene Shannon
Phil Shannon
Rose Shannon
Jaxon Shubik
Margaret Smith
Jimmy Stecki
Gerald Stevens
Jim Tokarczyk
Laurie Trupp
Michael Wheelock
Eileen Winnie
The Wirick Family
Frank Wojcik
Stephen Zelle



Air Force

Matthew Thornton, Nicole Thornton,
Michelle Thornton, Brittany Mack,
Tiffany Kay Smith (Ladd), husband, Don Smith

Army

Josh Harpster, Zachary Robbins,
Robert Truchan, Anthony Lemieux,
Bryce Bieniek, Tony Pernicano, Jacob Grzebienik,
Matthew Hapunowicz

Marines

Joseph Krawzyk, 1st Lieutenant, Joseph McGinnis,
Corporal, Andrew Clark, 1st Lieutenant,
Cody S. Pratt, Luke Cohen, PFC 1st Class

Navy

Ryan Detlor, Patrick Hanosh

Army National Guard

Vincent Nowak, Michael Dunne

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time B 1
Daniel 12:1-3 Rise and Shine



Death scares people. It even scares believers. It shouldn't, of course, because believers hope in a life of bliss with our redeemer. But death still scares us.

Like students awaiting a report card, like employees awaiting a performance review, the faithful believe that God will judge our acts after we die. Nothing will be concealed. God may be merciful, but God is also just.

The vision of the judgment that appears in the Book of Daniel strikes as much fear as hope. Michael, the archangel, the prince and guardian of God's people, will come at a time of unsurpassed distress. Those who inhabit the graves of the earth will awaken. Some will live forever, but others will be an everlasting horror and disgrace. That is Daniel's vision. Those who escape the tribulation are those whose names are found written in the book. The hope of every believer is that his or her name will show up there.

In daily prayer, many people review what they have done and place it in judgment before God.

God's Spirit can help scrutinize our actions each day. Then the day of reckoning will come as no surprise. Those who lead others to justice shall be like the stars forever.



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time B 2
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 Forgiven Once and For All

If you want to be forgiven, you do something to make up for your offense. You buy flowers. You replace what you broke. You take back your words. You say, "I'm sorry."

Life is never the same after sin and forgiveness. You become a person who is capable of a particular sin. But with forgiveness you become a person who can repent. People who became suspicious because of your sin now trust you because of your repentance. Everyone sins. But not everyone admits it. Not everyone apologizes. Not everyone seeks forgiveness. And not everyone grants it. Life is never the same after sin—it sometimes gets worse. Life is never the same after forgiveness—it usually gets better.

The Letter to the Hebrews presents the ministry of Jesus as an exercise in forgiveness. His death parallels the sacrifice that priests offered daily for the forgiveness of sins. But Jesus did not have to be crucified daily. He died once. As the perfect Son of God, his one action sufficed to win forgiveness for us all.

Forgiveness doesn't happen until some words or actions take place. We usually don't extend forgiveness until the offender admits the wrong.

In the case of Jesus, he has taken the action for us. He has offered himself in sacrifice for our forgiveness. He has made reconciliation easy. When we become aware of our sin, we confess our fault. Forgiveness is already ours.

DAILY MARRIAGE TIP
(from www.usccb.org)

1. What makes a happy marriage? Many things of course, but one glue that helps a lot of couples is being able to laugh when things go wrong. Is there a blunder that happened in your past that you're now able to laugh about?
2. Sometimes it can be frightening to embark upon a big change in life – a birth, a death, changing a job, retirement...Call to mind a fear from the past or a current one. Trust that sharing it with your beloved will be safe.
3. Parenting teens can put stress on a marriage. If you have teenagers you know that you can't always choose the time when they are in the mood to talk. When they do open up, stop and listen.
4. Fighting Fair Tip: Never say "never" or "always." It may seem like your spouse always leaves the gas tank on empty, but there's always an exception that blows your argument. Be more accurate by saying "often" or "sometimes." It stings less and creates less defensiveness.
5. November is a time to be thankful for all the gifts that we have, but it is also a time to give back. Is there a charity that you and your spouse could volunteer for this month?

St. Vincent de Paul



Food Pantry
St. Maria Goretti Parish

Please drop off your donations on Mondays and Wednesdays between 12:00 and 2:00pm or call Matt at 313-595-1317

Here is the current list of needs for our pantry:

- Coffee Creamer
- Hamburger Helper
- Spam
- Personal Hygiene: tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant, razors, shampoo, etc.
- Beef Ramen Noodles
- Instant Oatmeal Packets
- Ravioli

Well it's almost the holidays Where did the time go? Please remember us at the Pantry as we feed so many of our neighbors in need. Even a small donation goes a long way.

Please remember **December 11th** for our **Meijer in Allen Park Simply Give Program double donation day**. This is crucial to keeping our shelves full. Thank you so much for all you do. Monetary donations are always welcomed and needed as some of our neighbors are homeless. Thank you and God bless you and your families.



ST. MARIA GORETTI LECTOR SCHEDULE

	4:00pm	8:00am	10:00am	5:00pm
Nov. 13/14	Chris Bergeron	Maryellen Sobczak	Pat Woodby	Betty Cayley
Nov. 20/21	Marge Taylor	Pat Wallace	Kathy Munoz	Francis Tofil
Nov. 27/28	Sylvia Francis	Tom Koselka	Michael Munoz	M.J. Favot

SIMPLY GIVE PROGRAM THROUGH MEIJER IN ALLEN PARK

Once again it's time for our **Simply Give Program** at Meijer. Beginning NOW thru January 1 st ,you can go to the Meijer Store on the hill in Allen Park, pick up a **Simply Give** donation card



located at every other register and donate a minimum of \$10.00 which Meijer will MATCH. On December 11 th Meijer will DOUBLE your donation.

Please help us keep our shelves stocked and your neighbors fed throughout the year. We have seen quite an increase and surely could use your help.

This is the holiday season and we thank you for thinking of others in need.

— St. Maria Goretti's St. Vincent de Paul Pantry

BULLETIN EDITOR
** bulletin@simgoretti.com **

All submissions are due 10 days before publication date.

The deadline for bulletin submissions is **2:00pm on Thursday, 10 days before the bulletin date.**

Exceptions occur when the bulletin is required to be sent early due to holidays.

Please plan ahead as submissions received past the deadline will be published in the following week's bulletin.

Submissions should be sent as a Word document (single spaced), PDF or photo format (JPEG, TIFF, GIF, PNG), attached to or in the body of an email

give online

Online giving makes it easy to give! You never have to bring envelopes, cash or checks to church. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and plan its budget.

There are no fees for on-line giving.

- ★ Visit the St. Maria Goretti website at www.stmariagorettiparish.com
- ★ Click on the Online Giving link on the left side of the home page.
- ★ Complete the registration form

Please feel free to call the Parish Office if you should have any questions or want to know more about Online Giving.

Your donations are vital to the success of our Parish community.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

with Deacon Regis

Join us on

*Fridays at 3:00pm to pray the
Divine Mercy Chaplet on ZOOM.*

*To connect by computer use this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85478055945>*

*To connect by smart phone call
1 (312) 626 6799*

PARISH COMMISSIONS, COUNCILS AND GROUPS

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Matt Kulczyk Direct Number: 313.563.3970

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m.

DAILY MASSES:

Monday through Friday: 8 a.m.

Monday Evening: 6:30pm

First Friday: 8 a.m. & 12 Noon

First Saturday: 8 a.m.

CONFESSIONS Saturday: 3 - 3:30 p.m. or by request

HOLIDAYS TIMES TO BE DETERMINED

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Each Monday,
beginning at Noon, ending prior to 6:30pm Mass

BAPTISMS Contact Parish Office for arrangements.
Pre-Baptism Class required.

MARRIAGES Please contact Parish Office at least six (6)
months in advance.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

*Calls after hours should be limited to emergencies
only.*

Monday - Thursday: 9 am - 4 pm

(The office is closed daily for lunch Noon - 1 pm)

Friday: CLOSED for the time being

If you need to contact the parish office,
please call during regular business hours.
You can also reach the parish office by email:
parishoffice@smgoretti.com



Sunday, Nov 14, 2021 THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The poor have a gift for you Charity presupposes a giver and a receiver, Pope Francis reminds us this fifth annual World Day of the Poor. This division poses a spiritual danger: tempting the giver to view the poor as a "category" outside our community, to which we may choose to offer our generosity. This perception gratifies the giver and demeans the receiver. Francis observes that "the

poor, always and everywhere, evangelize us"—revealing the suffering Christ to us. Charity is occasional and voluntary; mutual sharing, however, is enduring. The real invitation of the poor is this: to share the burden of Christ until we can alleviate it. TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 12:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14, 18; Mark 13:24-32 (158). "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Monday, Nov 15, 2021 MEMORIAL OF ALBERT THE GREAT, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Head in the clouds but feet on the ground Albert the Great was a Renaissance man—but he lived in the Middle Ages. He was a German theologian, but he also wrote voluminously about botany, zoology, music, astronomy, and law—to name just a few of his studies of interest. He never let his head full of knowledge go to his head, though, and one of the ways this Dominican friar and bishop stayed humble was by only traveling by foot. Are there lifestyle changes you can make or privileges you can shed to keep yourself down-to-earth? TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43 (497). "When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God."

Tuesday, Nov 16, 2021 MEMORIAL OF GERTRUDE, MYSTIC

God's love conquers all Orphaned during the Middle Ages, Gertrude the Great grew up in a Benedictine monastery and became a brilliant scholar. Like her teacher, Saint Mechtild of Helfta, Gertrude also became well known as a mystic, experiencing—and transcribing—vivid visions of God's boundless love. Let Gertrude's encounters with Divine Love calm any worries today: "Joy and gladness be to thee from that sweetest heart, my one refuge and shelter in my exile, from that heart so full of tender care for me, whose love is so set on me that it cannot rest till it hath received me into itself for evermore." TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10 (498). "But he could not see him because of the crowd."

Wednesday, Nov 17, 2021 MEMORIAL OF ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, RELIGIOUS

Keep the faith under pressure Faithfulness unto death is the great rallying cry of the Christian. Without this in mind, today's saint, Elizabeth of Hungary, might at first seem an odd pairing with the readings about martyrdom and divine retribution. With it, however, we see that Saint Elizabeth's firm resolve to serve the poor, despite being a princess with access to enormous privilege, is precisely the kind of behavior God wishes to see in his children. It is precisely the use of the "talents" to which Jesus referred in the parable from today's gospel. Remember, then, that whenever we die to ourselves and devote our lives to Christian charity, we become common martyrs and fulfill the law of God. TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28 (499). "He, in his mercy, will give you back both breath and life, because you now disregard yourselves for the sake of his law."

Thursday, Nov 18, 2021 MEMORIAL OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE

Perseverance please! Life can sometimes beat a person down, and when that happens, the beautiful tradition of praying for saints to intercede for us can provide communion and solace. Today's saint, Philippine Duchesne, was a nun who survived the upheaval of the French Revolution and combined both a strong devotion to prayer and a passion for missionary life in the American frontier, with its many hardships. Because perseverance was a major theme in her life, she is a patron saint of perseverance in adversity. Saint Philippine, pray for us! TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44 (500). "If this day you only knew what makes for peace."

Friday, Nov 19, 2021 Act on memory

Dedications in memory of fields where lives were lost or sacred places defiled have been a mainstay since biblical times. By remembering the horror of death and destruction, we hope to redeem the site and make it holy again. But as Abraham Lincoln stated on this day in 1863 in his Gettysburg Address, honoring a Civil War battlefield: "We cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground . . . the living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it." Our role, says Lincoln, is "to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced." It is for us to "highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain." Lincoln's words echo Jesus' call to his disciples to "do this in memory of me." Become the body of Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48 (501). "The days of the dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness."

Saturday, Nov 20, 2021 MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY God of the living The Bible's Second Book of Maccabees, composed about a hundred years before Christ, introduced the ideas of resurrection from the dead, the intercession of the saints in heaven, and the responsibility of the living to offer prayers and sacrifices for the dead. The Sadducees of today's gospel episode rejected these ideas while Jesus obviously embraced them. Resurrection, praying for the souls in Purgatory, and the intercession of the saints all have become part of what the church believes. Every Saturday we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, the greatest saint in heaven, and ask her intercession for the souls of our departed relatives and friends. TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40 (502). "[God] is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

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