St. Michael the Archangel

5750 N. High Street, Worthington, Ohio 43085 • 614.885.7814



Tickets on Sale NOW!

Bethlehem Ball

An Evening Of Hope. A Celebration Of Caring.

Benefiting Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem

Save the Date

December 11, 2026
6pm - 10pm

Villa Milano

1630 Schrock Rd, Columbus, OH 43229

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to donate

onecau.se/bethlehemball

For more information email Bethlehemball@saintmichael-cd.org

Saint Michael Staff Directory

Website: saintmichael-cd.org
Parish Office: 614-885-7814

Ministers to the Parish

Pastor: Father Stash Dailey
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Michael Suhy
Priest in Residence/
Diocesan Judicial Vicar:
Fr. Robert Kitsmiller
Priest in Residence/
St. Francis DeSales Chaplin:
Fr. Kevin Girardi
Permanent Deacons:
Dcn. John Crerand
Dcn. Bill Demidovich
Pastoral Minister: Sr. Riya Mary
srriya@saintmichael-cd.org

Parish Office

Office Manager: Kathy Trafford
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Receptionist/Communication Coordinator:
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Business Manager/Accountant:
Bryan Moore
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Facilities Lead Technician: Robert Aaron

St. Michael Parish School

Website: stmichaelworthington.org
School Office: 614-885-3149
Principal: Sr. Mary Regina, O.P.
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Preschool Director: Laura Wells
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Parish Representatives

Athletic Association Representative:
Adam Rohrer
smaa@saintmichael-cd.org
Knights of Columbus Representative:
John Greve
grandknight@kofc11445.com
St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative:
Elaine Miracle
svdp@saintmichael-cd.org
Parish Council Representative:
Martha Bogue

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners of St. Michael,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

During the month of November, we REMEMBER the souls of the faithful departed and pray earnestly for them, devoting endless acts of charity expressed through prayer toward their present experience of purgatory.

At St. Joseph's side altar, we have slips of paper meant to receive names of the faithful departed; please place these names in the glass vase on the altar. These names will be remembered at all Masses throughout November.

On November 3rd, the Feast of St. Martin de Porres, our parish hosted the Funeral Mass for one of our own, Maureen Meck. So many parishioners were able to come and pray the Mass for the benefit of Maureen. There was one dimension of the day that left an imprint on me – the love that so many of our parishioners had for her and the love she had for them. It was a beautiful expression of our parishioners as a family. As I thought about the day and her impact on so many, I felt the pressing need to encourage our parishioners to truly get to know one another. Meet a parishioner who is a stranger to you, you know the one, the individual who is by you at every Mass, who you see in the parking lot, you pass on your way to the Adoration Chapel.

The Lord Jesus desires that His disciples know one another and genuinely care for one another. Now, our parish is rather large, so it is not possible for each of us to know everyone. Yet, we can know some, if not all, of our parishioners. There are smaller circles of community within the bigger parish family, and these smaller communities really enable us to come to know one another, but this requires us to get involved and invest in some of these smaller groups within the bigger family.

Maureen was deeply involved and active in the parish, but in a particular way the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and this is a great example of a highly active and alive community within the bigger parish community. We also have Women's and Men's F&F study groups, Confraternity of Christian Mothers, Knights of Columbus, Confraternity of the Holy Rosary, FIAT FRIENDS, the Parish Choir, Parish Athletics, and many other groups I can't list here.

While many of us form friend groups around our children's activities or a spouse's interest, it isn't the same as one investing themselves because that is where they can use their gifts and talents in union with others. Our sense of community must issue forth from the Lord Jesus Christ being at the center of our common interests.

On November 14th, we will host the Funeral Mass for Ann Matteis, another beautiful soul from amongst our number whom the Lord has called to Himself. She, too, is another great and profound example of someone who invested and poured herself out for the good of her community.

While it is hard for us to have to wipe away tears as we try and pray at a funeral, those tears come from a love that isn't quite sure how it needs to be directed and expressed for someone no longer by our side. Our faith in Jesus reminds us that LIFE IS CHANGED NOT ENDED. As we REMEMBER the souls of the faithful departed, may we learn the beautiful treasure that is the neighbor by our side in the Holy Mass or by our side as we work the Festival or enjoy a meal at one of the Feast Day celebrations. We can't remember someone we didn't know, and we won't weep for someone we didn't love.

Believing in Jesus opens us up to entering into the mystery of humanity and the mystery of those closest to us. We are a people shaped by the Lord Jesus and as such we Pray, we Love, and we Remember.

In Jesus our Lord,

Fr. Dailey

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 7
8:15 a.m. +Heinrich & Hubertine Bohnen
4:00 p.m. +Phyllis Ort (Teri & Jay Ryan)

Sunday, November 8
8:30 a.m. +Liz Greve (Meyers Family)
10:30 a.m. +Tina Fann (Fann Family)
12:30 p.m. +Mike Hammontree
5:00 p.m. For the Living and Deceased Members of Our Parish

Monday, November 9
6:30 a.m. +Mary Bohlander (Lauren Jazwiec)
8:15 a.m. Souls in Purgatory

Tuesday, November 10
6:30 a.m. +Norb & Trey Trenor (Kyte Family)
8:15 a.m. S.I. Jenna Pugh (Cap Family)

Wednesday, November 11
6:30 a.m. +James W. Cecil (Agnello Family)
8:15 a.m. +Loreto Tempesta (Armando & Lilliana Tempesta)
6:00 p.m. +Henry A. Orlik (Lauren Jazwiec)

Thursday, November 12
6:30 a.m. S.I. Joseph Barlage (Kevin Barlage)
8:15 a.m. +Kevin Harty (PASCO)

Friday, November 13
6:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Shimp Family
8:15 a.m. S.I. Joseph Reash (DeCenzo Family)

Saturday, November 14
8:15 a.m. +Kyle Ann Kowaleski (Steve & Kristy Wagner)
4:00 p.m. For the Living and Deceased Members of Our Parish

Sunday, November 15
8:30 a.m. +Matthew Schmidt (Vaccaro Family)
10:30 a.m. +Aurora Leandrito Asuncion
12:30 p.m. +Elaine Cruz Jones (Joseph Gecan)
5:00 p.m. +Dominic Taylor (Dcn. John Crerand)



Save the Dates for Advent

Rorate Masses

Join us for these beautiful candlelit Advent Masses offered in anticipation of the coming of Christ. **Saturdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 6:30 a.m.**

Bethlehem Ball

Friday, December 11th at Villa Milano.

Bambinelli Sunday

Bring the Baby Jesus figure from your Nativity scene to Mass for a special blessing before placing it in your Christmas crib at home on Christmas Eve. This beautiful tradition was begun by **St. Paul VI** and popularized by **St. John Paul II** throughout Rome and the world. **Sunday, December 13 – Blessing following the 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m. Masses**

Parish Calendar – November

Sunday, November 8	Confessions before 8:30, 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Masses (C) Eucharistic Exposition Cub Scouts Popcorn Sale (MH) 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 11:30 a.m. St. Gerard Blessing (C) 2:00 p.m. Preregistration Req. Baptism Class (Conf. Rm) 2:00 p.m. Seasons of Hope (UMR) 3:00 p.m. Adventurers (F/G) 6:00 p.m. Elevari (F/G)
Monday, November 9	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 5:00 p.m. Adoration Committee Meeting (UMR) 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. KoC 4th Deg. Meeting (LMR) 7:30 p.m. KoC Monthly Meeting (LMR)
Tuesday, November 10	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 11:30 a.m. Live Wires (MH) 6:00 p.m. AHG (LMR/U) 6:30 p.m. Bethlehem Ball Meeting (UMR) 7:00 p.m. Women's Faith & Fellowship (MH)
Wednesday, November 11	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Mass followed by Holy Hour & Confessions (C) 6:30 p.m. Bethlehem Ball Meeting (UMR) 7:30 p.m. OCIA (UMR)
Thursday, November 12	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts (U) 6:30 p.m. Confraternity of the Holy Rosary (UMR) 6:30 p.m. Confraternity of Christian Mothers (LMR)
Friday, November 13	Eucharistic Exposition (AC) 8:00 a.m. SVDP Society Food Drive (MH)
Saturday, November 14	6:45 a.m. Men's Faith & Fellowship (UMR) 7:00 a.m. Pietra (LMR) 8:45 PSR Reconciliation Retreat (U) 9:30 SVdP Meeting (UMR) 10:00 a.m. Funeral (C/MH) 2:30 p.m. Confessions (C) 5:00 p.m. AHG Cookie Kit Sale (MH) 5:00 p.m. SVdP Sponsor-a-Family (MH)
Sunday, November 15	Confessions before 8:30, 10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. Masses (C) Eucharistic Exposition AHG Cookie Kit Sale after each Mass SVdP Sponsor-a-Family after each Mass 9:00 a.m. OCIA (UMR) 10:30 a.m. KoC Mass & Donuts (U) 2:00 p.m. Preregistered Baptism (C) 6:00 p.m. Elevari (F/G)

To view Parish Masses & Ministry Activities in advance, please view our Parish Calendar online by visiting www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/calendar/.
(U) = Undercroft/Cafeteria, (S) = School, (C) = Church, (G) = Gym, (MH) = Marian Hall, (SL) = School Library, (UMR) = Meeting room on the first floor of the Parish Ministry Center, (LMR) = Meeting room in the basement of the Parish Ministry Center, (AC) = Adoration Chapel, (A) = Atrium, (F) = Field

Financial Stewardship

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Envelopes..... $ 14,282.92
Online Giving ..... $ 13,401.40
Total: ..... $ 27,684.32

Condolences
to the family of
Ann Matteis





Congratulations to Daniel R. Schmidt from St. Michael Troop 123 on earning the EAGLE rank.

Daniel's Eagle Scout project created raised garden beds for St. Sophia Church supporting their food pantry.

Around the Parish



LIVE WIRES SENIORS

Come join your fellow parish seniors for food, friendship, and fellowship at our next Live Wires luncheon on Tuesday, November 10, at 11:30 a.m. in Marian Hall. Bring a sack lunch, and we'll provide desserts and beverages. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time together, share stories, and strengthen the bonds of our parish community. Everyone is welcome – We hope you'll join us!



Get Your Popcorn!

Our Cub Scout Popcorn Fundraiser is officially wrapping up! The Cub Scouts will have tables set up after all Masses this weekend to sell through our remaining popcorn stock. Don't miss your chance to grab your favorite flavor while directly supporting our Scouts' adventures this year. Thank you for your amazing support!



Advent by Candelight

The Women's Faith and Fellowship invites all women of the parish to Advent by Candlelight, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. in Marian Hall. Join us for one of our most special events of the year where you will enjoy a peaceful and uplifting evening of faith and fellowship! We are excited to welcome our featured speaker, Fr. Kevin Girardi. Fr. Girardi was ordained in 2025 and currently serves as a full-time teacher and chaplain at St. Francis DeSales High School. Gather your friends and family to host a table of 8-10, or come as an individual to make new connections. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share! RSVPs kindly requested by November 27.



Adoration Chapel

There is no better way to spend an hour of your week than in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Consider signing up for Adoration. Our Adoration Chapel offers Eucharistic Exposition each Sunday from 5:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Monday from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. and from Tuesday at 6:00 a.m. through Friday at 9:00 p.m. A second Adorer is needed for many hours. Adoration is available at all other times with the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the tabernacle.

Can't commit to a weekly hour? Sign up to be a substitute. Registration is easy to do from your phone.
Visit StMichael.WeAdoreHim.com to sign up or use the QR code.

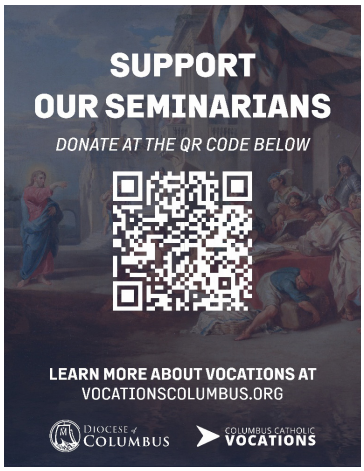


Every Gift Matters

The Holy Family Hospital Foundation provides 100% of the hospital's capital expenditures, ensuring modern equipment and facilities for patients.







Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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

The Month of November is dedicated to praying for the souls in Purgatory

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen. **+PRAYER OF SAINT GERTRUDE FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY**

Monday, November 9 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time
Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Holy Gospel: John 6:37-40 Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me*. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his Body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

Meditation: Jesus' dramatic cleansing of the temple was seen by his disciples as a prophetic sign of God's action. The temple was understood as the dwelling place of God among his people. When God delivered his people from slavery in Egypt, he brought them through the sea, and finally to Mount Sinai where he made a covenant with them and gave them a new way of life embodied in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17). God gave Moses instruction for worship and for making the Tabernacle, or tent of meeting, which was later replaced by the temple. The New Testament tells us that these "serve as a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary" - God's Temple in heaven (Hebrews 8:5). Jesus' cleansing of the temple is also a prophetic sign of what he wants to do with each of us. He ever seeks to cleanse us of sin and make us living temples of his Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Do you want to be holy as God is holy? Hopefully your answer is a resounding "yes!"

Prayer: O God, who from living and chosen stones prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty, increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed, so that by new growth your faithful people may build up the heavenly Jerusalem. 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: Through his death and resurrection, Jesus not only reconciles us with God, but he fills us with his Holy Spirit and makes us temples of the living God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). God's word enlightens our minds and purifies our hearts so that we may offer God fitting praise and worship and enjoy his presence both now and forever.

Tuesday, November 10 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

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: Jesus uses 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). Service of God and of neighbor is both a voluntary or free act and a sacred duty. One can volunteer for service or be compelled to do service for one's country or one's family when special needs arise. 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 act of self-giving. True love is sacrificial, generous, and selfless.

Prayer: O God, who never allow the gates of hell to prevail against your Church, firmly founded on the apostolic rock, grant her, we pray, that through the intercession of Pope Saint Leo, she may stand firm in your truth and know the protection of lasting peace. 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: Scripture tells us that God himself is *love* (1 John 4:16) - he is the author of life and the source of all true relationships of love and friendship. He created us in love for love, 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" (1 John 4:12). God honors the faithful servant who loves and serves others generously. He is ever ready to work in and through 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 us without measure. The question is, do we love God without measure?

Wednesday, November 11 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop
~ Veterans Day: Thank, Honor and Pray for our Veterans ~

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: 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. Why did only one leper out of ten return to show gratitude? "Gratefulness," another word which expresses gratitude of heart and a thankful disposition, is related to "grace" - which means "the release of loveliness." "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 and thanksgiving to God.

Prayer: O God, who are glorified in the Bishop Saint Martin both by his life and death, make new, we pray, the wonders of your grace in our hearts, that neither death nor life may separate us from your love. 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 for Veterans: O God, by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest, look kindly on our veterans, both living and deceased, who proudly served their country, and especially those who paid the ultimate price. Grant that through the passion, death, and resurrection of your Son they may share in the joy of your heavenly kingdom and rejoice in you with your saints forever. We pray this through Christ our Lord.

Contemplation: If we ourselves do not recognize and appreciate the mercy and help shown to us we will be ungrateful and unkind towards others. 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

vices, such as complaining, grumbling, discontentment, pride, and presumption. How often have we been ungrateful to our parents, pastors, teachers, and neighbors? When was the last time you expressed thanks and gratitude to God for his abundant help and mercy towards you? Conversely, are you gracious, kind, and merciful towards your neighbor in their time of need and support?

Thursday, November 12 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr

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: The Jews in Jesus' time were watching in great anticipation for some sign which would indicate when the Messiah would appear to establish the kingdom of God. Much like Hollywood has made a great spectacle of Jesus with trumpets blaring, the people of Jesus' time were expecting a warrior-king Messiah, a human "king-like" Messiah who would establish a "kingdom" based on human thoughts and perceptions, versus the real Jesus who was born in a manger in a borrowed stable and who spoke the message of love of God and love of neighbor. The Pharisees' question on this matter was intended to test Jesus since they did not accept him as the Messiah. Jesus surprised them with the answer that the kingdom or reign of God was already here! Jesus spoke of the coming of God's kingdom as both a present event and an event which would be manifested at the end of time.

Prayer: Stir up in your Church, we pray, O Lord, the Spirit that filled Saint Josaphat as he laid down his life for the sheep, so that through his intercession we, too, may be strengthened by the same Spirit and not be afraid to lay down our life for others. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When the Pharisees asked Jesus what sign would indicate the "Kingdom of God" 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 corruption. In the Lord Jesus we see both the power and the glory of God's kingdom. His divine power overthrew the powers of darkness (the kingdom of Satan and all who opposed God's rule) and sin (which corrupts and enslaves the human mind, heart, and will to the forces of evil and wrongdoing). Jesus knew that the only way to victory was through the cross. On that cross he defeated death and canceled the debt of our sins. The victory of his cross opens the way for us to live as sons and daughters of God and citizens of his heavenly kingdom of peace, joy, and righteousness. Is your hope and future securely anchored to God's heavenly kingdom, versus the passing "kingdoms" created by humans?

Friday, November 13 ~ Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
~ Foundress, Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart ~

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-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: Jesus quoted a familiar proverb to his audience: Where the body is, there the eagles (or vultures as is the case in our NAB translation of the Bible) will be gathered together. Eagles, like vultures,

are attracted to carcasses of dying or dead animals. The Book of Job describes the vulture spying out its prey from afar (Job 39:29). The vultures swoop to catch their prey when the conditions are right, especially if the prey is exposed and vulnerable to a surprise attack. Severely weakened or dying prey have no chance of warding off forces that can destroy and kill. So what is the point of this analogy? When the day of God's final judgment and vindication comes, the scene and location will be obvious to everyone. Those who have rejected God and refused to believe in his Son the Lord Jesus Christ will perish on the day of judgment - just like the beasts of prey who are cut off from the land of the living. The Lord Jesus will vindicate those who have believed in him and he will reward them with everlasting joy and happiness in his kingdom. The return of the Lord Jesus at the close of this present age is certain, but the time is unknown. The Day of the Lord's judgment and final verdict will come swiftly and unexpectedly. Jesus warns his listeners to not be caught off guard when that day arrives. It will surely come in God's good time! So what, then. does Jesus mean when he says that one person will be taken and another left? God judges everyone individually on how each person has responded to his gracious mercy and invitation to accept his Son as Lord, Savior and Redeemer. The Lord Jesus gives us personal freedom to accept or reject him as Lord and Savior. We are free to live as citizens of his kingdom or to choose for the kingdom of darkness that stands in opposition to God and his rule. No one can pass off their personal responsibility to someone else - no matter how close the ties may be in this present life. We will each have to give an account to the Judge of All for how we have accepted or rejected him as our lord and savior. The good news is that the Lord Jesus freely offers each one of us the grace, strength, and help we need to turn to him to receive pardon for our sins and healing for our minds and hearts so we can embrace his will for our lives and find the way to God the Father's home. The Lord Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in his wisdom, truth, and love. The Holy Spirit helps us to turn away from sin and rebellion and to embrace God's way of love, righteousness, and holiness. The Lord's warning of judgment is motivated by his love for each one of us. He does not desire the death of any one. He bids us to choose for life rather than death - for goodness and righteousness rather than sin and evil. The Day of Judgment will bring terror and disaster for those who have not heeded his warning or refused his grace and help. The Day of the Lord's Return will be a cause for great joy and vindication for those who have put their trust in him, and followed him as he invites us to do.

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: The people in Noah's time ignored the Lord's warning of judgment because their hearts were hardened and rebellious towards God. When the great flood swept over the earth, they literally missed the boat. In today's generation when everyone expects to be given a trophy, even though they may not have earned one, we might pause and reflect about our ultimate goal – getting to heaven. But the question is what are each of us doing to get there? Those whose hope is firmly anchored in heaven will not be disappointed when the day of final judgment comes. They rejoice even now that their names are written in heaven and they look with eager longing for the day when they will see the Lord face to face. But those who expect to get to heaven based solely on their Baptism, but not living a life of faith in Christ after that will be sorely disappointed when they do not get their expected trophy. Now is an opportunity to get away from this contemporary an empty mindset of "everyone gets a trophy" and look at what we need to do to work and to earn our place in heaven. It is a simply one – live a life in Christ, nourish yourself by the living word of sacred scripture and by participation in the sacraments, be "doers of the word, not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22), embrace and live the 10 commandments, embrace and live the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12a), love God above all things and love your neighbor as yourself, put into action the corporal works of mercy, make God and Jesus number one in your life. Now those aren't hard to do, are they? If a radical conversion of mind and heart is necessary to get there, there is no time like the present – make a firm purpose of amendment today, and let Jesus be your true Shepherd and guide on the one path that leads to eternal life.

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Around the Parish (continued)

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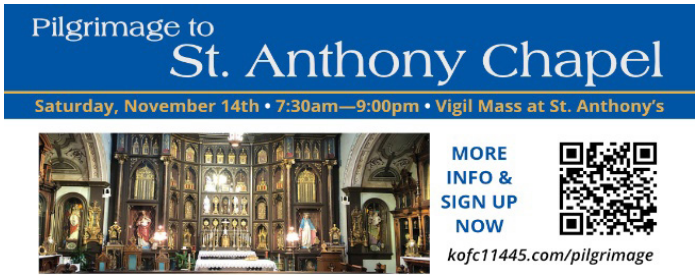
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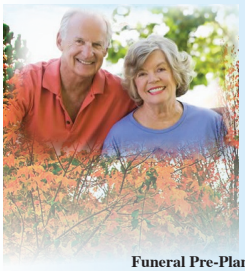
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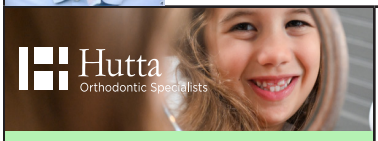
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