



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**MONDAY, JULY 4 – Saint Elizabeth of Portugal;
USA Independence Day**

9:00 a.m. Fr. Ted Thomas (RIP) by John Lang
*Fr. Joseph Kernan, OP, dec.

TUESDAY, JULY 5 – Saint Anthony Mary Zaccaria, priest

9:00 a.m. George Matesich (Birthday) (RIP)
by the Matesich Family
*Fr. Anthony Lonzo

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6 –

Saint Maria Goretti, virgin and martyr

9:00 a.m. Mary Ann Maki (RIP) by the Maki Family
*Fr. James Csaszar

THURSDAY, JULY 7

9:00 a.m. Mary Litts Russell (RIP)
by Joan & Robert Kosto
*Fr. Emmanuel Bertrand, OP

FRIDAY, JULY 8

9:00 a.m. Intentions of the Mueller Family
by Ginny & Betsy Heisey
*Fr. William J. Metzger

SATURDAY, JULY 9

5:00 p.m. Living and Deceased Members
of St. Edward Parish
*Fr. Vincent Mooney, dec.

SUNDAY, JULY 10 –

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:15 a.m. Hugh J. Murphy (RIP) by Msgr. Paul P. Enke
10:45 a.m. Tony Hartlage (RIP) by Jane & Dave Pfeifer
*Fr. Jinseok Tae

***Pray for all priests, seminarians and priestly vocations.**

ALTAR SERVERS:

5:00 p.m. Julianne Graffeo, Noah Harig,
Nathaniel Hock
8:15 a.m. Lori Davis, Robert Davis, Emily Frank
10:45 a.m. Josie Collins, Sam Doran, Sarah Doran

LECTORS:

5:00 p.m. Alex Deak, Chuck Dilbone
8:15 a.m. Selma Leshner, Bart Mahoney
10:45 a.m. John Barbour, Tom Bressoud

14TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

JULY 3, 2011

Entrance: God of Our Fathers (#654)
Gloria (p. 7 & #864)
Responsorial Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14 (p.179)
I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.
Preparation of Gifts: For the Healing of the Nations (#457)
Heritage Mass Setting: (#865-#871)
Communion Song: Christ be our light (#542)
Sending Forth: Let There Be Peace on Earth (#495)

A WORD FROM YOUR PASTOR...

1. We have replaced a TV for Msgr. Schneider at the Villas through the generosity of a parishioner who had an extra at home. Our seminarian Vince Nguyen graciously got that all set up along with Monsignor's computer, Internet, etc. We're committed to being of help to Msgr. Schneider in his retirement. He was good to us and we will surely be good to him.
2. In connection with the above, as I announced last weekend, we have been fortunate (very fortunate) to secure weekend Mass help beginning in August. A new professor to the Josephinum, Fr. Jay Harrington, O.P., was looking to assist in the area and I was delighted to oblige on behalf of the parish. We had a nice meeting with the upshot that he will alternate with me on Sunday Masses beginning in mid-August. Although the *Dispatch* recently reported a sunny outlook for our clergy shortage in the Diocese in an interview with Bishop Campbell, I'm not buying it. If Fr. Harrington had not come our way, I would have had to cancel the college Mass, which has been celebrated on campus for many years. To me, that's a shortage.
3. By the time you read this, the 4th of July celebrations will be history. We will have Mass on the 4th at 9:00 a.m. – a good day to remember our country in prayer.

WELCOME!

You may have come as a stranger to us, yet you are known to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In His name, we pray you will find peace, hospitality and friendship with us.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

5:00 p.m. Cliff Kirchner, Leann Kirchner, John Martin,
Monna McCabe, Bruno Purnode
8:15 a.m. Carol Flautt, Martin Flautt, Bob Csubak,
LaFern Davis, Kathy Horton
10:45 a.m. Gina Ehlers, Lynn Harden, Mark Harden,
Charles Hohman, Kathy Kiebel,
Joe Krempel, Robin Krempel,
Cathy Lewis, Charlotte Markham

GIFT BEARERS:

5:00 p.m. Volunteers
8:15 a.m. Volunteers
10:45 a.m. Cindy & Bill Kendrick

HOMEBOUND MINISTERS – 8:15 a.m.

Marty & Carol Flautt and Mary Ossa

SUNDAY NURSERY

The Nursery/Playroom for young children is open during the 10:45 a.m. Mass. To be added to the Sunday schedule of volunteers, contact Melissa or Dave Lammert at 740-927-3656 or e-mail melissamtc75@aol.com.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sarah Packard and Tyler Barber, who were married here at the church on July 2nd. May each day of their married life bring them closer to our loving God. The altar flowers this weekend are from their wedding.

IN SYMPATHY

We pray for Lad Kalis, father of parishioner John Kalis. May he receive the eternal treasure of everlasting life.

SUNDAY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

The regular Sunday Collection for June 26th was \$7,024.00. The collection for Peter's Pence was \$1,412.00.

EVENTS/MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 3

Welcome Sunday
St. Vincent de Paul Collection

Monday, July 4

No Eucharistic Adoration
Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, July 5

Men's Group for Rediscovery – 7:30 p.m. – Lounge

Wednesday, July 6

Men's Faith Sharing Group – 7:00 p.m. – Lounge
Ignite Youth Group – Guy's Night/Girl's Night – 7:30 p.m.

RCIA

If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about Catholicism and the Church's process for becoming Catholic, please encourage them to contact Mike Millisor in the Religious Education Office (587-4160 or reled@saintedwards.org) for information on the next period of inquiry.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Please take a few minutes to view the picture display in the Gathering Space. The 2011 Granville Ecumenical Vacation Bible School was a great success, thanks especially to all the adult and teen volunteers from the four churches! Our Mission project during VBS was also very successful. Enough funds were raised to increase our total of sponsored students at the Good Samaritan School (St. Marc, Haiti) to three. Also, the 288 pounds of food items collected at VBS were donated to the Licking County Food Pantry Network.

EDWARDIANS

The Edwardians July activity will be held on July 12th. We'll leave St. Edward parking lot via car-pool at 10:00 a.m. and travel to the Raven's Glenn Winery and Italian Restaurant (10 minutes east of Coshocton) for an 11:30 a.m. lunch. After lunch, we'll return to Coshocton for a 40-minute Ohio Canal boat ride on the *Monticello* Canal Boat. Cost for the canal boat ride is \$8.00/person payable at the ride entrance. Please respond with your reservation by July 10th to Rick and Rosie Rieser at 964-6224 or rrieser@aol.com. Please let us know if you are able to drive or if you will need transportation.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

GUY'S NIGHTS AND GIRL'S NIGHTS ~ WEDNESDAY, JULY 6

Come out to St. Edward, from 7:30-8:45 p.m., as the guys and girls split up for a great time and an engaging night of faith and fellowship! (Guys meet earlier at 7:15 p.m.)

(High school events this summer are for students who were in grades 9-12 this past year, unless otherwise noted. There also will be various events open to incoming freshmen this summer.)



CEDAR POINT TRIP – LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

If you're in high school or are an incoming freshmen, don't miss our all-day trip to Cedar Point on Monday, July 11th! We'll be renting a bus and taking a big group with St. Francis in Newark. What's even better is that we're getting tickets for the cheap price of \$25.00! That means the total cost is \$68.00 (includes late registration fee, plus meals and transportation). *Since we will have limited spots, it will be first-come, first-served.* Invite your friends and sign up by filling out permission forms located in the Gathering Space. **The late registration deadline is July 7th (the sooner you can turn them in the better!)**, so drop off your registration with payment at the office, slip it under the Youth Ministry door, or mail it to St. Edward. If you have any questions, please e-mail Drew at drew@saintedwards.org or call 740-587-3254.

FATHER/SON SERVICE EVENT – SAVE THE DATE!

St. Edward will be hosting a Father/Son Community Service Event on Saturday, July 30th. This will be a fun and worthwhile opportunity for youth in grades 6-12 to team up with their dads for a good cause. We'll be heading to TJ Evans Park in Newark to restore the area by carrying out a number of different projects. Participants are asked to RSVP by e-mailing drew@saintedwards.org or sign up after the Sunday Masses on July 10th and 24th. Additional details will be available in next week's bulletin.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

This past Sunday, students in grades 6-8 had a blast at our Middle School Summer Kickoff! If you weren't able to make it, don't worry, our next event is on **July 17th, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.**, at St. Edward. Come out for a night of fellowship, faith, and a ton of fun. Feel free to bring friends!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION SUNDAY

Conference members will be at the doors of the church to receive your generous donations after all the Masses this weekend.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Thank you for your generous support of the essential work of the Holy Father and his charitable acts through the Peter's Pence Collection. Our contributions will be combined with those of our brothers and sisters around the world to help Pope Benedict reach out to those in need. Your generosity will help to cast Christ's peace upon the world.

DCCW KNOX/LICKING DEANERY MEETING

There will be an organizational meeting of the Knox/Licking Deanery of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) on Saturday, July 9th, at 10:30 a.m., at The Church of the Ascension, 555 S. Main Street, Johnstown. We will be selecting officers and projects for the coming year. Bishop Campbell has given all of us a very special project. For additional information, call Mickey McCormick, DCCW Vice-President, at 614-783-5555.

SACRED MUSIC IN THE MASS...

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege of attending the Colloquium XXI of the Church Musicians Association of America. This Catholic organization of liturgical musicians has provided and continues to make available in the public domain a wealth of liturgical music. The Church documents highlight the importance of sacred music in the Mass, demonstrated at the daily Masses of the conference. The propers were sung and each Mass was its own entity in declaring the message of our salvation through Jesus Christ. As we embark with the updated translations of the Mass here at St. Edward Church, we have the opportunity to sing the Mass music universal to our faith. During one presentation at the Colloquium, we sang the ordinary of the Mass included in the new *Missal* – the setting that will become familiar to the entire English-speaking world. As we learn the universal setting here in our parish, we can be assured we are only a small segment of the English-speaking Church around the world singing those same tunes. These are exciting days for the Catholic Church. The flames of Pentecost are blazing as the Body of Christ rethinks the words and songs we use on a daily basis. Our deeper understanding of our faith can be evident to the world around us.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – AN INVITATION TO SERVE THE POOR

The St. Edward St. Vincent de Paul Conference invites you to join them in sharing the ministry of experiencing CHRIST in the poor. Could you spend a full day once a month to take phone calls from people facing emergencies? Or would you be able to spend two hours a couple of times a month working with a team member visiting those who need our assistance? Or maybe you have some time to help maintain information in our computer? If you would like to learn more, call Gregg Hinterschied at 587-4099.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GOLF OUTING

Registration is now open for the **5th Annual Golf Outing to benefit St. Vincent Haven** on Saturday, August 6th. Please show your support and pull together a foursome of family and friends for a day of fun at the Granville Golf Course, rated four stars on *Golf Digest's* Best Places To Play list.

Charity support has never been this easy and fun. Many prizes will be offered for placement and participation. Plenty of sponsorship opportunities are still available so if you have a business or product, this is a great way to market to a captive audience while also supporting a great cause.

The reservation fee is \$75.00 per golfer, which will include: Greens Fees/Cart, Bucket of Balls for Driving Range and Dinner. Registration and sponsorship forms may be downloaded by going to <http://www.svdphaven.org/GolfOuting.htm>. You may also sign up by contacting Kevin Murphy – Phone: (740) 258-3544, E-mail: KMurphy@chemtrend.com, or Daniel Bell – Phone: (740) 344-0408, E-mail: danielbell@roadrunner.com.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for the Saint Vincent Haven Charity Golf Outing and all proceeds go right to the Haven. Your sponsorship includes a custom-formatted logo and advertisement, which is placed on a sign and in a four-color program, which is given to each golfer. No contribution is too small or too large and is very much appreciated.

Last year, the event donated over \$10,000.00 to the Saint Vincent Haven, due to a growing list of hole and event sponsorships. The monthly cost to operate the shelter is roughly \$16,000.00 and our goal this year is to raise enough money to cover one month's worth of expenses.

Please contact Kevin Murphy – Phone: 740-258-3544, E-mail: KMurphy@chemtrend.com, or Daniel Bell – Phone: 740-344-0408, E-mail: danielbell@roadrunner.com to help our efforts in supporting this local Catholic charity.

Additional details and forms available at <http://www.kofc10876.org/Golf.htm> or <http://svdphaven.org>.



ANNUAL K OF C FAMILY PICNIC

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a Family and Center for Disability Services Picnic, on Sunday, July 17th, at 2:00 p.m., at the Lazy River Campgrounds, 2340 Dry Creek Road, NE, Granville. Knights/prospective members of K of C and members of the Center for Disability Services, an organization for mentally and physically challenged persons, are invited to attend. All Knights and their families are to bring a side dish to share.

WELCOME SUNDAY (DONUT SUNDAY) ~ JULY 3

Welcome Sunday is today after both Masses. The Knights of Columbus will be providing the coffee and donuts. This month, the **Ushers/Greeters** will host the Welcome Table. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, plan to visit. Members of the **Ushers/Greeters** will also be available to welcome and register new parishioners.

STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

There is a Stewardship binder available on the Welcome Table at Donut Sunday for anyone wishing to sign up for new Ministries. Please stop by if you have new interests and/or want to begin serving our Parish Family in a new Ministry.

EQUAL EXCHANGE INTERFAITH COFFEE PROGRAM

The Women of St. Edward will have Fairly Traded Gourmet coffee, hot chocolate and chocolate candy bars for sale in the Hall. As part of the Equal Exchange Interfaith Coffee Program, the sale of fairly-traded coffee helps small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, and Asia build a better economic future for their families and communities.

FOOTBALL CAMP

Newark Catholic Football Camp is July 25th-28th, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Camp is open for boys in grades 3-8. The cost is \$65.00 per camper; \$50.00 per camper, if two or more children attend from the same family. For a registration form, go to the NC web site at www.newarkcatholic.org. If you have any questions, contact Coach Franks at 740-344-3102. All campers will receive a T-shirt and shorts at the completion of camp.

RETREAT FOR GIRLS ~ TORCHBEARERS OF THE QUEEN

The Sisters of the Children of Mary are sponsoring a Retreat for Girls at 8353 Pleasant Chapel Road in Newark. Girls in grades 3-8 are invited to attend July 24th-26th, and grades 9-12, July 27th-30th. The focus of this retreat is to grow in love with our Lord by learning more about Him and by spending time with Him in Mass, Adoration, Confession and Prayer, and consecration to Him through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Arts, recreation, nature walks and campfires will add to the enjoyment of the retreat. Meals and lodging are provided. Limited space is available. To register by July 11th, go to www.childrenofmary.net.

TIME-OUT FROM TECHNOLOGY

Does your family have any tech-free zones? You know, places or times where all cell phones, TVs, video games and computers are in the "off" mode? One parent we heard from made the time he spent with his daughter tech-free. They took no calls, sent no text messages, and checked no e-mail when they were spending time together in the car, eating out, or doing something together (such as shopping). If you can't go tech-free cold turkey, try not taking any calls the first 30 minutes you and your kids are together after school. And definitely make the mealtime a tech-free zone. (www.iMom.com) Via the Marriage and Family Life Office, Diocese of Columbus.

CATHOLIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR/ YOUNG CATHOLIC WOMAN OF THE YEAR

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) is pleased to offer you the opportunity to recognize and nominate an outstanding Catholic woman from your parish for the 2011 Catholic Woman/Young Catholic Woman (age 16-30) of the Year. An awards banquet is scheduled for Sunday, August 21st, at St. Charles Preparatory School, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. This year marks the 23rd annual Catholic Woman of the Year Award and the 8th annual Young Catholic Woman of the Year Award. Each woman nominated will receive a certificate and out of those nominated, one winner for the Catholic Woman and Young Woman will be selected by a panel and will receive awards from Bishop Frederick F. Campbell. More than one woman/young woman may be nominated from a parish. The person(s) submitting the nomination(s) are encouraged to attend the banquet. Nomination forms are located on the church bulletin boards or in the Parish Office. Nominations are to be received at the DCCW Office at 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, 43215 by July 27th. Banquet reservations are due by August 8th. For more information, please contact the DCCW Office at 614-228-8601 or e-mail jmconaha@colsdio.org.

PRO-LIFE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ohio Right to Life is in need of volunteers to staff a Pro-Life Educational Booth at the Ohio State Fair (July 27-August 7). Volunteers will receive free entry to the fair. The following shifts are available: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; 2:00-6:00 p.m.; and 6:00-9:00 p.m. Please e-mail your availability and contact information to ecain@ohiolife.org or phone 614-547-0099, ext. 302.

GETTING IN SHAPE...

Are you exercising and dieting, jogging, swimming, and playing tennis to stay fit and trim? What are you doing to keep your marriage in good shape? Why not try a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend? Upcoming Marriage Encounter weekends are July 15th-17th and September 23rd-25th, both in Central Ohio. For more information or to register, contact Paul and Marilou Clouse at 740-746-9003, or visit our web site at www.wwmecolumbus.org.

A CHILD'S PRAYER FOR THE MORNING

*Now before I run to play,
Let me not forget to pray,
To God who kept me through the night
And waked me with the morning light.
Help me, Lord, to love thee more
Than I ever loved before,
In my work and in my play
Be thou with me through the day.
Amen.*

Author Unknown

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK:

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14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 3, 2011

Jesus Reveals the Mysteries of God's Kingdom

Zechariah 9:9-10
 Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14
 Romans 8:9, 11-13
 Matthew 11:25-30

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

This is our first time to celebrate a Sunday in Ordinary Time since March 6, just before we began the Lenten season. For four months, we have celebrated different liturgical seasons designed to help us remember and follow the life, death, and Resurrection of Christ and the life of the early Church communities as they attempted to imitate him. From now until the final Sunday in November, when we will begin a new Advent season, we will hear about Jesus' mission and his message of Good News. We will hear, too, about the followers who carried on his mission in the world.

The last few verses of today's Gospel passage begin with "come to me" and are unique to Matthew. The invitation to come to know Jesus and learn from him will show followers the demands of discipleship. The "yoke" of discipleship calls one to live with humility, openness, and willingness to enter into relationship with

God in and through Jesus his Son. Jesus Christ is the key to knowing the mysteries of God's kingdom.

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light (Matthew 11:28-30).

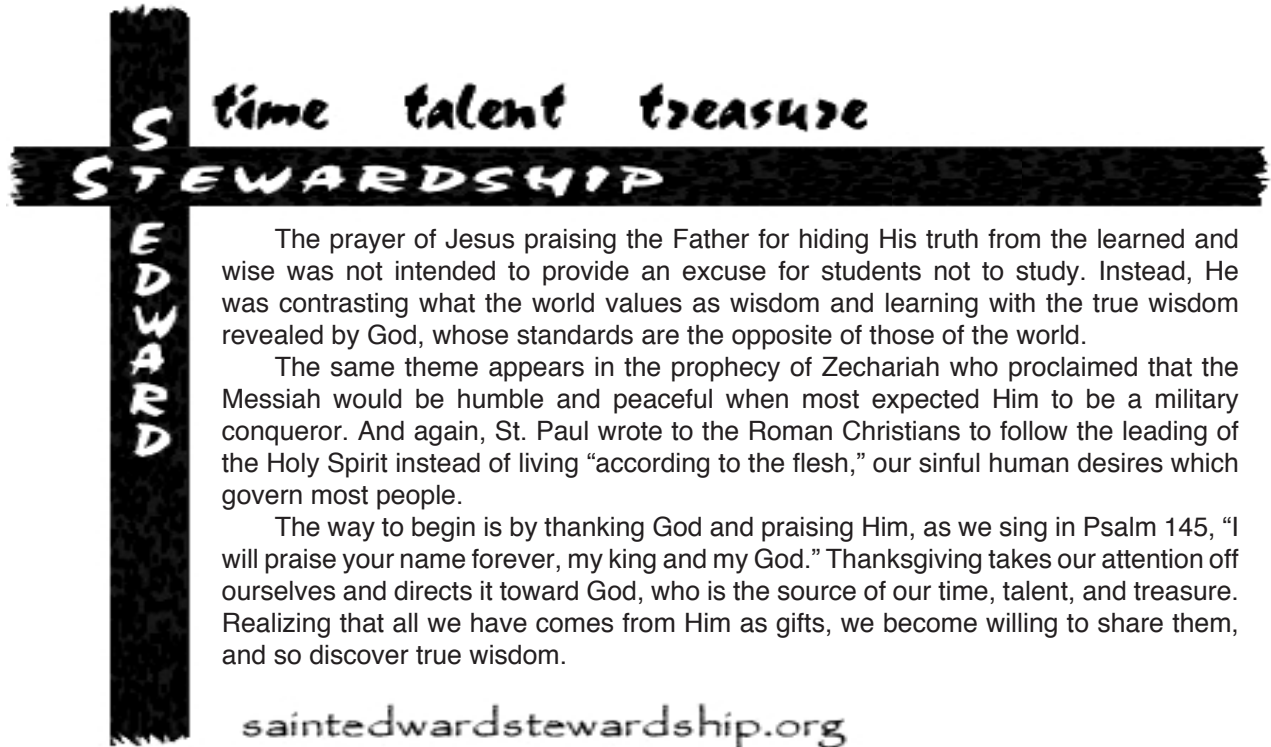


SHARING FAITH

- ◆ How does Jesus give you rest or lighten your burdens? How do you, in turn, do that for others?
- ◆ The passage from Zechariah speaks of the king's humility as a just savior. What does that passage say to you about God as our savior?
- ◆ As we enter the season of Ordinary Time in summer, how would you like to rest in God?

LIVING THE LITURGY

- ◆ In Jesus' day, many rejected him because he did not praise or admire those who were in power, but instead challenged them with his teachings about love, forgiveness, and healing. This was welcome news to those burdened by society's social or religious edicts. Jesus invited them to rest in him, but to also become disciples. Can you think of any modern examples of those who labor or are heavily burdened? How are they called to be followers, too?
- ◆ Reflect on the words used to describe God in Psalm 145. How would you describe God?
- ◆ This is the July 4 celebration of our nation's independence. You might want to pray for various aspects of our country. Your prayer could include those serving around the world or those who are poor or neglected. It might include our use of our resources and our Church's call to us to be good stewards. Perhaps you can make a litany of the many aspects and add to it over the summer.



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STEWARDSHIP
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The prayer of Jesus praising the Father for hiding His truth from the learned and wise was not intended to provide an excuse for students not to study. Instead, He was contrasting what the world values as wisdom and learning with the true wisdom revealed by God, whose standards are the opposite of those of the world.

The same theme appears in the prophecy of Zechariah who proclaimed that the Messiah would be humble and peaceful when most expected Him to be a military conqueror. And again, St. Paul wrote to the Roman Christians to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit instead of living “according to the flesh,” our sinful human desires which govern most people.

The way to begin is by thanking God and praising Him, as we sing in Psalm 145, “I will praise your name forever, my king and my God.” Thanksgiving takes our attention off ourselves and directs it toward God, who is the source of our time, talent, and treasure. Realizing that all we have comes from Him as gifts, we become willing to share them, and so discover true wisdom.

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Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

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"Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess You have given me: I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will. Give me only Your love and Your grace; with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more."

--Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Monday, July 4 ~ Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Saint Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

~ Independence Day ~

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:18-26 While Jesus was speaking, an official came forward, knelt down before him, and said, "My daughter has just died. But come, lay your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus rose and followed him, and so did his disciples. A woman suffering hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the tassel on his cloak. She said to herself, "If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured." Jesus turned around and saw her, and said, "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you." And from that hour the woman was cured. When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the crowd who were making a commotion, he said, "Go away! The girl is not dead but sleeping." And they ridiculed him. When the crowd was put out, he came and took her by the hand, and the little girl arose. And news of this spread throughout all that land.

Meditation: From time to time we need to pause and reflect on how we do things in our lives. One of them is what actions we take when we face challenges or experience troubles in our lives. Do you take your troubles to the Lord with expectant faith and confidence in his help? Or is an afternoon talk show host, or a self-help book your source of knowledge and guidance when you have a problem? People in desperate or helpless circumstances were not disappointed when they sought Jesus out. What drew them to Jesus? Was it hope for a miracle or a word of comfort in their affliction? What did the elderly woman who had suffered greatly for twelve years expect Jesus to do for her? And what did a grieving father expect Jesus to do about his lost beloved daughter? Jesus gave hope where there seemed to be no human cause for it because his hope was directed to God. He spoke words of hope to the woman (Take heart, daughter!) to ignite the spark of faith in her (your faith has made you well!). And he also gave divine hope to a father who had just lost a beloved child.

Prayer: Father, source of innocence and lover of chastity, you gave Saint Maria Goretti the privilege of offering her life in witness to Christ. As you gave her the crown of martyrdom, let her prayers keep us faithful to your teaching. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: It took considerable courage and risk for the ruler of a synagogue to openly go to Jesus, for in doing so he invited the public scorn of his neighbors and kin. Even the hired mourners laughed at him in scorn. Their grief was devoid of any hope. Nonetheless, Jesus took the girl by the hand and delivered her from the grasp of death. In both instances we see Jesus' personal concern for the needs of others and his readiness to heal and restore life. In Jesus we see the infinite love of God extending to each and every individual as he gives freely and wholly of himself to each person he meets. Do you approach the Lord with confident expectation that he will hear your request and act? Seek him, find him, pray to him, for he alone is available to you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Why would anyone seek the advice of a talk show host or a self-help book when Jesus is the only when who can help you anytime, anywhere, in your hour of need.

On this Independence Day: We would do well to recall and reflect upon the words of Blessed John Paul II: "For the Christian people of America conversion to the Gospel means to revise all the different areas and aspects of life, especially those related to the social order and the pursuit of the common good. It will be especially necessary to nurture the growing awareness in society of the dignity of every person and,

therefore, to promote in the community a sense of the duty to participate in political life in harmony with the Gospel."

Tuesday, July 5 ~ Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Anthony Zaccaria, Priest**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:32-38 A demoniac who could not speak was brought to Jesus, and when the demon was driven out the mute man spoke. The crowds were amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He drives out demons by the prince of demons." Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

Meditation: We often wonder what kind of help or level of hope can we give to someone who has chronic distress or an incurable disease of mind or body? Spiritual, emotional, and physical suffering often go hand in hand. Jesus was well acquainted with individuals who suffered intolerable affliction - whether physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual. A "demoniac" was brought to Jesus by his friends with the hope that Jesus would set him free. These neighbors, no doubt, took pity on this man who had a double impediment. He had not only lost his ability to speak, but was also greatly disturbed in mind and spirit. This was no doubt due to the influence of evil spirits who tormented him day and night with thoughts of despair and hopeless abandonment by God. Jesus immediately set him free from the demon who tormented him and restored his ability to speak at the same time.

Prayer: Lord, enable us to grasp in the spirit of Saint Paul, the sublime wisdom of Jesus Christ, the wisdom which inspired Saint Anthony Zaccaria to preach the message of salvation in your Church. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: How could Jesus' miracles cause both scorn and wonder at the same time from those who professed faith in God? Don't we often encounter the same reaction today, even in ourselves! The crowds looked with awe at the wonderful works which Jesus did, but the religious leaders attributed this same work to the power of the devil. They disbelieved because they refused to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Their idea of religion was too narrow and closed to accept Jesus as the Anointed One sent by the Father. They were too set in their own ways to change and they were too proud to submit to Jesus. What about you?

Wednesday, July 6 ~ Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:1-7 Jesus summoned his Twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the Twelve Apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus. Jesus sent out these Twelve after instructing them thus, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

Meditation: Have you ever come to really know and/or experience the power of the gospel in your life? St. Benedict did, for he realized that the core of the gospel message is a simple one: the kingdom of God is imminent! What is the kingdom of God? It is that society of men and women who submit to Jesus Christ and who honor him and him alone as their only King and Lord. In the *Lord's Prayer* we pray for God to reign in our lives and in our world: May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus' preaching of God's kingdom was accompanied by signs and wonders. People were healed not only spiritually, but physically as well. Jesus' words are just as relevant today, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. We cannot buy heaven; but those who know the love and mercy of Jesus already possess heaven in their hearts!

Prayer: Father, source of innocence and lover of chastity, you gave Saint Maria Goretti the privilege of offering her life in witness to Christ. As you gave her the crown of martyrdom, let her prayers keep us

faithful to your teaching. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: We need not look too closely to see that in the choice of the twelve apostles there is a characteristic feature of God's work: Jesus chose very ordinary people. They were non-professionals, had no wealth or position. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these men, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. Remember that the Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. Do you believe that God wants to work through and in you for his glory? Do you believe in the power of God's kingdom? Are you exercising this power properly and regularly?

Thursday, July 7 ~ Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:7-15 Jesus said to his Apostles: "As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick. The laborer deserves his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, look for a worthy person in it, and stay there until you leave. As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you. Whoever will not receive you or listen to your words, go outside that house or town and shake the dust from your feet. Amen, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town." Jesus sent out these Twelve after instructing them thus, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

Meditation: Jesus gave his disciples a two-fold commission: to speak in his name and to act with his power. The core of the gospel message is quite simple: the kingdom (or reign) of God is imminent! What is the kingdom of God? It is that society of men and women who freely submit to God and who honor him as their Lord and King. In the *Lord's Prayer* we pray for God to reign in our lives and in our world: May your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus also commissioned his disciples to carry on the works which he did -- bringing the healing power of God to the weary and oppressed. The gospel has power to set people free from harmful and sinful desires, and from fear, oppression, and sickness, whether spiritual, emotional, or physical. The Lord will free us from anything that keeps us from loving him and our neighbor with joy and confidence.

Prayer: Father, through the obedience of Jesus, your servant and your Son, you raised a fallen world. Free us from sin and bring us the joy that lasts for ever. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: One of the messages in today's Gospel is that the people of God must never fail in their duty to give the worker of God what he or she needs to sustain themselves in the Lord's service. Do you pray for the work of the gospel and do you support the Church with your material and financial resources? Jesus ends his instructions with a warning: If people reject God's invitation and refuse his word, then they bring judgment and condemnation on themselves. When God gives us his word there comes with it the great responsibility to respond. Indifference will not do. We are either for or against God in how we respond to his word. God gives us his word that we may have life abundant life in him. He wills to work through and in each of us for his glory. God shares his word with us and he commissions us to speak it boldly and simply to others. Are you a living witness to the truths and joy of the gospel by word and example to those around you?

Friday, July 8 ~ Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time Blessed Peter Vigne, Priest

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:16-23 Jesus said to his Apostles: "Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of men, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You

will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”

Meditation: What does Jesus mean when he tells his disciples that they must be sheep in the midst of wolves? The prophet Isaiah foretold a time when wolves and lambs will dwell in peace (ref. Isaiah 11:6 and 65:25). This certainly refers to the second coming of Christ when all will be united under the Lordship of Jesus after he has put down his enemies and established the reign of God over the heavens and the earth. Until that time, the disciples must expect opposition and persecution from those who oppose the gospel. Jesus never hesitated to tell his disciples what they might expect if they followed him. And the message that Jesus gave to his disciples then is just as pertinent today, for many of us have felt like lambs among the wolves when we discuss or practice living out our faith. Simple practices such as asking the Lord to bless our food before a meal while in a public restaurant can often draw stares from people, let alone standing up for what is right and truthful – protection of human life by speaking out against abortion; preserving the institution of marriage as designed by God, versus same-sex marriage (both of which will be in the news quite a bit during this election season). Jesus never said that proclaiming God’s word, and answering his call to “follow me” would be an easy one. Jesus suffered and died on the cross as a result of proclaiming God’s word! Are we willing to suffer, remembering what Christ said in today’s gospel: “You will be hated by all because of my name, and whoever endures to the end will be saved.” What is more important – being popular among people in this earthly life, or being loved by Jesus Christ for being a true disciple? The answer is clear, but we must decide for ourselves which path we must take – and the result of our decision puts nothing less than our chances of obtaining eternal life at stake. Don’t be fooled by others, or fool yourself; make the right decision by following Christ.

Prayer: Father, through the obedience of Jesus, your servant and your Son, you raised a fallen world. Free us from sin and bring us the joy that lasts for ever. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: What Jesus is telling us in today’s gospel comes down to this: *This is my task for you at its grimmest and worst; do you accept it?* This offering means a lot of blood, toil, sweat, tears, and heartache. We tend not to think of this when Jesus our Lord and Savior commissions us in his service. Nonetheless, our privilege is to follow in the footsteps of the Master who laid down his life for us. Recall what the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says: “The way of Christ ‘leads to life’; a contrary way ‘leads to destruction.’” (CCC #1696) Now, once more, are you willing to accept hardship and suffering in following in the footsteps of Jesus our Lord – footsteps which lead to a simpler, less complex life on earth while leading us on the path to eternal life? Or are you looking to be popular with the people of this earth – “get along” for the sake of getting along, while turning your back on the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ? Will you deny him as Peter did? Or will you stand up and stand firm against the tide of all that is contrary to the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ? It’s your call – make the right one! God’s laws and Christ’s teachings are timeless. Can we say that about anything else on this earth?

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 1974;
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