



3 O' Clock Prayer
The Hour of Great Mercy
Prayers from the diary of
Saint Faustina

You died, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.

O Fountain of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, I trust in You.

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have mercy on us and on the whole world. (3 times)

JESUS, King of mercy, I trust in You!

Amen.



Prayer for all souls

Prayer of St. Gertrude the great dictated by Our Lady to release 1,000 Souls from Purgatory each time it is said. The prayer was extend to include living sinners which would alleviate the indebtedness accrued to them during their lives.

"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."

St. Gertrude the Great was born in Germany in 1263. She was a Benedictine Nun, and meditated on the Passion of Christ, which many times brought floods of tears to her eyes. She did many penances, and Our Lady appeared to her many times. Her holy Soul passed away in 1334. November 16th is her Feast Day.



Abortion isn't a lesser evil, it's a crime. Taking one life to save another, that's what the Mafia does. It's a crime. It's an absolute evil. **Pope Francis.**

Mission of Jesus



Daily Highlights, Mass Readings, Daily Saints, Prayers...

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Volume 165, July 30, 2023.

Today's Bible Readings

Latin Rite

1st Reading:

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

2nd Reading: Rom

8:28-30

Gospel: Mt 13:44-52

Syro-Malabar Rite

1st Reading:

[Deuteronomy 5:6-16](#)

2nd Reading: [Isaiah](#)

[2:1-5](#)

3rd Reading:

[2 Corinthians 7:1-11](#)

Gospel:

[John 9:1-12, 35-38](#)

Syro-Malankara Rite

1st Reading:

[Matthew 13:24-35](#)

Gospel:

[Luke 14:7-9](#)

Meditation: The Surpassing Treasure of God's Kingdom

What do you treasure the most and how do you keep it from being lost or stolen? In a peasant community the best safe was often the earth. The man in the parable (Matthew 13:44) "went in his joy" to sell everything. Why? Because he found a treasure worth possessing above all else he had. He did not, however, have enough to buy the treasure. Fortunately, he only needed enough to buy the field. In a similar fashion, God offers his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy (Romans 14:17) as incomparable treasure at a price we can afford! We can't pay the full price for the life which God gives us; but when we exchange our life for the life which God offers, we receive a treasure beyond compare.

Obtaining the greatest possible treasure

The pearl of great price also tells us a similar lesson. Pearls in the ancient world came to represent the supremely valuable. Jesus remarked that one should not cast pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6). Why would a merchant sell everything for a peerless pearl? No doubt because he was attracted to what he thought was the greatest treasure he could possess. Discovering God's kingdom is like stumbling across hidden treasure or finding the one pearl of great price.

When we discover the kingdom of God we receive the greatest possible treasure - the Lord himself. Selling all that we have to obtain this incomparable treasure could mean many things - our friends, job, our "style of life", what we do with our free time. Treasure has a special connection to the heart, the place of desire and longing, the place of will and focus. The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. In this parable what does the treasure of the kingdom refer to? It certainly refers to the kingdom of God in all its aspects. But in a special way, the Lord himself is the treasure we seek for. If the Almighty is your gold and your precious silver, then you will delight yourself in the Almighty (Job 22:22- 23). Is the Lord the treasure and delight of your heart?

God draws us into his kingdom

What can a story of a dragnet and a great catch of fish tell us about God's kingdom? The two most common ways of fishing in Jesus' time was with a casting-net (or hand-net) which was thrown from the shore and the dragnet or trawl which was let down or cast into the waters from a boat. As the boat moved through the waters the drag-net was drawn into the shape of a great cone which indiscriminately took in all kinds of fish and flotsam and jetsam swept in its path. It usually took several men to haul such a net to shore.

What is Jesus' point here?

Just as a drag-net catches every kind of fish in the sea, so the church acts as God's instrument for gathering in all who will come. Just as the drag-net does not or cannot discriminate, so the church does not discriminate between the good and the bad, the useless and the useful. God's kingdom is open to all who will accept and believe. But there will come a time of separation, at the close of the age, when the angels will send the good and the bad to their respective destinations. Our task is to gather in all who will come. God, in the end, will give the good (those who accept and follow Christ) and the bad (those who refuse Christ) the reward they deserve. God offers the treasure of his kingdom to all who believe in Christ. Do you hunger for God and for his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy?

Training for God's kingdom

When Jesus had finished speaking about his parables, he turned to his disciples and asked them, "Have you understood all this?" (Matthew 13:52). Jesus asks us the same question. If we want to understand the meaning and significance of the parables for our daily lives, then we must reflect and think through what the Lord is saying to us through his instruction. The Holy Spirit is our guide and teacher who helps us to grow in understanding of God's word in the Scriptures.

Importance of readying and studying God's word

What is the point of Jesus' parable about a "scribe who has been trained for

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This site is been developed with the help of many of the Christian Brothers around the world, we do even invite you Brothers and Sisters in Christ to send us related information about your Testimonials and News letters so that we could add them into our website.

The Bible in one year: July

01 1 Kings 2, Ezek 25, Acts 5:32-6:15, Ps 78:33-39 02 1 Kings 3-4, Ezek 26, Acts 7:1-17, Ps 78:40-46 03 1 Kings 5-6, Ezek 27, Acts 7:18-39, Ps 78:47-53 04 1 Kings 7, Ezek 28:1-13, Acts 7:40-60, Ps 78:54-60 05 1 Kings 8:1-29, Ezek 28:14-26, Acts 8:1-23, Ps 78:61-67 06 1 Kings 8:30-66, Ezek 29, Acts 8:24-40, Ps 78:68-72 07 1 Kings 9-10, Ezek 30, Acts 9:1-26, Ps 79:title-8 08 1 Kings 11, Ezek 31, Acts 9:27-43, Ps 79:9-13 09 1 Kings 12-13, Ezek 32, Acts 10:1-27, Ps 80:title-8 10 1 Kings 14, Ezek 33:1-11, Acts 10:28-48, Ps 80:9-19 11 1 Kings 15-16, Ezek 33:12-33, Acts 11, Ps 81:title-3 12 1 Kings 17, Ezek 34:1-18, Acts 12:1-14, Ps 81:4-10 13 1 Kings 18-19, Ezek 34:19-31, Acts 12:15-13:11, Ps 81:11-16 14 1 Kings 20, Ezek 35:1-36:12, Acts 13:12-33, Ps 82 15 1 Kings 21, Ezek 36:13-38, Acts 13:34-52, Ps 83:title-5 16 1 Kings 22, Ezek 37:1-15, Acts 14, Ps 83:6-12 17 2 Kings 1-3, Ezek 37:16-28, Acts 15:1-18, Ps 83:13-18 18 2 Kings 4, Ezek 38, Acts 15:19-41, Ps 84:title-7 19 2 Kings 5-6, Ezek 39, Acts 16:1-21, Ps 84:8-12 20 2 Kings 7, Ezek 40:1-15, Acts 16:22-40, Ps 85:title-8 21 2 Kings 8-9, Ezek 40:16-35, Acts 17, Ps 85:9-13 22 2 Kings 10, Ezek 40:36-49, Acts 18:1-12, Ps 86:title-8 23 2 Kings 11-13, Ezek 41, Acts 18:13-28, Ps 86:9-17 24 2 Kings 14, Ezek 42, Acts 19:1-28, Ps 87 25 2 Kings 15-16, Ezek 43, Acts 19:29-41, Ps 88:title-3 26 2 Kings 17, Ezek 44:1-14, Acts 20, Ps 88:4-10 27 2 Kings 18-19, Ezek 44:15-31, Acts 21:1-14, Ps 88:11-18 28 2 Kings 20, Ezek 45, Acts 21:15-40, Ps 89:title-6 29 2 Kings 21-22, Ezek 46, Acts 22:1-18, Ps 89:7-13 30 2 Kings 23-24, Ezek 47, Acts 22:19-30, Ps 89:14-20 31 2 Kings 25, Ezek 48:1-12, Acts 23, Ps 89:21-27

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the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 13:52)? Scribes were specially devoted to the study and practice of God's word entrusted to Moses (the first five books of the Bible) and in instructing others in how to live according to it. In the Old Testament Ezra was called "the ready scribe of the law of the God of heaven" (Book of Ezra 7:6,21). He received this title because he "had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments" (Ezra 7:10). Ezra's heart was set on the kingdom of heaven because he revered God's word and he taught others through example and instruction to love and obey God's word.

The old and new treasures of God's word

Why does Jesus compare a "trained scribe" with a "householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old" (Matthew 13:52)? Some people love to store up old prized possessions along with their newly acquired prizes. Others are eager to get rid of the old to make room for the new. So why does Jesus seem to emphasize keeping the old along with the new? Why not replace the old, especially if the new seems to be better or more useful? Wouldn't a person want to throw away an old pair of shoes and replace them with a new pair - especially if the old pair became well-worn or torn beyond repair? But, who in his right mind would throw away an old precious jewel or some old gold coins simply because they were ancient and maybe tarnished a bit? Precious gems and gold do not lose their value with age!

Like choice vintage wine they increase in value. Jesus' parable of the "old" and the "new" certainly points to the "older covenants" which God made with his covenanted people of the Old Testament, beginning with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and with Moses on Mount Sinai, and with King David the precursor of the Messiah (Psalm 89:3 and Psalm 110:1). Jesus' parable also points to the "new covenant" which he came to establish through the shedding of his blood on the cross and the anointing of his Holy Spirit who seals the new covenant on the day of Pentecost. Jesus did not come to abolish the Old Covenant but to fulfill it. The Lord calls us to treasure all of his word - all of his commandments, promises, precepts, and teaching (Psalm 119:14,72,127,162). Do you promise to keep all of God's commands? The Lord gives strength, blessing, and joy to those who treasure all of his word.

We would be impoverished today if we only possessed the treasures of the word of God in the "Old Testament" Scriptures or if we only knew the treasures of the "New Testament" Scriptures. Both the Old and New Testament Scriptures are given by the same eternal Father, inspired by the same eternal Holy Spirit, and fulfilled by the same eternal Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was with the Father from the beginning and who was sent from heaven to take on human flesh for our salvation (John 1:1-3,14).

Unity of the Old and New Testaments

There is a profound unity between the Old and New Testaments. Both are divinely inspired by one and the same Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16). The Old Testament prepares for the New and the New Testament fulfills the Old - the two shed light on each other. The Old Testament prepared the way for the coming of Jesus Christ as the redeemer of all who would be saved through his sacrifice on the cross. The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New. That is why Jesus interpreted the Old Testament Scriptures for his disciples and explained how he came to fulfill what was promised and foreshadowed in the Old (Luke 24:27). That is why we read the Old Testament in the light of Christ's saving death and resurrection. Do you revere the word of God in the Scriptures - both old and new - and see their fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Lord Jesus, may your word take deep root in my heart and transform my way of thinking, discerning, and acting. May your Spirit open my ears to hear and understand the word of God in the Scriptures that I may revere and treasure both the Old and the New Testaments which God has prepared for all who desire to enter his kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy. Help me to be a diligent student and faithful disciple of your word.

1st Reading: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Solomon answered: "O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?" The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: "Because you have asked for this— not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right— I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

R. (97a) Lord, I love your commands.

I have said, O LORD, that my part is to keep your words. The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants. Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

For I love your commands more than gold, however fine. For in all your precepts I go forward; every false way I hate.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them. The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple.

R. Lord, I love your commands.

2nd Reading: Rom 8:28-30

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

Alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; for you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Mt 13:44-52

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. "Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

Today's Saints



Saint Peter Chrysologus

Adult convert to Christianity. Deacon. Priest. Bishop of Ravenna, Italy in 433. Fought paganism and the Monophysite heresy, enforced reforms, and built several churches and ornate altars in his see. Preacher with such language skills, he was given the name Chrysologus, referring to his golden word. 176 of his sermons have survived; it is the strength of these beautiful explanations of the Incarnation, the Creed, the place of Mary and John the Baptist in the great plan of salvation, etc., that led to his being proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1729 by Pope Benedict XIII.

Born: 406 at Imola, Italy

Died: 2 December 450 at Imola, Italy

Patronage: against fever, against mad dogs, Imola, Italy.



Saint María Natividad Venegas de La Torre

Also known as María de Jesús Sacramentado, María of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, Mary of the Blessed Sacrament Venegas de la Torre, Nati (childhood nickname)

Youngest of twelve children in a pious Bible-reading, Rosary-praying family; her father was an accountant and her mother a homemaker. Natividad was early drawn to prayer and contemplation, and made her first Communion at age 9. Her mother died when Nati was 16. The family moved to Compostela, Nayarit, Mexico for financial reasons, and Nati spent even more time in church and in prayer. Her father died when she was 19, and her paternal uncle and aunt took over care of the children who were still at home. Nati began teaching local children to read, was very active in parish life, became a catechist, and attended daily Mass. She joined the Daughters of Mary on 8 December 1898, and began discerning a call to religious life. Following an Ignatian retreat, she joined the Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on 8 December 1905; the pious union was dedicated to care of the sick, elderly and abandoned. She worked the next 54 years with the poor and sick in the small Sacred Heart hospital in Guadalajara, Mexico. She served as a nurse, pharmacist, housekeeper, and the community's accountant and the hospital's bookkeeper. Chosen Superior General of the Daughters in 1921. By 1924 she had written the formal constitutions of the Order, obtained diocesan approval, and is considered the founder of the Congregation. She served as leader of the Daughters for 35 years during which they increased vocations, opened hospitals and clinics, and founded several houses; she took the name María of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Wrote a number of pieces about her region. Beginning in 1926, President Plutarco Elías Calles began enforcing anti-clerical laws, seizing Church property, shutting down Church institutions including schools, hospitals, orphanages and homes for the elderly. Mass was prohibited, religious education outlawed, and all bishops were exiled from Mexico; this persecution started the Cristero War. Mother Nati managed to keep Sacred Heart hospital open during the repressions; when soldiers arrived to close it down, she overwhelmed them with kindness, and she and her sisters treated both soldiers and Cristeros, so the military held off enforcing the order to shut her down. Mother Nati insisted that the Eucharist not be removed from the hospital, and to prevent the soldiers from committing sacrilege, it was often hidden in bee hives on their property. Mother Nati continued working with the patients until her last days, even when she had to get around in a wheelchair. Her final, bed-ridden days were spent in prayer for them, her hospital and her sisters.

Born: 8 September 1868 in La Tapona, Zapotlanejo, Jalisco, Mexico

Died: 30 July 1959 in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico of natural causes

Canonized: 21 May 2000 by Pope John Paul II, first canonized Mexican, canonization celebrated in Saint Peter's Square in Rome, Italy, her canonization miracle involved the healing of Anastasio Ledezma Mora whose heart stopped during surgery, who went into a coma following resuscitation, and was healed following the prayers by the family for the intercession of Mother Nati

Patronage: Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of Guadalajara, nurses.



Saint Leopold Bogdan Mandic

Also known as Adeodato Bogdan Mandic, Apostle of the Confession, Apostle of Unity, Bogdan Ivan Mandic, Brother Leopold, Leopoldo of Castelnuovo

Saint Leopold was a contrast between physical frailty and spiritual strength. Four foot five inches tall, and physically weak, his health became worse with age. He had a stammer, suffered abdominal pains, and was gradually deformed by chronic arthritis, making his frame stooped, his hands gnarled, and his life one of endless pain. Spiritually, Leopold Mandic was a giant, full of Christian strength. His humility and faith in God enabled him to accept his poor physical condition, and realize God's power - for without God he could do nothing. Twelfth child born to Peter and Caroline Mandic. Physically malformed and delicate of health, Bogdan early showed signs of great spiritual strength and integrity. At age 16, Bogdan left Dalmatia for Italy where he became a student at the Capuchin Seraphic School at Udine, and an aspirant to the Capuchins. He applied himself to his studies, and entered the Capuchin Order as a novice on 20 April 1884 at Bassano del Grappa, taking the religious name Brother Leopold. After his Profession of Vows in May 1885, Leopold began clerical studies at Padua and Venice. Ordained in Venice on 20 September 1890. He wanted to be a missionary in Eastern Europe, an area torn apart by religious strife, but he was denied by his superiors because of his frailty and general ill-health. Stationed at various Friaries in the Venetian Province from 1890 to 1906, including his homeland of Dalmatia, where the Italian friars had a mission. Posted to Padua, Italy in 1906 where, except for a year spent in a prison camp in World War I because he would not renounce his Croat nationality, he remained for the rest of his life. In Padua he became a Confessor and Spiritual Director for almost forty years. Father Leopold encouraged many, especially the hopeless in enslavement to sin. Though he did not go to the missions, his long service in the confessional proved it to be his own apostolate. For nearly forty years, twelve hours a day, he absolved and counselled thousands of penitents, always weak but always available.

Born: 12 May 1866 at Herceg Novi, Dubrovacko-Neretvanska Croatia as Adeodato

Died: 30 July 1942 at the Friary in Padua, Italy of oesophageal cancer

Canonized: 16 October 1983 by Pope John Paul II.

