

# aint 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 ut upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, 1 st in You.

ly God, Holy Mighty O ly Immortal One, mercy on us an whole world. (3 t

US, King of mercy, I st in You!



#### Prayer for all souls

Prayer of St. Gertrude the their live

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."

Gertrude the Great was 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 16<sup>th</sup> is her

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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 absolute evil. **Pope Francis.** It's an





Daily Highlights, Mass Readings, Daily Saints, Prayers. Friday of the Second Week of Advent, Volume 170, December 15, 2023. **Today's Bible Readings** 

Latin Rite 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Is 48:17-19

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6

**Gospel:** Mt 11:16-19

Svro-Malabar Rite 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Luke 6:27-36 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Romans 1:8-15

Svro-Malankara Rite

Gospel:

Matthew 11:1-6

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Meditation: Dancing and Mourning Jesus said to the crowds: "To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not Matthew 11:16-17 mourn

What does Jesus mean when He says "We played the flute for you..." and "we sang a dirge...?" The Church Fathers clearly identify this "flute" and "dirge" as the word of God that has been preached by the prophets of old. So many came before Jesus to prepare the way, but so many failed to listen. John the Baptist was the final and greatest prophet, and he called people to repentance, but few listened. Thus, Jesus points out this sad truth.

In our day and age, we have so much more than the prophets of the Old Testament. We have the incredible witness of the saints, the infallible teaching of the Church, the gift of the Sacraments and the life and teaching of the Son of God Himself as recorded in the New Testament. Yet, sadly, so many refuse to listen. So many fail to "dance" and "mourn" in response to the Gospel.

We must "dance" in the sense that the gift of Christ Jesus, by His life, death and resurrection should be the cause of our wholehearted rejoicing and eternal adoration. Those who truly know and love the Son of God are filled with joy! Furthermore, we must "mourn" on account of the countless sins in our own lives and in the lives of those all around us. Sin is real and prevalent, and a holy sorrow is the only appropriate response. Salvation is real. Hell is real. And both of these truths demand a total response from us.

In your own life, how fully have you allowed the Gospel to affect you? How attentive are you to the voice of God as it has been spoken through the lives of the saints and through our Church? Are you tuned in to the voice of God as He speaks to you in the depths of your conscience in prayer? Are you listening? Responding? Following? And giving your whole life in the service of Christ and His mission?

Reflect, today, upon the clear, unmistakable, transforming and life-giving words and presence of the Savior of the world. Reflect upon how attentive you have been in life to all that He has clearly spoken and to His very presence. If you do not find yourself "dancing" for God's glory and "mourning" over the evident sins of your life and within our world, then recommit yourself to a radical following of Christ. In the end, the Truth that God has spoken throughout the ages and His holy and divine presence are all that matter.

My glorious Lord Jesus, I acknowledge Your divine presence in my life and in the world all around me. Help me to be more attentive to the countless ways that You speak to me and come to me each and every day. As I discover You and Your holy word, fill me with joy. As I see my sin and the sins of the world, give me true sorrow so that I will work tirelessly to combat my own sin and bring Your love and mercy to those who are most in need. Jesus, I trust in You. \_\_\_\_\_

#### 1st Reading: Is 48:17-19

Thus says the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I, the LORD, your God, teach you what is for your good, and lead you on the way you should go. If you would hearken to my commandments, your prosperity would be like a river, and your vindication like the waves of the sea; Your descendants would be like the sand, and those born of your stock like its grains, Their name never cut off or blotted out from my presence.

## Responsorial Psalm: Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 R. (see John 8:12) Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of

life. Blessed the man who follows not the counsel of the wicked Nor walks in the way of sinners, nor sits in the company of the insolent, But delights in the law of the LORD and meditates on his law day and night.

R. Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.

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with the help of many of the world a second s add them into our website.

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He is like a tree planted near running water, That yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves never fade. Whatever he does, prospers

#### R. Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.

Not so the wicked, not so; they are like chaff which the wind drives away. For the LORD watches over the way of the just, but the way of the wicked vanishes.

#### R. Those who follow you, Lord, will have the light of life.

#### Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia. The Lord will come; go out to meet him! He is the prince of peace. R. Alleluia, alleluia.

#### Gospel: Mt 11:16-19

Jesus said to the crowds: "To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works.

#### Foday's Saints

#### Saint Mary di Rosa

Also known as Maria Crocifissa, Mary Crucifixa, Paola di Rosa, Paula Frances Mary di Rosa

One of nine children born to the industrialist Clement di Rosa and Countess Camilla Albani and Clement di Rosa. Her father owned a large spinning mill, and Mary grew up in a happy and pious family. Educated by Visitandine nuns. Mary's mother died when the girl was seventeen, and she left school to help manage her father's estate. Her heart set on a religious life, she turned down many suitors. She worked with young girls in her community, those who worked in her father's mills, and the sick in local hospital, including endless work during the cholera epidemic of 1836. Founded a home dedicated to the spiritual needs of young girls, and a school for deaf children. In 1840 she became the superior of the Handmaids of Charity, nuns who cared for the sick, and she took the name Mary Crucifixa. The community received their bishop's approval in 1843, papal approval in 1850, and Mary led them until her death.

Born: 6 November 1813 in Brescia, Italy as Paula Frances Mary di Rosa Died: 15 December 1855 in Brescia, Italy of natural causes Canonized: 12 June 1954 by Pope Pius XII.

Saint Virginia Centurione Bracelli Also known as Virginae Centurione Bracelli



Daughter of Giorgio Centurione, and imposing and controlling individual who became the Doge of Genoa, and Lelia Spinola. Raised in a pious family, she felt drawn to religious life as a child. However, due to family position she agree to an arranged marriage to Gasparo Grimaldi Bracelli on 10 December 1602. He was a drinker, a gambler, and though the couple had two daughters, Lelia and Isabella, he was little of a father or husband. Virginia was widowed on 13 June 1607 after five years of marriage, aged 20, and with two small children. Virginia moved in with her inlaws, cared for her children, and dedicated her free time to prayer and charity. When her daughters were grown and married, Virginia devoted herself entirely to caring for the sick, aged, and abandoned children. In late 1624 and early 1625 war in the region led to many orphans, some whom Virginia took in and cared for, and she worked with refugees in the town. When her mother-in-law died in August 1625, Virginia poured herself into the work, turning her house into a refuge and founding the Cento Signore della Misericordia Protettrici dei Poveri di Gesù Cristo Her house was overrun with the needy during a plague and famine in 1629 - 1630. To house them all Virginia rented the vacant convent of Monte Calvario and moved her charges there in 1631. Due to crowding, extra housing was built in 1634, Virginia was soon caring for 300 patients, and in 1635 she received official government recognition for her hospital. Virginia worked closely with the young women in her houses, teaching them religion and ways to earn a living. The expenses of Monte Calvario were excessive, so Virginia bought two villas and started construction of a church dedicated to Our Lady of Refuge. It became the mother church of the Institution, whose Rule was written between 1644 and 1650 and which was divided into two congregations: Suore di Nostra Signora del Rifugio di Monte Calvario (Sisters of Our Lady of Refuge in Mount Calvary) and Figlie di Nostra Signora al Monte Calvario (Daughters of Our Lady on Mount Calvary). When the group of Protectors, the superiors and governors of the Institute was selected in 1641, Virginia retired from administration, working as the humblest sister, doing chores on the grounds and begging for alms for the Institute. Sadly, though the Institute was a success, healing the sick, educating children, training adults, and helping the dissolute return to productive lives, assistance, personal and financial, began to decline. Without the chance to work with Virginia, many of the middle and upper class did not participate, fearing the poor and rough residents. Though her health was failing, Virginia returned to active administrative duties. She worked for general spiritual development throughout the region, working for the choice of the Blessed Virgin Mary as patron of the republic of Genoa in 1637, for the institution of the Forty Hours' Devotion in 1642, and the revival of home missions in 1643. She acted as peacemaker between noble houses, and aided in the reconciliation of Church and Republic authorities in 1647, ending a dispute caused by the government abandoning support of the Institute. Virginia continued working up to the end of her days, and in later years received the gifts of visions and interior locutions.

Born: 2 April 1587 in Genoa, Italy Died: 15 December 1651 in Genoa, Italy of natural causes Canonized: 18 May 2003 by Pope John Paul II at Vatican Basilica.

#### Saint Paul of Latros

Also known as Paul the Younger



Son of a Byzantine army officer who died in battle. After his mother's death sometime later, he and his brother Basil became monks at the monastery on Mount Olympus, Greece. Paul later left to become a hermit on Mount Latros, Bithynia, Asia Minor. His reputation for holiness spread, and he began to attract followers and students, so many that he organized them into a community on Latros. After twelve years as their leader, Paul left to live as a hermit in a cave on the island of Samos. His reputation, however, followed him, and the cycle repeated - more students gathered, and more communities were formed. Late in life Paul returned to Latros where he spent in remaining years in prayer and solitude. Born: Pergamos, Asia Minor

Died: 956 at Latros, Bithynia, Asia Minor of natural causes.





