

SAT 4pm	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29	Dec. 6
Servers	Trey Brown Isaac Wells Fred Dust	Madalyne Brown Tryston Brown Abby Brown	Anna Brown Aubrey Brown Adeline Brown	Trey Brown Isaac Wells Fred Dust	Madalyne Brown Tryston Brown Abby Brown
Lector	Christy Brown	Mike Holland	Alaina Miller	Donna Davis	Sara Roepke
Usher	Jason Wells Doug Brown	Justin Miller Don Brown	Mike Holland Doug Brown	Jason Wells Justin Miller	Don Brown Mike Holland
Ministers of Holy Communion	Donna Davis Sarah Roepke Don Brown	Kathy Brown Rosemary Holland Mike Holland	Katrina Davis Beth Spannagel Sara Roepke	Don Brown Kathy Brown Rosemary Holland	Donna Davis Mike Holland Katrina Davis
Gift Bearers	Doug Brown Family	Jason Wells Family	Jesse Davis Family	Fred & Joe Dust	Kathy Brown
SUN 8am	Nov. 9 Families in Faith	Nov. 16 Fall Breakfast	Nov. 23 Families in Faith	Nov. 30	Dec. 7 Christmas Party
Servers	Zoe Conder Jacob Vonderheide Garrett Hoene	Wade Conder Hunter Buehler Braxton Hoene	Wylie Miller Daisy Miller Olivia Vonderheide	Zoe Conder Wade Conder Hunter Buehler	Garrett Hoene Braxton Hoene Jacob Vonderheide
Lector	Kathy Adams	Terry Hoene	Lisa Thompson	Kathy Adams	Terry Hoene
Ushers	John Neu Don Antrim	Jason Vonderheide Charley Vonderheide	Larry Lieb Jim Vonderheide	Roy Waldhoff Trevor Floyd	Dennis Koester Shawn Buehler
Ministers of Holy Communion	Vanessa Floyd Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide	Lisa Thompson Lisa Waldhoff Roy Waldhoff	Leslie Kemme Timber Miller Trevor Floyd	Shawn Buehler Linda Doedtman Lisa Thompson	Barb Vonderheide Lisa Waldhoff Roy Waldhoff
Gift Bearers	Roy Lisa Waldhoff	Jason Pruemmer Family	Shawn Buehler Family	Don Marcella Antrim	George Diana Conder
Greeters	John Karen Neu	Wanda Todd Ohnesorge	Lisa Thompson	Rodney Hoene Family	Charley Rhonda Vonderheide
Money Counters	Doedtman Shadwell	Waldhoff Hoene	Kemme Adams	Bales Richards Sheehan Hackman	Stremming Conder
WED. 8am Lectors	Nov. 12	Nov. 19	Nov. 26	Dec. 3	Dec. 10
	Mike Holland	Linda Doedtman	Irene Koester	Alice Richards	Mike Holland

If anyone would like to be greeters on Saturday evenings please call 1-844-536-6514 or let Donna Davis know.

Please remember to sign in in the sacristy before mass so we know all ministries are covered.

Sacrament of Marriage-Please contact our parish office (1-844-536-6514) at least 9 months before your anticipated wedding date to begin your spiritual preparation. One or both persons must be registered and actively living their faith. All couples planning to be married at our parish must attend a Pre-Cana program, Natural Family Planning program and FOCCUS evaluation.

Sacrament of Baptism - A family must be registered & actively living their faith. Godparents must also be registered in a Catholic parish or other Christian church & actively living their faith. A Baptism Class is required for all parents. We ask that both parents attend this class together. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, please call the parish office (1-844-536-6514).



+Bishop Thomas John Paprocki
www.dio.org

Shumway Mass Times:
Tuesday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am
Saturday 4:00 pm
Reconciliation-3pm
Sunday 8:00 am

Green Creek Mass Times:
Thursday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Friday – 8 am
Saturday – 6 pm
Sunday – 10:00 am

No Adoration/Mass when it falls on a Holy Day

To reserve the church basement please call 1-844-536-6514.

Cemetery Committee
John Adams 618-322-2874
Matt Childerson 217-254-5896
Daphne Hoffman 217-821-7268

Funeral Meal Coordinators
Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399
Dot Thomas 217-259-8560

November Committee:
Emily Doedtman, Joyce Shadwell, Dorothy Hankins, Linda Doedtman
Helen Doedtman

Annunciation Church of B.V.M.
St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Shumway, IL
Fr. Adam Prichard, Pastor
aprichard@dio.org
PO Box 96, Shumway, IL 62461
1-844-536-6514
Website: www.stmaryshumway.org
Email: stmarysshumway@gmail.com



MISSION
(who we are and what we do, our purpose)
Be a growing community of disciples, centered on the Eucharist, that imitates Jesus by proclaiming the Gospel and serving our neighbors with love.

VISION
(where we are going, our focus)
Building the Body of Christ through families of faith with vibrant spiritual formation, joyful community fellowship and service, and a welcoming presence to all.

Good News! November 9, 2025
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Ezekiel 47:1–2, 8–9, 12 / 1 Corinthians 3:9c–11, 16–17 / John 2:13–22

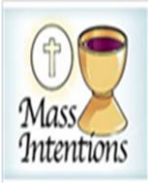
The Body of Christ on Parade
Singing together during the distribution of holy Communion is one way of expressing the reality that we are one in the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. I once was taught to pray quietly during this time. If I’m honest, however, what I find myself doing after I return to my pew is watching others process past as they return from receiving Communion. They are a parade of holiness on the way. They are the longtime parishioners who have been making their way back to their pews in this way for decades— some now using walkers or canes, others with a bit of a slow hobble. There are teenagers, too. Some, from the expressions on their faces, look like their parents made them come, while others look impressively prayerful. Young parents, too, caring for a new baby in their arms, and another couple holding a two-year-old’s hand as he tugs to escape and be free. And middle-aged single people, now halfway through this life’s journey. Young couples, as well, those just married or engaged and so obviously in love, but also widows and widowers longing for the love they once knew. All of these are the body of Christ, the very temple of God built upon the foundation that is Christ Jesus, as Paul notes so well. This is why I watch them processing back to their pews. This, too, is prayer. ● FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

For as long as I can remember, I’ve loved literature and history. It’s helped me identify with others, see similarities and differences, and provoked me to think about what I would do in different situations. In my experience, when written well, a character helps me to think critically, to examine different perspectives, and to (hopefully) find creative solutions to any difficulty I was or am having. For me, reading a book (especially fantasy or science fiction) is relaxing and enjoyable. I suppose that’s one of the reasons I enjoyed the PBS shows Reading Rainbow, Wishbone, and Ghostwriter at different points in my childhood. And another reason I’m part of a 21+ year book club with friends throughout the world. I find it enjoyable to share different viewpoints and discussions about books, and to hear and watch how others have thought about them. Unfortunately, as with many people, I find myself reading less because I get distracted at times by screens, whether it be a tv, computer, or laptop screen. And while technology is a mostly helpful part of my daily life, it also has a negative effect on me at times. It leads me to read actual books less (whether on a kindle or a physical book), leads me to focus on and value interpersonal communication less (after all screens don’t expect people to exert mental, emotional, or spiritual energy), and can lead to only listening to or viewing content that I find agreeing with my particular perspective on things. I’m not opposed to the internet, as a whole, or against video games, or communicating with others by text, email, or social media, but I do think, along with almost everything, too much of it, for anyone, can be harmful.

Pope Leo XIV, in his meeting with students on October 30th, 2025, said, in reference to using St. Carlo Acutis as a model, “His initiative teaches us that the digital world is educational when it does not close us in on ourselves but opens us to others — when it does not place us at the center but orients us toward God and others.” When we lose sight of the humanity of ourselves or of other people, including our enemies, we end up losing the understanding that each person has been created by a loving God, and we all have dignity and value. And not only ourselves as individuals, but we lose that understanding in regards to others as well. And while I should not have my nose in a book 24/7 either, to lose any avenue of thinking critically, examining different perspectives, and finding creative solutions to problems is harmful to anyone. While this is particularly true in our parish community, it truly does extend to everyone. People will disappoint us, at any one point there may be constant disagreement over any particular subject, and it can be difficult to be civil to people we like, let alone people we don’t like. But, if we start at the point of “the person I am encountering has been created by God, out of love, and so needs to be treated with the same amount of dignity, respect, and compassion that I do” and “I too am in constant need of God’s grace and mercy”, our interactions with others could be transformed, even just a tiny bit, into a more grace-filled experience. And what a blessing that could be for anyone.

Fr. Adam

† This symbol denotes-deceased.



Saturday, Nov. 8 – †Larry Ferguson by Linda Strohl
Sunday, Nov. 9- †Kenneth Kreke by Joe Kay conder
Tuesday, Nov. 11 – Veterans of Our Parish
Wednesday, Nov. 12 - †Marita Kemme by Alice Richards
Saturday, Nov. 15 –†Dan Zacha by family
Sunday, Nov. 16- †Marita Kemme by Bonnie Kemme
Tuesday, Nov. 18 – † Margaret Reynoldsby Teresa Tegeler
Wednesday, Nov. 19 - †Mary Flach by Mark Karen Kemme

To schedule a mass intention please use a mass intention envelope. They are in the cry room in the “mailbox” outside the bathroom. There is also a calendar there with available dates. Drop your intention in the collection basket. If you have any questions, contact Donna Davis @1-844-536-6514.

Dear Padre November 9, 2025

Should the pope get involved in American politics?

No, the pope should not get involved in the politics of any country. However, politics often intersects with religious concerns and particularly gospel values. When this occurs, the Holy Father has a responsibility to preach the gospel and defend the values the gospel teaches, even when it might sound political. He pronounces and teaches the values of the gospel, regardless of what nation or politician might feel confronted or challenged by what he teaches.

What often happens is, when politicians find themselves in conflict with the gospel values the pope is teaching, they choose to say, “The pope has no business in our politics,” instead of listening. Completely understandable, at least from one perspective, but probably also disingenuous from another perspective. Politicians are fully aware of what is being proclaimed and why it is being proclaimed but choose not to listen. That, too, is completely understandable, if regrettable. One has to think only of the scribes and the Pharisees, and more particularly the high priest, who said, “Consider that it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish” (John 11:50). ● Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Because of the Jewish roots of Christianity, all Christians have a special relationship with Judaism.... The theological dialogue between Christians and Jews remains ever important and close to my heart. Even in these difficult times, marked by conflicts and misunderstandings, it is necessary to continue the momentum of this precious dialogue of ours.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 19, 2025

Weekly Offering.....10-26-25

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Total.....
Parish Hall update \$139,575.13

Didn't receive report for 11/2. Will post when I receive it.

To Report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about Safe Environment Programs in the Diocese of Springfield call 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE

Reflection from **Good News**

section on pg. 1

The Body of Christ on Parade

How do I pray after I've received Holy Communion?

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

MONDAY

November 10

St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church Wis 1:1–7 Lk 17:1–6

TUESDAY

November 11

St. Martin of Tours, Bishop Wis 2:23—3:9 Lk 17:7–10

WEDNESDAY

November 12

St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr Wis 6:1–11 Lk 17:11–19

THURSDAY

November 13

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin Wis 7:22b—8:1 Lk 17:20–25

FRIDAY

November 14

Wis 13:1–9 Lk 17:26–37

SATURDAY

November 15

Wis 18:14–16; 19:6–9 Lk 18:1–8

SUNDAY

November 16

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mal 3:19–20a 2
Thes 3:7–12 Lk 21:5–19

All ladies are invited to the Mattoon Deanery Council of Catholic Women meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at Forty Martyrs Church Hall, 111 E. Van Allen Street, Tuscola, IL 61953. Registration at 8:30 am. The Dean of our Deanery, Fr. John Titus will preside over the installation of new officers. Holy Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by Fr. Michael Trummer talk on “2025 Jubilee Year of Hope”. Lunch and silent auction (wrapped gift) will conclude the day; proceeds go to the Seminary Fund (check or cash accepted). Contact: MDCCW President: Margaret Thompson (217) 232-4350 or drmathompson76@gmail.com

21st Annual Effingham County Thanksgiving Day Dinner

The Effingham County FISH Organization is sponsoring the 21st Annual Effingham County Free Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Thursday, November 27, 2025 We will offer a congregate meal at Cornerstone Christian Church, with serving beginning at 12:30pm. We will still offer delivered meals as well as curbside pickup. Curbside pickup will be available at Cornerstone Christian Church, 3600 South Banker, Effingham, between 11:00am & 12 noon. Meals will be delivered after 10:00am. This event is free and open to all Effingham County Residents and their families, however donations are always greatly appreciated and may be sent to: FISH, PO Box 473, Effingham, IL 62401. To reserve a Congregate Meal, Home Delivered Meal or Curbside Pickup, please call 217-821-4387 between November 1st through November 24, 2025. Volunteers are needed to help package and deliver meals. We will start packaging meals at 9:00am on Thanksgiving day. To volunteer, please call 217-343-7342.



St. Thomas, Newton is looking for a Kindergarten teacher. More info about the position and an application found at www.stthomassaints.com under school information – employment opportunities.

Effingham Knights of Columbus Council 665 Annual K of C Memorial Service
Seventeen Brother Knights who have died in the past year will be remembered at the annual Memorial Mass and services to be held in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Effingham, on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 2025, at 6:30 pm. Mass will be concelebrated by Chaplain Rev. James Flach and Rev. Michal Rosa. Families and friends of the deceased as well as all Council Brothers are encouraged to pray for them. The Mass will be livestreamed on YouTube at “Sacred Heart Effingham” for those who may not be able to attend in person. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Church Narthex.

Sacred Heart Parish in Effingham invites all mothers to come pray with our Millions of Monicas group. This is a group of mothers coming together to lift up their children (of all ages) in prayer. Many mothers have children who are struggling to embrace their Catholic faith or have left the church entirely. Following St. Monica's example of patience and perseverance, we pray for the joyful return of our children to full unity with the Catholic Church. All mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and Godmothers are invited! Millions of Monicas meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00pm at Sacred Heart Church. The next meeting is Monday, November 17. For more information, visit www.millionsofmonicas.com

Happy Birthday



Madison Manhart 11-8
Jim Miller 11-9
Helen Yakey 11-11
Adalyn Spannagel 11-11
Tyler Buehler 11-11
Joyce Shadwell 11-12
Lisa Waldhoff 11-13
Brock Vonderheide 11-14

The parish family extends a big THANK YOU to the anonymous donors who donated \$600, \$1000 and \$2500 to our parish hall fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!!



EVERY weekend, we will be collecting food for local food pantries. You can find the donation tote in the cry room.

Families in Faith

Next class Sunday, Nov. 9 & 23
If you have any questions, contact Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399
CLASSES FOR ALL AGES...
PRE-K THROUGH ADULT!!!!

Bible Study @ St. Mary's, Shumway
“A Journey Through Church History.”
Next meeting is Nov.12



ACTION ALERT

Please contact Governor Pritzker to VETO SB 1950 - Legalizing Assisted Suicide

At 2:54 a.m. on October 31 the Illinois State Senate narrowly passed SB 1950. The State House narrowly passed the bill in the Spring. The bill is now on the Governor's desk. This is the last chance to stop assisted suicide from becoming law in Illinois. In Canada where assisted suicide has been legal since 2016, 1 in 20 deaths are now due to assisted suicide/euthanasia. Too many are giving up on life under this law.

PLEASE CALL GOV. PRITZKER AND INFORM HIM:

- People with disabilities, the poor and marginalized fear coercion and abuse under assisted suicide laws.
- Suicide rates increase in states where assisted suicide is legal, especially among veterans.
- There is a possible cost savings to insurance companies as they can provide cheaper lethal drugs instead of lifesaving treatments.

Go to www.ilcatholic.org for e-mail links, or call the Governor's office directly at 312.814.2121.

PRAYER LIST: Please remember them in your prayers!



Walker Clark	Kathy Miller	Sally Wakefield
Steve Fritts	David Brown	Pat Kuhns
Kenny Hille	Kathy Wakefield	Bill Hamilton
Eloise P.	Larry Nation	Christie Dust
Trevor Roy	Beth Hewing	Helen Kollinger
Tony Bierman	Jim Gordon	Bill Nuxoll
Tori Schairbaum	Don Kemme	Cinda Held
Tom Laue	Don Clark	Marita Elson
Jerry Worman	Steve Moore	
Mardell Sheehan		
Elsie McKay		

Call: 1-844-536-6514 to add or remove someone.
Thank You.

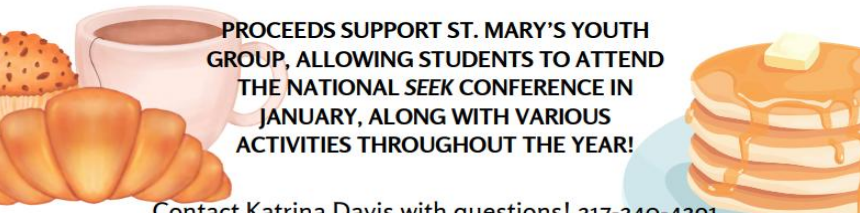


Fall BREAKFAST

hosted by St. Mary's Catholic Youth Group - Shumway
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
7:00am - 11:00am
 Shumway Kluthe Community Building
 199 Front St, Shumway, IL 62461

FREE WILL DONATION
 PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, FRUIT, SWEET BREADS, MILK, & COFFEE
 GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

PROCEEDS SUPPORT ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL SEEK CONFERENCE IN JANUARY, ALONG WITH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!



Contact Katrina Davis with questions! 217-240-4291

FORMED-Catholic Streaming Service To sign up follow these directions.

1. Go to Formed.org
2. Click on Find your Parish Subscription
3. Enter 62461 in the find your parish box
4. Click on St. Mary's and Next and create your account



Children's bulletins now available. There will be 2 different ones to cover more ages. Parents, please use one or both!! Let me know what you think. I appreciate the feedback.

Deanery Prayer Vigil for Life Everyone is welcome to attend the Deanery Prayer Vigil for Life to Pray for the Protection of All Life at St. Anthony church in Effingham on Monday November 17. Praying the rosary will begin at 6:00 pm. Fr Peter Harman will be the celebrant for the 6:30 pm Mass. A business meeting will follow in the parish center with refreshments being served while current pro-life issues and events are discussed.



Thursday
Nov. 13 @ 7pm

Catechesis Night

Topic:
Spiritual Warfare

with
Fr. Juan Carlos
 @St. Aloysius
 19812 E 1000th Ave
 Dieterich, IL

Happy Hour to follow @
Harry's Tavern
 107 N Main St Dieterich

Effingham Area
 Catholic Young
 Adults
 (21-35)

CATECHISM
 of the
 CATHOLIC
 CHURCH
 SECOND EDITION

Mark your calendars. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Columbus # 720 are hosting a presentation on the Pilgrims, leaning towards their religious role in our history. Patti Winn is a 41 year veteran storyteller and dramatist. She portrays historical and Biblical people in first person. She'll be portraying a Pilgrim, and the story that modern day history books doesn't tell. It will be held at the Effingham Event Center on Monday, November 10th at 7 pm. All are invited to enjoy her presentation. Free admission. Refreshments will be available.



SonRise Fridays – All Men Invited! You can't have a men's program without including St. Joseph. This coming Friday, we'll dive into his life as the humble leader of the Holy Family - a model of servant leadership, mercy, and strength. He shows us how honoring God in the home can transform families and the world. Come for food, fellowship and faith 6:15 AM – 7:30AM, Friday, at the St. Anthony Parish Center, Effingham. For more info Dan Woods, 217-821-1495.

December Catholic Men's Overnight Retreat – Step away from the noise of daily life and renew your soul at the Catholic Men's Overnight Retreat, led by Norbertine Father Herman Joseph Johanneck, O. Praem. at the beautiful Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield. Father Herman Joseph will present his series, "Sons of the Father, Men in Christ," guiding participants into deeper prayer, reflection, and brotherhood. The retreat will include talks, personal prayer, Rosary, Adoration & Benediction, Confessions, group discussion, Holy Mass, and time for rest and silence. Saturday, Dec. 13 – Sunday, Dec. 14; \$150 (includes single-occupancy room, meals, and materials); Register by Nov. 21 at events@dio.org.

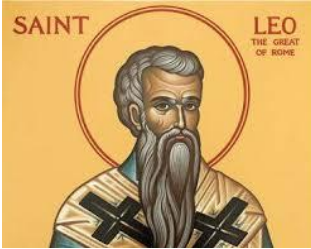
A WEEK OF SAINTS!!!

This week we see the Church celebrate several important leaders in our faith. Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church(11-10), Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop (11-11), St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr (11-12), St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, virgin(11-13), and St. Albert the Great, bishop and doctor of the Church (11-15). This insert will focus on just two: St. Leo the Great and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini. You can find more about these saints at

<https://young-catholics.com/38983/november-2025-mass-readings-resources/#month>

A Leader of Faith and Courage

Saint Leo the Great teaches us about the importance of standing firm in our beliefs. During his time as pope, there were many challenges to the Church, including false teachings and attacks from enemies. Leo didn't shy away from these problems. He met them with courage and clear teaching, always defending the truth. His life shows us that it is possible to stay strong in our faith, even when faced with difficult situations.



Leo also showed us how to lead with love and humility. He didn't seek power for himself, but instead focused on serving the Church and guiding others toward the truth. His leadership was not about being in control, but about caring for the people he served. This reminds us that true leadership means putting others first and helping them grow in their faith.

Another important lesson from Saint Leo is his dedication to unity. He worked hard to keep the Church united during a time when there were many disagreements about who Jesus was. He helped to bring people together by teaching clearly about Christ's two natures—both fully human and fully divine. His efforts remind us how important it is to stay united in our communities and to work through our differences with patience and love.

Leo's life encourages us to take our faith seriously and to share it with others. He didn't just keep his beliefs to himself, but worked to spread the truth and help others understand the faith more deeply. We can follow his example by sharing our faith with the people around us, standing firm in what we believe, and leading with love and humility.

Reflection Questions

- How can I stand firm in my faith when I face challenges or difficulties?
- What can I do to be a leader who serves others with love and humility?
- How can I help bring unity to my family, church, or community?

A Small Girl with Big Faith-- Crossing Borders with Love

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini is also known as Mother Cabrini. She was the first American citizen to be named a saint. She was born in Italy but did most of her work in the United States. She helped many people who were poor and had no one to care for them.

She worked mainly with immigrants, especially Italians. Many of them came to the United States looking for a better life. But life was hard for them. They had little money. They often lived in poor homes. Many did not speak English. Mother Cabrini gave them hope.

She started schools, hospitals, and orphanages. She wanted people to know that God loved them. She gave her life to helping others. She also helped her sisters in her religious order to do the same. Even though she was small and often sick, she worked very hard. She trusted God in everything. She traveled many places and helped many people. She is remembered today for her great faith and her great love for others.

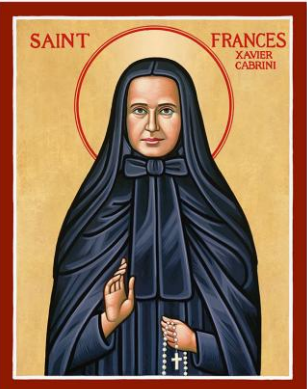
Continued on the other side...

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini reminds us that one person can make a big difference. She did not wait until she was strong or rich or famous. She started with what she had. She trusted God and helped the people in front of her. She saw their pain, and she chose to act. We can do the same in our own lives. We may not open hospitals or schools, but we can

Mother Cabrini faced many hard things. She was often sick. She was told “no” many times. She had little money and few helpers at the start. Still, she kept going. She did not give up. Her courage came from prayer. She believed God would lead her, step by step. We also face hard things. We may feel small or unsure. Like her, we can pray and take the next step.

She cared deeply for immigrants and the poor. She did not see them as strangers. She saw them as brothers and sisters. Many people in the world feel alone and forgotten. Some live far from home. Others are new in a place and don't speak the language. We can follow her example and welcome others with kindness.

Mother Cabrini lived a life of love. She saw Jesus in the people she served. She helped people feel seen, known, and loved. We can do that too. In our families, at work, at school, or in the store—we can bring care and peace. We can be like her in small, daily ways.



Reflection Questions: Who are the people around me that need care or help? What is one small act of love I can do today? How can I grow in trust when things are hard? Do I see Jesus in the people I meet?

A Reminder of Our Unity in Faith

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica is an important moment for Catholics. This basilica, located in Rome, is the cathedral church of the Pope and is called the “mother of all churches.” It reminds us that our faith is not only personal but shared by millions around the world. The Lateran Basilica stands as a sign of unity, showing that we are part of something much larger than ourselves.

This feast also helps us reflect on the importance of places of worship. Just as the Lateran Basilica is a sacred space for the Church, our local parishes are also holy places where we gather to pray, celebrate the sacraments, and be in community with each other. We don't just come to church for our own benefit but to be part of the body of Christ.

The history of the basilica, which goes back to the time of Emperor Constantine, reminds us that our faith has deep roots. The Church has gone through challenges, yet it continues to stand strong. This encourages us to stay committed to our faith, even when things are difficult. Our lives, like the basilica, can be rebuilt and renewed through God's grace.

The feast also reminds us that, like the basilica, we are called to be temples of God's presence in the world. We may not be grand or famous like the Lateran Basilica, but we are still important in God's eyes. Every small act of love, every moment of kindness, helps build up the Church.

Reflection Questions

How do I contribute to the unity of the Church in my own community? What role does my parish play in my spiritual life? In what ways can I become more of a “living temple” for God in my daily actions?

