Wellspring
Fransalian Center for Spirituality
P. O. Box 440, Whitehouse, Texas 75791
www.wellspringcommunity.net frgusmsfs@gmail.com

November 9, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the Cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not St. Peter's Basilica as so many mistakenly believe. The Basilica is also called the Church of Holy Savior or the Church of St. John Baptist. In ancient Rome this was the church where everyone was baptized. It the oldest church in the West, built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324.

This basilica was the first to be built after Emperor Constantine's edict, in 313, granted Christians freedom to practice their religion. The emperor himself gave Pope Miltiades the ancient palace of the Laterani family, and the basilica, the baptistery, and the patriarchate, that is, the Bishop of Rome's residence - where the Popes lived. The basilica's dedication was celebrated by Pope Sylvester around 324 and was named Most Holy Savior; only after the 6th century were the names of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist added.

The first reading of today's mass is from Ezekiel, Chapter 47:1-2, 8-9, 12. Ezekiel had a vision of the temple of Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God. He saw a river of fresh water flowing from beneath the threshold of the temple which transformed the salty sea into fresh water. The salty sea thus became a home to all sorts of marine life, and all kinds of living things grew along the banks of the river. This transformation from seeming death into abundant life testified to the life-giving power and presence of God in the temple. We are invited to reflect on whether similar life-giving power flows from our Churches into the world around us today.

In the second reading of todays' mass, we read about Paul reminding the Corinthian community (1 Corinthians 3:9-11) that they have become God's temple, "building". The temple of God is the community of believers, the Church. Paul affirms that the Spirit of God dwells within the Christian Community. The Spirit of God is not found in a building…the Spirit is to be found in the living assembly of God' people. The spirit has to be encountered today in our praying and worshiping community. We are invited to reflect on whether our Churches today are truly praying and worshiping communities where the spirit of God is encountered,

God bless you and your family and keep you safe in His Love.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

Thiry-second Week in Ordinary Time
November 9-14, 2026

Hope is indeed a divine virtue.
It is fundamentally a gift that you already obtain whenever you pray together with others and for others. We Christians equally have the duty of manifesting our hope publicly and sharing it with others. By words and actions rich in hope we shall help others to overcome their fear of life, their resignation and indifference, and have confidence in God and in other people. As disciples of Christ… you are to give people of today, surrounded as they are by a thousand threats and so full of confusion, the words and the hope that set us free.
(Pope Francis)

November 9 – Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Everything passes; nothing remains. Understand this, loosen your grip and find serenity.

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

The Babylonians had desecrated, looted, and destroyed the temple and exiled its personnel. Ezekiel now had a vision of the restored temple which would become once again the center and source of life for his people. He compared the temple to an Eden-like place and a source of life-giving water for his people. The river of fresh water flowing from the temple transforms the salty sea into fresh water which becomes home to all sorts of marine life and all kinds of living things grow along the banks of the river. This transformation from seeming death into abundant life testifies to the life-giving power and presence of God.

We are invited to reflect on whether similar life-giving power flows from our Churches into the world today.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and our strength,
and ever-present help in distress.
Therefore we fear not, though the earth be shaken
And mountains plunge into the depths of the sea.

1 Corinthians 3:9-11

Paul reminds the Corinthian community that they have become God's temple, "building". The temple of God is the community of believers, the Church. Ezekiel saw the temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God…. Paul saw the believing community as the dwelling place of God. Paul affirms that the Spirit of God dwells within the Christian Community and so it has become the holy place. The Spirit of God is no longer seen as localized in a building…the Spirit is to be found in the living assembly of God' people.

The presence of God experienced in the temple in Jerusalem must now be experienced in the living and believing community. And the spirit has to be encountered today in our praying and worshiping community.

John 2:13-22

This excerpt tells us about Jesus cleansing the temple and claiming the temple to be his Father's house. This claim of Jesus angered those who witnessed his action. Then he claimed that it was zeal for his Father's house that moved him to throw out those who desecrated the sacred space. He made claims, even bolder, that he would raise up the temple in three days if they were to destroy it. John tells us, in this excerpt, that Jesus was referring to the temple of his body when he made this claim.

Jesus became the real temple for us. All who desire to encounter and commune with God are invited to Jesus, the temple in whom God is really present to the world. The Church, the believing assembly, the body of Christ gathered in the name of Jesus become the holy place and the holy people in whom the world must experience the presence of God today.

The presence of God experienced in the temple in Jerusalem and the real presence of God experienced in Jesus must now be experienced in the living, believing, praying, and worshiping community. Gathered in the name of Jesus, we, the Church, are called to be the holy people in whom the world must experience the presence of God today.

Saint of the day, November 9 - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica and 10 other saints are remembered this day.

Today the Church celebrates the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not St. Peter's Basilica as so many mistakenly believe. The Basilica is also called the Church of Holy Savior or the Church of St. John Baptist. In ancient Rome this was the church

where everyone was baptized. It the oldest church in the West, built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324.

This basilica was the first to be built after Emperor Constantine's edict, in 313, granted Christians freedom to practice their religion. The emperor himself gave Pope Miltiades the ancient palace of the Laterani family, and the basilica, the baptistery, and the patriarchate, that is, the Bishop of Rome's residence - where the Popes lived. The basilica's dedication was celebrated by Pope Sylvester around 324 and was named Most Holy Savior; only after the 6th century were the names of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist added.

Today, as we remember the dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the Cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope, let us remember our communion with the Universal Church and pray for harmony and unity in all churches and religions of the world.

November 10 - Tuesday, Thirty-second Week in Ordinary Time

The most wonderful taste of serenity is found
by the love you have for yourself, and those around you.

Titus 2:1-8, 11-14

The whole of chapter 2 is about Christian character. This excerpt describes what befits men and women of all ages and all walks of life: to be sober, serious, prudent, chaste, kind, obedient, dutiful, disciplined and healthy in faith, love and courage and offers a simple Christian philosophy of life: reject godless ways, live temperately, justly and devoutly. This is the way Christians must live as they await the second coming of Christ.

Psalm 37

Trust in the Lord and do good,
that you may dwell in the land and be fed in security.
Take delight in the Lord,
and he will grant you your heart's requests.

Luke 17:7-10

Jesus uses the example of a servant, who comes in from the field after a day's work, being asked to do more work. Should this servant expect gratitude from his master for doing his duty?

The featured servant is doing double duty, more than expected of him, more than his assigned duty. The servant is to see this “call beyond duty” as a gift, an honor and an expression of the master’s gratitude.

The gift of faith and the relationship that grows from it makes it possible for us to understand the attitude of grateful service.

Be like the Master, Jesus, who came to serve and serve generously.

Stir into flame the gift of faith. Keep the prayer going: Lord, increase our faith.

Saint of the Day, November 10 - Pope St. Leo the Great and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint Leo the Great, also known as Pope Saint Leo I, was born into a Roman aristocratic family in Rome, Italy around the year 400. He was the first pope to be given the title "the Great." Details pertaining to Leo's place of birth are not known, but it is believed that his ancestors come from Tuscany.

St. Leo the Great became a very well-known deacon of the Church by 431, serving the church under the pontificate of Pope Celestine I. Leo was widely respected for his love for the Lord, intelligence and persuasive nature. He was also gifted in bringing reconciliation between disputing groups of Christians. He was often sent out to settle disputes, both secular and theological.

Leo was unanimously elected as pope to succeed Pope Sixtus III in 440. Pope Leo was deeply dedicated to his service as pope. He tirelessly fought to preserve the unity of the Church and its faith; and to ensure the safety of his people against invasions from armies which sought to destroy the Church and the Christian influence. Pope Leo I worked to oppose and root out numerous heresies which were threatening the Western Church. Among them were Pelagianism, which denied the necessity of God's grace for salvation and Manichaeism which denied the goodness of the human body, creation, and saw even matter itself as evil.

Pope Leo also resolved the doctrinal controversy regarding the nature of Jesus. His famous letter articulated the Church's official teaching on Jesus Christ as One Person with a human and a divine nature which could not be separated.

Along with his dynamic faith and outstanding theological wisdom, Pope Leo I was also courageous. Attila the Hun and his huge army and the later Invaders terrified the emperor and his generals as well as the citizens of Italy. The gentle, scholarly Pope Leo the Great met them unarmed and alone, trusting in divine providence. His courage and faith persuaded Attila and

the later invaders to turn away from Rome. Two years later, he had to meet the Vandals and plead for mercy. He was unable to prevent them from taking the city but managed to get them to agree not to loot it, burn its buildings or murder its people. In between invasions, he helped the Church to understand why it celebrates feasts and holy seasons. Many of his homilies encouraged people to provide for the poor. He trusted God, he loved the Church, he loved people, he was gentle and courageous, he was great. He died on November 10, 461 in Rome, Italy

November 11 - Wednesday, Thirty Second Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity is not just an escape,
but a precursor to acceptance, courage, wisdom, and change.

Titus 3:1-7

Paul directed Titus to encourage the community to respect and be "loyally subject" to civil authorities reminding them that all authority comes from God. He challenged them to practice virtues that reflect their noble calling, to take honest employment, to be forbearing and courteous toward all.

Cultivate virtues that reflect your noble calling.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he give me repose,
Beside restful waters he leads me;
He refreshes my soul….

Luke 17:11-19

Ten lepers asked Jesus for healing. Jesus sent them to the priests, and they were healed on the way. One of them returned to give thanks. Jesus said to him, "your faith has made you well". Jesus always had a way of bringing out the best in others. He affirmed and appreciated the faith and the gratitude of this leper, who under all circumstances would never have been noticed by anyone. Jesus used this opportunity to teach his followers to be grateful disciples.

Gratitude is the memory of the heart. Gratefulness is an attitude, the quality of a person and not a word or phrase said in polite gesture.

Look beyond what you see. See goodness beyond appearances. Bring out the best in others and from all circumstances in life. Be grateful!

Saint of the Day, November 11 - Saint Martin of Tours and 15 other saints are remembered this day

Martin was born in 316 or 336 in Savaria in the Diocese of Pannonia, Hungary. His father was a senior officer (tribune) in the Roman army. At the age of ten he attended the Church against the wishes of his parents and became a catechumen. At the age of fifteen, Martin was required to follow his father into the cavalry corps of the Roman military. Scholars think he served as part of the emperor's guard.

As a young soldier, Martin encountered a beggar who was unclothed and it was very cold. Martin removed his cloak, cut it in half, gave this half to the beggar and dressed himself with the other half. That night, Martin had a vision in which Christ spoke to him, "Martin, a mere catechumen has clothed me." About the age of 20, Martin made clear to his superiors that he would no longer fight, following his formed Christian conscience.

“I am a soldier for Christ. It is not lawful for me to fight”. With these words Martin of Tours identified himself forever as a saint of peace before the emperor. Today, he would be called a conscientious objector. Martin laid down his weapons and spent the rest of his life serving Christ with great compassion for the poor and the suffering people as the bishop of the city of Tours. Martin was so loved as a man of compassion and peace that he was the first person to be honored as saint who was not a martyr.

In 371, the city of Tours needed a new bishop and the people decided to call Martin to the office. Martin did not want the job so the people decided to trick him into the office. The people insisted he was needed to administer to someone sick. So, he came out as quickly as he could. When he learned it was a trick to make him a bishop, he tried to hide. He was quickly discovered and the people called him forward to be ordained to the office of Bishop. Even though he did not really want the office, he was ordained - and he became a holy and hardworking Bishop.

Martin was a good pastor and shepherd of the people. As a Bishop, he established a system of parishes to manage his diocese. He made a point to visit each parish at least once per year. Yet, he longed for more prayer and wanted to pursue a monastic life. In the year 372 Martin established an abbey at Marmoutier so he could retreat there and live as a monk with the many disciples he had attracted.

Martin died in Candes-Saint-Martin, Gaul in 397. Saint Martin is the patron of the poor, soldiers, conscientious objectors, tailors, and winemakers. He commonly appears on horseback and is shown cutting his cloak in half with a sword.

November 12 – Thursday, Thirty Second Week in Ordinary Time

Joy is everywhere - it is in the earth's green covering of grass and in the blue serenity of the sky.

(Rabindranath Tagore)

Philemon 7-20

This is the only private letter of Paul that has survived. Onesimus was a runaway slave (and probably a thief, as verse 18-19 seems to indicate). Somehow, he reached Rome and met Paul and became a Christian. Somehow, the story of Onesimus came out in the open and now it is time to break free of all discreditable past. So, Paul sends him back to his master, although Paul would have liked to keep him. Onesimus had become indispensable to Paul. So, Paul gives this letter to Onesimus. Paul even puns on Onesimus name. Onesimus in Greek means "profitable".

A useless man became useful as a slave and now he has become much more as a "son" in faith. Now Paul is sending his "son" back to his master asking him to receive him back as a Christian receives a brother. Being Christian has brought slaves and masters into new relationships. Class distinctions had not gone yet. New relationships were developing. Onesimus was a slave and still is a slave, but now he has become a brother to his master.

Philemon is a simple letter in 25 verses, but an inspirational reading. Its' about conversion; its about a slave regaining his dignity; its about welcoming back a runaway slave; its about welcoming back a runaway slave as a brother; its about Christian transformation……..much to reflect on!!!

Psalm 146

The Lord secures justice for the oppressed,
Gives food to the hungry,
The Lord sets captives free.

Luke 17:20-25

Jesus was asked when the reign of God would come. He responded, "The reign of God is already in your midst". The reign of God creates not new things or new systems but new

people! It is not a revolution in material things, but a revolution in the hearts of men and women! The secret of God is here and now! You need to recognize it! You need to embrace, live, and love this mystery!

Saint of the Day, November 12 - St. Josaphat and 22 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Josaphat was born John Kuncevic around 1580 in Vladimir, a village of the Lithuanian Province of Volhynia (then a part of the Polish Kingdom begun under the Jagellonian Dynasty). His parents belonged to the Eastern Rite Church of Kyiv (Ukraine) which was then separated from Rome.

In 1595, the Orthodox bishop of Brest-Litovsk in present-day Belarus and five other bishops representing millions of Ruthenians, sought reunion with Rome. John Kunsevich, who took the name Josaphat in religious life, was to dedicate his life, and die for the same cause. He became a Basilian monk, then a priest, and soon was well known as a preacher and an ascetic.

St. Josaphat is the first Byzantine-rite saint to be formally canonized. As Bishop, he worked for better understanding, acceptance and fair treatment of Byzantine Catholics in Poland. One day, he offered himself in the place of the servants being beaten by an angry crowd and the crowd hit him with an ax, shot him and threw him in the river. He died on November 12, 1623. He kept his faith alive and stirred into flame the faith of many others.

November 13 – Friday, Thirty Second Week in Ordinary Time

The final wisdom of life requires not the annulment of incongruity but the achievement of serenity within and above it.
(Reinhold Niebuhr)

2 John 4-9

In this excerpt, we read about John expressing his joy in finding his community faithfully walking the path of truth. He taught them about how important it was to live in truth. It meant to “love one another”. Then he says, “This love involves our walking according to the commandments”. He taught his community to be faithful and be rooted in the teaching of Christ and not follow the ways of “deceitful men”.

Psalm 119

Blessed are they whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the way of the Lord,
Blessed are they, who observe his decrees,
Who seek him with all their heart.

Luke 17:26-37

Jesus responded to the question of the Pharisees about when the Kingdom would come. He said to them that God takes his own time breaking into history. But He does come in His time! Jesus warned them…….. God will break in when necessary conditions are fulfilled (where the carcass is, there will the vultures gather).

Beware of idle speculations! Speculations and gossips will be there. We must not leave our daily responsibilities, our ordinary work to follow the speculations. We must learn to light a candle of patience and wait! Christ comes when we are faithfully and humbly and watchfully at our work, doing our duty, minding our business. No one will foresee His coming..... So be faithful to your commitments.

Saint of the Day, November 13 - St. Frances Xavier Cabrini and 17 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, known as Mother Cabrinbi was born in Lombardi, Italy on July 15, 1850. The religious order that educated her refused to accept her into their convent. She wanted be a missionary and go to China. At the urging of Pope Leo XIII, she came to USA to work among the Italian immigrants, going west instead of east. She traveled with six sisters to New York City to work with the thousands of Italian immigrants living there.

She found disappointment and difficulties with every step. When she arrived in New York City, the house intended to be her first orphanage in the United States was not available. The archbishop advised her to return to Italy. But Frances, truly a valiant woman, departed from the archbishop's residence all the more determined to establish that orphanage. And she did.

She said, "The whole world is not enough for me" and she traveled from New Jersey to Seattle, from Chicago to New Orleans and to many parts of the world crossing the Ocean 30 times. She founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart in 1880 and founded schools, hospitals and orphanages in USA for the care of Italian immigrants and children. By the time she died there were 67 schools, orphanages and hospitals in different parts of the world. Her compassion and generosity went beyond the boundaries, limits and roadblocks that she encountered. She died

on December 22, 1917 at, Columbus Hospital, Chicago, IL. She was canonized on July 7, 1946, by Pope Pius XII, becoming the first United States citizen to be canonized.

November 14 – Saturday, Thirty Second Week of the Year

If others hurt you, let the injury go. This is your test.
If you let it go, you will find serenity.
(Wayne Dyer)

3 John 5-8

John wrote this letter to his friend Gaius urging him to receive a group of missionaries and give them every support and send them on their way in a truly Christian manner. Hospitality was a serious matter for the Christian community, especially for the leaders of the church. This hospitality to the missionaries is presented as a way of being a missionary, of participation in the mission itself.

A person's circumstances may be such that he cannot become a missionary or preacher. Where he cannot go, his money or his prayer or his practical support can go. The church needs those who will go out as missionaries to proclaim the truth. It also needs those who will support, who will be helpers or allies of the truth at home.

Psalm 112

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
Who greatly delights in his commands.
His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth;
The upright generation shall be blessed.

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told the disciples a parable about a widow who refused to give up in seeking justice. The corrupt judge, finally, gave her justice. Then Jesus asked them: "If a corrupt judge will listen eventually, how much more do you think the loving Father would listen to the cry of his children?" Then he added: "He will give them swift justice". A corrupt judge ended up doing a good thing because a faithful woman persevered in her efforts.

So, be strong. Stand your ground. Persevere in seeking justice!

Saint of the Day, November 14 - St. Gertrude the Great and 11 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Gertrude the Great, or St. Gertrude of Helfta, was born on January 6, 1256, in Germany. Little is known about her childhood. Tradition tells us that at the age of four, she was enrolled in the Cistercian monastery school of Helfta in Saxony, under the governance of Abbess Gertrude of Hackerborn. The Cistercian movement was an effort to bring the Benedictine religious community back to a stricter and more faithful adherence to the original "Rule “of St Benedict.

Gertrude eventually entered the Benedictine Order at Helfta and became a nun. She devoted herself to her studies and received an education in many different subjects. Gertrude was both fluent in Latin and very familiar with scripture and works from the Fathers of the Church, including Augustine. Her deep, personal relationship with the Lord in prayer led to her to become one of the great mystics of the thirteenth century. She was also regarded as a great theologian. Gertrude passed away on November 17, 1301. Although Gertrude was never formally canonized, Rome approved a liturgical office of prayer and readings in her honor. To separate her from Abbess Gertrude of Hackeborn, Pope Benedict XIV gave her the title, "the Great," making her the only woman saint to be called, "the Great."

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

Our time has a great need for hope! The young can no longer be robbed of hope.
It is necessary to offer concrete signs of hope to those who experience pain and suffering.
Social organizations and associations, as well as individuals who strive towards acceptance and sharing, are generators of hope. Therefore, I exhort your Christian communities to be agents of solidarity, never to stop before those who, for mere personal interest,
sow self-centeredness, violence and injustice. Oppose yourselves to the culture of death and be witnesses to the Gospel of life!
(Pope Francis)

