

# **MORNING PRAYER**

**Saturday, Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time**

**Gratefully emulate people who are steadfast,  
people whose inner strength urges them to share their love generously,  
even when it costs them much.**

## **I Maccabees 6:1-13**

King Antiochus continued his pursuit of wealth, but he met with failures and had to withdraw into Babylon. The Israelites grew stronger and began to defend themselves and the King became sick with fear. He was overcome with guilt over the evil he had caused on Jerusalem. He expressed bitter grief over the injustices he had done for God's people as he is about to die. Things did not work out the way King Antiochus had planned.

God's ways are different from that of man. Pursuit of wealth at the cost of other's needs and injustice and other social evils inflicted on innocent people never bring peace and prosperity.....they bring disaster!

**Pursue justice and peace! God's ways are ways of justice and peace for all people!**

## **Psalm 9**

**I will give thanks to you O Lord with all my heart;  
I will declare all your wondrous deeds.  
I will be glad and exult in you;  
I will sing praise to your name, Most High.**

## **Luke 20: 27-40**

The Sadducees asked Jesus about the law of the "Levirate" marriage, which requires that if a man died leaving no children, his brother must marry the widow and raise posterity to his brother. The reason for this law was to provide for the widow, preserve the family name and the inheritance. The concern of the Sadducees was not the law itself or its legality or validity. They wanted to ridicule Jesus about his teaching on Resurrection and eternal life. Their question was about how relationships will be sorted out in the resurrection. The response of Jesus was very simple: no one needs to worry about such human matters in the resurrection because God is the God of life not of death.

**Death comes to a close - living goes on and on.....death is the door to eternity....all are alive in God.**

## **Saint of the Day, November 25 - St. Catherine of Alexandria and 6 other saints are remembered this day**

Saint Catherine of Alexandria, or Saint Katharine of Alexandria, also known as Saint Catherine of the Wheel and The Great Martyr Saint Catherine, is, according to tradition was martyred in the early 4th century at the hands of the pagan emperor Maxentius. According to her hagiography, she was both a princess and a noted scholar, who became a Christian around the age of 14, converted hundreds of people to Christianity, and was martyred around the age of 18. More than 1,100 years after Catherine's martyrdom, Joan of Arc identified her as one of the saints who appeared to and counselled her.

The Eastern Orthodox Church venerates her as a Great Martyr and celebrates her feast day on November 24 or 25, depending on the regional tradition. In Catholicism she is traditionally revered as one of **the Fourteen Holy Helpers\*\*\***. In 1969 the Roman Catholic Church removed her feast day from the General Roman Calendar; however, she continued to be commemorated in the Roman Martyrology on 25 November. In 2002, her feast was restored to the General Roman Calendar as an optional memorial.

**\*\*\*Fourteen Holy Helpers.** Saints Acacius, Barbara, Blaise, Christopher, Cyriacus, Catherine of Alexandria, Denis, Erasmus of Formiae, Eustace, George, Giles, Margaret of Antioch, Pantaleon, and Vitus. The Fourteen Holy Helpers are a group of saints venerated together in Roman Catholicism because their intercession is believed to be particularly effective, especially against various diseases.

In the middle of the 14th century, the plague - also called "The Black Death" - also called "The Greatest Catastrophe Ever" - ravaged Europe, killing 50 million people, or about 60% of the population (a vastly higher death rate than coronavirus), within a few years. Lacking the advances of modern medicine and layering dead bodies in pits like "lasagne with layers of pasta and cheese," the people had no choice but to cling to their faith. It was at this time that the Fourteen Holy Helpers - Catholics saints, all but one of whom were early martyrs - came to be invoked by Catholics against the plague and other misfortunes.

According to New Liturgical Movement, devotion to these 14 saints started in Germany at the time of the plague, and they were called "Nothelfer," which in German means "helpers in need." As bouts of the plague resurfaced over the decades, devotion to the Holy Helpers spread to other countries, and eventually Nicholas V declared that devotion to the saints came with special indulgences.

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