November 15th, 2026

Watch over me, Father, so that everything I do may be with the intention of pleasing Jesus.
~ St. Bernadette

SAINT BERNADETTE PARISH

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY RESUMED

In the month of November, as we ponder the last things of death, judgment and the eternal realities of heaven and hell, it's supposed to spur us ultimately to action. The more we recognize our time on earth is finite, that there will be on occasion when we'll review face-to-face with the Lord how we've spent that time, and that our eternal destiny will be determined by the mutually obvious conclusion as to whether we've lived for God and others or self-alienated to live for ourselves, then the more motivated we are now to live by faith, hope and love.

That's why today's readings are so helpful and challenging. Jesus speaks to us about the growth of his kingdom. It starts small like a mustard seed but then it grows into a huge shrub where so many others are able to abide. This can of course be applied to the Church as a whole, which can start with the one yes of Mary, or a small band of 12 men, or a few committed families in a parish, or a particular founder or foundress in a religious order. But it can, and is meant, to apply also to each of us. Elsewhere Jesus says that if we have the faith the size of a mustard seed we can transplant mulberry trees and even whole mountain ranges into the sea. This is a great image of hope. What happened to us physically, being conceived as a one cell embryo in our mother's womb, growing bigger over the course of subsequent months, being born and growing still toward adulthood, is supposed to happen spiritually. Every act of faith matters. Every act of hope matters. Every act of charity matters. Not only does our faith grow like the mustard seed or human body, but we become — to use Jesus' second image in the Gospel — like leaven lifting up those around us.

St. Paul describes this reality in today's epistle from his First Letter to the Thessalonians. He had planted in each of the first Christians in Thessalonika a mustard see of faith and then it began to grow. St. Paul recalled with gratitude several elements of the receptivity and response of the first Christians there. He mentioned their "work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope." They worked to grow in faith, they labored to love, they endured plenty of difficulties, setbacks and contradictions, but never lost their hope. He spoke to them about the mystery of "how [they] were chosen," and they took confidence in their divine vocation. He said that they received the Gospel not by "word alone, but also in power, in the Holy Spirit and much conviction," and that power and Spirit were at work within them, changing them and through them history. He praises them for having become "imitators of us and of the Lord," for modeling their life on Jesus and on Paul himself, of "serving the living and true God," and becoming themselves "a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia" and "in every place [where] your faith in God has gone forth." Their growth in faith was what the Lord hopes to see in all of us.

Settling Accounts: Reflection on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary time

The day of the Lord is coming, Paul warns in today's Epistle. What matters isn't the time or the season but what the Lord finds us doing with the new life, the graces He has given to us.

This is at the heart of Jesus' parable in today's Gospel. Jesus is the Master. Having died, risen, and ascended into heaven, He appears to have gone away for a long time.

By our Baptism, He has entrusted to each of us a portion of His "possessions," a share in His divine life (see 2 Peter 1:4). He has given us talents and responsibilities according to the measure of our faith (see Romans 12:3–8).

We are to be like the worthy wife in today's First Reading and the faithful man we sing of in today's Psalm. Like them, we should walk in the "fear of the Lord"—in reverence, awe, and thanksgiving for His marvelous gifts. This is the beginning of wisdom (see Acts 9:31; Proverbs 1:7).

This is not the "fear" of the useless servant in today's parable. His is the fear of a slave cowering before a cruel master, the fear of one who refuses the relationship that God calls us to.

God has called us to be trusted servants, fellow workers (see 1 Corinthians 3:9), using our talents to serve one another and His kingdom as good stewards of His grace (see 1 Peter 4:10). In this, we each have a different part to play.

Though the good servants in today's parable were given different numbers of talents, each "doubled" what he was given. And each earned the same reward for his faithfulness—greater responsibilities and a share of the Master's joy.

So let us resolve again in this Eucharist to make much of what we've been given, to do all for the glory of God (see 1 Corinthians 10:31). That we, too, may approach our Master with confidence and love when He comes to settle accounts.

Scott Hahn



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact the parish office by email to arrange a baptism, marriage, or funeral, or to request a certificate.

To request the offering of the Holy Mass for your intention, please email the office or leave your intention in the Sunday collection basket.

St. Bernadette can be found online at **sfxspokane.org** or at **facebook.com/sfxspokane**

Our Mailing Address is:
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Please make all checks payable to St. Bernadette Catholic Parish

THIS WEEK AT ST. BERNADETTE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

5:30pm Mass *Avila Family*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

8:00am Mass *Priests in purgatory*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

4:30pm Confessions

5:30pm Mass *Marjorie Castle (R.I.P)*

6:00pm Adoration

THURSDAY, November 19th

8:00am Mass *Walter Young (R.I.P)*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

3:00pm Confessions

4:00pm Vigil Mass *Pro populo*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

7:30am Latin Mass *Pro Populo*

9:00am English Mass *Pro Populo*

11:00am Latin Mass *Pro Populo*

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St. Mechtilde (Mathilda), Virgin November 19th

At the age of seven, St. Mechtilde was entrusted to the nuns of Rodalsdorf, who shortly afterward elected her elder sister Gertrude as their Abbess. Mechtilde herself became a nun, and mistress of the school when the house moved to Helfta.

In this capacity, it became Mechtilde's lot to train a five-year-old who entered the monastery in 1261 and went on to become St. Gertrude the Great. The pupil wrote of her mistress: "There has never been anyone like her in our monastery, and I am afraid there will never be again."

In collaboration with another nun St. Gertrude wrote an account of Mechtilde's spiritual teaching and mystical experiences entitled The Book of Special Grace, which was made public after Mechtilde's death on November 19, 1298.

PRAYER: God, you prepared a pleasing abode for Yourself in the heart of St. Mechtilde the Virgin. Through her intercession mercifully lighten the darkness of our heart so that we may rejoice in the knowledge that You are present and working within us. Amen.



St. Gertrude, Virgin November 16th

St. Gertrude was born in 1256 at Eisleben in Saxony. At the age of five she was placed in the care of the Benedictine nuns at Helfta and later became a nun in the same abbey. There she delighted in the study of the Latin language and literature as well as music and painting.

At the age of twenty-five, Gertrude underwent a conversion to follow the Lord more closely. She began a life filled with humility, patience in suffering, and care for others. She dedicated herself to the meditation of Scripture and liturgical texts and frequented the reading of the Fathers.

St. Gertrude had enjoyed a good education. She wrote and composed in Latin, and was versed in sacred literature. The life of this Saint, though not replete with stirring events and striking actions, was one of great mental activity. It was the mystic life of the cloister, a life hidden with Christ in God.

The saintly woman was characterized by great devotion to the Sacred Humanity of our Lord in His Passion and in the Blessed Eucharist, and by a tender love for the Blessed Virgin. She died about 1302. Her feast was inserted in the Universal Calendar in 1677 by Pope Innocent XI.

PRAYER: God, You prepared a pleasing abode for Yourself in the heart of St. Gertrude the Virgin. Through her intercession, mercifully lighten the darkness of our hearts so that we may rejoice in the knowledge that You are present and working within us. Amen.



Announcements

Adoration 6:00pm Wednesdays

- 1st Wednesday Young adults Adoration with confession.
- The Missionaries of Charity will have Adoration on all other Wednesdays of the Month.

Annual Catholic Appeal 89.11%

Goal: 62,258
Current: 55,480
Needed: **6,778**

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

Missionaries of Charity

Girls "I Thirst" group. Contemplate, encounter, Satiate and proclaim the thirsting love of God. Join the Missionaries of Charity every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month 5:00pm-7:30pm



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