

MORNING MEDITATION

Thirty Second Thursday in Ordinary Time

People will forget what you said, forget what you did, forget the things you gave, but they will never forget how you welcomed them and made them feel.

Wisdom 7:22 – 8:1

The author describes Wisdom as the most desirable of all gifts. It is a reflection of the eternal light. It is the image of God's goodness. It pervades all things and governs all things.

Pray that you may have a deep desire, a hunger for the wisdom of God.

Psalm 119

**Your word O Lord endures forever;
It is firm as the heavens.
Through all generations your truth endures;
You have established the earth and it stands firm.**

Luke 17:20-25

The Kingdom of God is at hand! The reign of God is in your heart! It creates not new things but new people! It is not a revolution in material things, but a revolution in the hearts of men and women!

The reign of God is in your midst! The secret of God is here and now! You need to recognize it! You need to embrace, live and love the mystery!

We are a kingdom (royal) people! Kingdom people live with the king in faithfulness, devotion, love, peace, shalom!

Fr. Gus Tharappel,msfs

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 Hackeborn. 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."