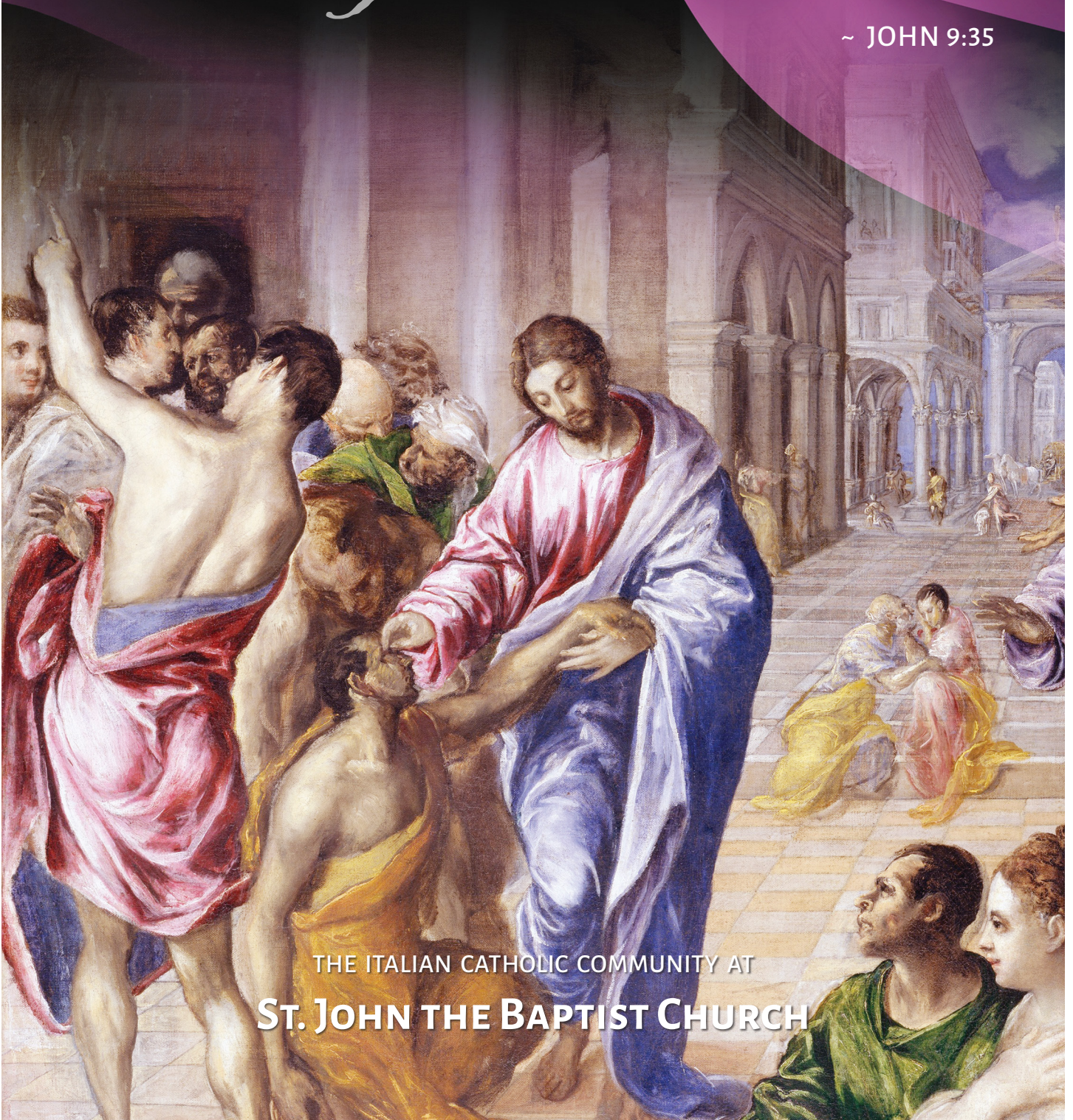


MARCH 19, 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

No you believe

IN THE SON OF MAN?

~ JOHN 9:35



THE ITALIAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a frightening amount of darkness in the world today. But the **Gospel** of today's **Mass** contains the wonderful words of **Christ**: "I am the light of the world."

Christ is indeed the light of the world and of our lives.

Jesus, the light of the world, not only gives sight to the physically blind, but the light of faith to the spiritually blind.

The **Gospel** story is a lesson on growth in faith. The climax of the story comes when the man makes a profession of faith in **Jesus**: "Lord, I believe."

His journey from blindness to sight symbolizes the journey from unbelief to faith, which is a journey from darkness to light. This **Sunday** is traditionally called **Laetare Sunday** from the opening words of the **Entrance Antiphon**. The strictness of the **Lenten** liturgy is interrupted on this **Sunday**, with words that speak to us of joy.

In this way, the **Church** wishes to remind us that joy is perfectly compatible with mortification and pain. It is sadness and not penance which is opposed to happiness.

Taking part to the utmost in this liturgical season which reaches its climax in the Passion, and hence in suffering, we realize that approaching the **Cross** also means that the moment of our **Redemption** is coming ever closer. In this way, the **Church** and each of her members are filled with joy: "Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her."

Be positive, keep smiling, God loves us.

Fr. Andrew

The **Mass** is available on **St. John's Facebook** page or **YouTube** channel, **Saint John the Baptist, Cbus**. Go to our **website**: www.sjbitaliana.com under **Livestream Mass**.

Confessions Heard before Mass – Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	March 19, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Ed Pagnanelli, Valerie Milano
Euch. Min. 1 & 2:	Pat Rossetti, Antonio D'Alberto
Sunday	March 26, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Nick Sciarretti, Krissy Ciacchi
Euch. Min 1 & 2:	Margaret Panico-Harn, Ed Pagnanelli

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 3/19	11:00 a.m. at SH	+ Debora Carifa by Claudio Carifa
Sunday 3/19	9:30 a.m.	+ Geno Natalucci-Persichetti by Toni Natalucci-Persichetti
Monday 3/20	9:00 a.m.	+ Karen Mikalonis by Heinger Family
Tuesday 3/21	6:00 p.m.	+ Joe Agriesti by Tony Caradonna
Sunday 3/26	9:30 a.m.	+ Phyllis N. Militello by Joanne Mangini
Monday 3/27	9:00 a.m.	+ Jim Behal by Louis & Anna Quint Treboni
Tuesday 3/28	6:00 p.m.	+ J. Richard Lumpe by Fr. Michael Lumpe

PARISH INFORMATION

**The Italian Catholic Community at
St. John the Baptist
Corner of E. Lincoln and Hamlet Streets
Church Mailing Address: 168 E. Lincoln Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 294-5319**

Fax: (614) 294-4303

**Livestream our 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on our
St. John the Baptist Facebook page or YouTube channel,
Saint John the Baptist, Cbus, by visiting our website
www.sjbitaliana.com.**

Office Hours are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Closed Good Friday, April 7, 2023

Email: info@sjbitaliana.org

**Father Andrew Kozminski, SAC – Administrator/Rector
Father Antonio Kim – Chaplain, Korean Catholic Community**

Ms. Aggie Howard – Executive Assistant

Ms. Victoria Scruggs – Secretary and Bulletin Editor

Ms. Gina Bishop – Director of Liturgy

Mr. John Huffman – Organist and Musical Consultant

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – 9:30 a.m. each Sunday

9:00 a.m. Mondays & Tuesdays

Sacrament of Penance – 9:00 a.m.

(before Sunday Mass or by appointment)

Sacrament of Baptism and Baptism Preparation

(by appointment)

Sacrament of Matrimony (you must be registered at **Saint John at least 6 months prior to scheduling your wedding by **Deacon or Priest**)**

Sacrament of Confirmation and Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (please make an appointment with **Parish Administrator)**

Saint John Italian Festival (please visit our website for more information)

Sala Hall and Marrapese Hall (scheduled with approval of **Parish Administrator)**

Bulletin Deadline: Announcements must be submitted in writing by **Tuesday at noon.**

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: **Joyce Tisone**

by Carl Tisone

Blessed Sacrament: **Joseph & Josephine (Belles) – Gianantonio**

by Loving Son Joseph

**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL
AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS****

****If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input. For Vienna D'Alberto who is residing at the Worthington Christian Village. Also, keep in your prayers, Laura Williams, Guy Williams, John Contino and Tony Caradonna.**



**FESTA DI SAN GUISEPPE/ST. JOSEPH'S DAY
CELEBRATION BREAKFAST:**

The Festa di San Guiseppe Breakfast is today after the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Tickets are \$12.00/person (children 6 and under are free). The menu includes scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, fresh fruit, juice, coffee and, of course, **St. Joseph's Table**.

The Rosary before Mass on Sunday: We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact Kevin Koesters at 937-902-7446 or via email k.koesters32@gmail.com. Leaders for March and April are:

March 19 Kevin Koesters
 March 26 Gary Bosco
 April 2 Albert Iosue
 April 9 Gary Bosco

SIMPLE SUPPER

St. John the Baptist – following the 6:00 p.m. Mass every Tuesday through Lent in Marrapese Hall

ADORATION and STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sacred Heart – Adoration after 6:00 p.m. Mass every Thursday through Lent for 30 minutes after Mass until 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross after 6:00 p.m. Mass every Friday through Lent.

EVENTS THIS WEEK	
3/19 Sunday	<p><u>SJB Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski</u> 9:30 a.m. – SJB Church</p> <p><u>SJB Altar Guild Meeting</u> – Marrapese Hall St. Joseph’s Breakfast after Mass</p> <p><u>SJB Italian Language Class</u> – NO CLASS</p> <p><u>KCC Religious Education</u> – Italian Cultural Room 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p> <p><u>KCC Mass – Fr. Kim</u> – SJB Church Meeting canceled</p>
3/20 Monday	<p><u>SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski</u> 9:00 a.m.</p> <p><u>Rotary Club Luncheon</u> – Marrapese Hall 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</p>
3/21 Tuesday	<p><u>SJB – Mass – Fr. Andrew Kozminski</u> 6:00 p.m. Mass Simple Supper following Mass by Sacred Heart Church – Marrapese Hall</p>
3/23 Thursday	<p><u>Sacred Heart Young Professionals Meeting</u> – Fr. Kozminski – 7:00-8:30 p.m. – Italian Cultural Room</p>
3/24 Friday	<p><u>KCC Mass – Fr. Kim</u> 6:00 p.m. – SJB Church</p>
3/27 Monday	<p><u>Italian Executive Board Meeting</u> – Classroom 6:30 p.m.</p>
	<p><u>Altar Guild Reminder</u> – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.</p>
	<p><u>Le Donne Group</u> – Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall</p>

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN’S
 March 12, 2023
 Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 40

Reg. Env:	\$ 2,535.00
Loose:	\$ 1,313.00
Total	\$ 3,848.00
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment	\$ -(230.88)
	\$ 3,617.12

Votives	\$ 72.00
St. Anthony’s Bread	\$ 40.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 50.00
50/50	\$ 30.00
Total	\$ 192.00

HOW IS ST. JOHN’S DOING? \$? \$?
Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/22-6/30/23)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Wk.:	\$2,885.00	\$ 3,848.00	(\$ 963.00)	33%
FYTD:	\$106,745.00	\$101,388.60	-(\$5,356.40)	-5%

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, March 20, 2023
 Nick Persichetti and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, March 27, 2023
 Maruja Paule and Aggie Howard

LENTEN SIMPLE SUPPERS are returning to St. John’s this year! The Altar Guild is organizing the Simple Suppers during Lent. A donation of \$10.00/person includes Soup, Salad, Rolls & Butter. All proceeds will go directly to the Pallotine Missionary Foundation Salvatti helping Ukraine. The following five Tuesdays through Lent, Mass will be at 6:00 p.m. and Simple Supper will immediately follow in Marrapese Hall. There will be no Simple Supper during Holy Week. The sponsoring groups and dates for the Simple Suppers:
 Tuesday, March 21 – Sacred Heart
 Tuesday, March 28 – The Abruzzi Club

Easter Triduum Mass Schedule
 April 6, 2023, Holy Thursday
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper

St. John the Baptist	No Service	
Sacred Heart Church	6:00 p.m.	
Korean Catholic Community	7:00 p.m.	

April 7, 2023, Good Friday
Passion of the Lord

St. John the Baptist	No Service	
Sacred Heart Church	3:00 p.m.	
Korean Catholic Community	7:00 p.m.	

April 8, Holy Saturday

St. John the Baptist	No Service	
Sacred Heart Church	Easter Vigil	8:00 p.m.
Korean Catholic Community	Easter Vigil	8:00 p.m.

April 9, Easter Sunday
Resurrection of the Lord Mass

St. John the Baptist	9:30 a.m.	
Sacred Heart Church	11:00 a.m.	
Korean Catholic Community	12:00 p.m.	

Divine Mercy Sunday at Sacred Heart
 April 16, 2023

2:00 p.m.	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
2:00 p.m.	Confessions
3:00 p.m.	Chaplet of Divine Mercy
3:15 p.m.	Benediction

MILLE GRAZIE to St. John’s Altar Guild for sponsoring the Simple Supper this past Tuesday! The Stuffed Pepper Soup was deliciouso!!

Smile Break

Q: Why did the priest go to the gym during Lent?
A: To do some cross-fitness.
Proverbs 15:15: “For the despondent, every day brings trouble; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast.”

AROUND US

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of March 2023: *We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.*

Liturgical Calendar: The entire month of **March** falls during the liturgical season of **Lent** which is represented by the liturgical color violet or purple – a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart. All saint days that are usually **Memorials** are shifted to **Optional Memorials** during the season of **Lent**.

CRS Rice Bowl is a **Lenten** faith formation program for use in parishes, schools, religious education programs and by families and individuals in the home. This year's **CRS Rice Bowl** donations are critical for these grants to continue as the fund's account is nearly depleted. Please support **CRS Rice Bowl during Lent**. **Bowls are located on the tables at the entrance to the Church.**

The Pontifical College Josephinum seeks a full-time **Maintenance Technician**. Responsibilities include routine building maintenance. A background in **HVAC** controls and a minimum of three years of experience required. More information at pcj.edu/jobopportunity. If interested, please contact **Gary Shotts, Director of Plant Maintenance**, at 614-596-2741 / gshotts@pcj.edu.

Church Regulations Regarding Fasting and Abstinence during Lent: This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat. The law of fasting on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** applies to all **Catholics from age 18 through age 59**. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. Those who are ill or pregnant may be dispensed from their obligation.

Friday Night Lenten Fish Fry: Please go to columbuscatholic.org for a complete schedule of the **Fish Frys** being offered throughout the **Columbus** area during **Lent**.

Lenten Practices: Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the three pillars of **Lenten** practices. **Prayer** is our necessary communication with **God**, reminding us of our very intimate relationship with **God**, our creator. **Fasting** can help us curb our body's appetites and put our soul in control. **Fasting** does not have to be limited to avoiding food. We can also fast from different forms of entertainment and our over-reliance on the smartphone. **Lent** can be an opportunity to give up these forms of escape and replace them with some good spiritual reading. **Almsgiving** is the third pillar. When we give alms, we are reminded that the monetary resources that we have are ultimately the result of **God's** blessings, which are meant to be shared, especially with the poor. ~ **Father Kitzmiller**



Highlights of the Month: As we continue our **Lenten** journey, **three** prominent ideas are proposed for our contemplation by the liturgy of Lent: **The Passion and Resurrection of Christ, Baptism, and Penance**. The **Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 20)** is a special landmark this month in which we will celebrate the great honor bestowed upon the foster father of **Jesus**. Also,

the **Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25)** when we ponder **Our Lady's** fiat. And **St. Patrick's** feast is another cause for a joyful celebration.

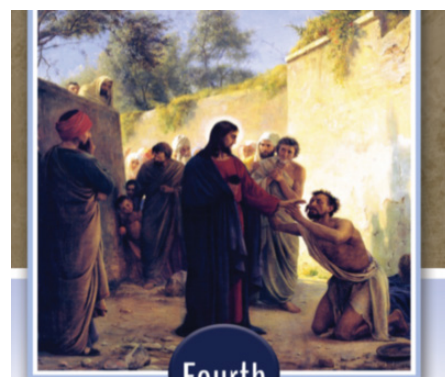
March 19, 4th Sunday of Lent: Today is the halfway mark of the **Sundays of Lent**. This **Sunday** is known as **Laetare Sunday** for the first word **laetare** (rejoice); it is a **Sunday** of joy. This is also the **Second Scrutiny** in preparation for the Baptism of adults at the **Easter Vigil**. The **Church's** liturgy, on this the **Fourth Sunday of Lent**, invites us to retrace one of the fundamental dynamics of our baptismal re-birth through the **Gospel** account of the healing of the "man born blind." It is the passage from the darkness of sin and error to the **Light of God**, who is the **Risen Christ**.

Today's Gospel: The **Gospel** reading from **John 9:1-41**, dominates the liturgy by the length of the reading and its significance. Already, in **Old Testament Revelation**, the **Lord God** had shown the **People of Israel** how the justice of the **Creator** was so much more profound and true than the thoughts of men. We have, in fact, heard in the first reading "**God does not see as human beings see; they look at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart.**" (1 Sam 16:76). The **Lord** pointed out in this way the true, unique, criteria on which men are judged. He also indicated the unique place in which man can meet **God's** gaze and enter a relationship with **Him** – in his heart. Let us ask **Most Holy Mary** to help us to be faithful to the truth, to the events of our lives, taking the hand that always takes us to live totally for **Him**, in this life and eternity. "**Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.**" (Eph 5:14).

~From the Congregation for the Clergy



"In this Season of **Lent**, let us learn to allow the **Holy Spirit** to form us so that our **prayer** might become a living testimony of **God's** tenderness for every person experiencing difficulty." @Pontifex



Fourth
Sunday of Lent

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

John 9:39

Prayer: *O God, who through Your Word reconcile the human race to Yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith, the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen*

Sunday, Mar 19, 2023**Step out of the spotlight**

They called her the “Pearl of the Antilles” for her uncompromising care of the sick. In Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and her original home in Puerto Rico, Mother Maria Soledad Sanjurjo Santos and the Servants of Mary she led were there to help. Mother Maria made it her signature to be hidden so Christ could be made visible. Her humility in service illuminates what Saint Paul means by living as children of light. If we insist on the spotlight, all that people see is us. If we wear a cloak of invisibility in practicing our good works, Christ alone lights up the darkness.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31). *“Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness.”*

Monday, Mar 20, 2023**Pull a chair up to the table**

On the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, it is the custom in some places, especially Italy, to bless bread, pastries, and other food and give it to the poor. Legend has it that the tradition started in the Middle Ages after Sicilians prayed to Saint Joseph to end a terrible drought. After rain finally came and produced a bountiful harvest, the food was shared with everyone in need. Saint Joseph's Table is now an annual celebration, where some wealthy Italian families invite the public to huge buffets and no one is turned away. What a festive tradition to start in your parish or home! Show your gratitude for the blessings you've received by renewing your devotion to this special saint—a foster father to Jesus and us all. Here is the Blessing of Saint Joseph's Table Prayer.

SOLEMNITY OF JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a (543). *“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him.”*

Tuesday, Mar 21, 2023**Nothing so beautiful as a tree**

The U.N. declares today the International Day of Forests. Trees happen to be the most frequently mentioned living things in the Bible, aside from people and God of course. From the Garden of Eden to the cedars of Lebanon, trees represent God's provision. They provide food to eat and medicine to heal. Olive trees growing in the Garden of Gethsemane are estimated to be 900 years old. Little surprise, then, that trees—and the modern-day scourge of deforestation—appear in Pope Francis' environmental encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. The global loss of trees contributes to climate change. It leads to soil erosion and flooding, particularly for vulnerable indigenous populations. Visit the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative to find a “Catholic toolkit” that features *Laudato Si'* and beautiful prayers.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (245). *“Trees of every kind shall grow; their leaves shall not fade, nor their fruit fail.”*

Wednesday, Mar 22, 2023**Sabbath prayer**

Biblically speaking, there are many reasons to celebrate the sabbath. First, a sabbath rest brings to mind God's rest after the great act of creation. Second, we recall God's liberating action in

our own lives, freeing us from the bonds of sin just as Jews were freed from bondage in Egypt. Finally, the great victory of Jesus over sin and death is cause for a sabbath celebration. Sabbath shouldn't be reduced to outward observances, but rather as a perspective that places God's accomplishing activity front and center. We rest and rise again to carry on that liberating work to help bring about the reign of God.

LENTEN WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 49:8-15; John 5:17-30 (246). *“My Father is at work until now, so I am at work.”*

Thursday, Mar 23, 2023**Defend against injustice**

Turibius of Mogrovejo was a highborn Spanish bishop in Peru during the late 1500s, a period of intense violence as the Spanish forcibly colonized the native people. Although many of the colonizers considered indigenous to be less than fully human, Turibius learned their languages and fought for their rights. Who is vulnerable in your community? Is God calling you to take steps on their behalf?

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (247). *“How can you believe, when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the only God?”*

Friday, Mar 24, 2023**Let's not turn our gaze away**

We join with the international community today in remembering Saint Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of El Salvador, assassinated on this day in 1980 by a paramilitary member because he was an advocate for the poor and condemned military and landowner violations of basic human rights. Honoring Romero, the United Nations proclaimed this day the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. Let us pray Romero's own words: “Let us be today's Christians. Let us not take fright at the boldness of today's church. With Christ's light let us illuminate even the most hideous caverns of the human person: torture, jail, plunder, want, chronic illness.” Saint Oscar, pray with us.

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (248). *“So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching.”*

Saturday, Mar 25, 2023**Hear ye! Hear ye!**

There is a tendency to put Mary on a spiritual pedestal and thereby distance her from the lives the rest of us live. But the point of Mary's exaltation is to point toward what all of us are called to, and capable of—a complete and radical response to our divine calling. Mary was fully human, and her response to God's call sets the standard to which we can all aspire. God has some work to announce to each of us, our own annunciation. Claim your spot on the pedestal with your response!

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (545). *“May it be done to me according to your word.”*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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