

# St. John the Baptist CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Corner of E. Lincoln  
and Hamlet Streets*

Church Mailing Address:  
168 E. Lincoln Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1534

(614) 294-5319

Fax: (614) 294-4303

E-mail: [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org)

**Msgr. Frank P. Lane,  
Parochial Administrator**

*(National Italian Parish ~  
Est. 1896)*

## **MASSES/MESSE:**

**Sunday:** 9:30 a.m. at St. John the Baptist

**Monday & Tuesday:** 9:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist

## **WEEKDAYS AND HOLY DAYS:**

(See Mass Schedule inside Bulletin)

## **PARISH OFFICE/STAFF:**

**Aggie Howard**, Bookkeeper, [ahoward@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:ahoward@sjbitaliana.org)

**Victoria Gammell**, Secretary, St. John the Baptist

Office Hours, St. John the Baptist:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Administration of both parishes is done through the office at St. John the Baptist – 168 E. Lincoln Street. Requests for copies of sacramental records, scheduling of Masses and other sacramental celebrations, hall rental and other non-emergency needs should be made during regular office hours or email [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org). Please notify the Parish Office of any changes, such as address or telephone, etc., by calling during regular hours or email [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org).

## **BULLETIN DEADLINE:**

Announcements must be submitted in writing by Tuesday at noon.

## **MUSIC MINISTRY:**

**Gina M. Bishop**, Music Director

**John C. Huffman**, Organist

## **PARISH MEMBERSHIP:**

We welcome you into our Parish Families.

Membership in the parish consists of two parts:

**Registration:** Please fill out form and return to Office.

**Participation:** As a member of the Church, you are accepting the responsibility of weekly worship as well as supporting God's work here through giving of yourself, your time and talents, and a worthy Sunday offering to show your love for God and your gratitude for His many favors.

## **RECONCILIATION/CONFESSIONE:**

One half-hour prior to weekend Mass or by request/appointment.

## **BAPTISM/BATTESIMO:**

Preparation is required for the reception of the sacrament.

Parents are encouraged to call the Rectory and set up an appointment before the birth of their child.

## **MATRIMONY/MATRIMONIO:**

Arrangements should be made at least six or more months in advance. A marriage preparation program is required.

## **SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/INFIRMI:**

**In cases of emergencies, please call anytime. Please notify the Parish Office for Communion calls to the sick, shut-ins.** Due to privacy laws, if parishioners wish to be visited in the hospital, they should contact the Parish Office directly and give the information regarding the hospitalization. **If you are scheduled for surgeries or other medical procedures**, please contact the Parish Office in advance so that a priest can administer Anointing of the Sick prior to the procedure.

*A Night in Verona*

*Dinner and Dance*

**Monday, October 2, 2023**

*Additional information inside this bulletin*



## **COLUMBUS ITALIAN FESTIVAL**

Friday, **October 6**, 5:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

Saturday, **October 7**, 12:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

Sunday, **October 8**, 12:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

**Web Site:** [www.columbusitalianfestival.com](http://www.columbusitalianfestival.com)

**Adam Montemarano – Executive Director**

**Festival Information:** 614-BY ITALY (614-294-8259)

# ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2023

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

I know this is a long way off, but on **July 17, 2024**, the **10th National Eucharistic Congress** will be held in **Indianapolis**. This is part of the **American Bishops'** plan for the reawakening of the reality of the **Eucharist** for our country. There will be pilgrimages from various parts of the country beginning in May. You can find all the information on the **Eucharistic Revival** by going to: [www.eucharisticrevival.org](http://www.eucharisticrevival.org).

The first **American Eucharistic Congress** was held in **Washington, DC in 1895**. There have been eight subsequent **Congresses** in such cities as **New York, Philadelphia, Chicago**, and others. There has been some interest in attending the **Congress** by some of the younger people in our parishes and we'd like to make that opportunity available to as many of our parishioners as possible.

Through the **Diocese**, we have the opportunity to obtain tickets at a discounted price. We should make a decision soon. I would ask that if anyone is interested in attending the **10th National Eucharistic Conference in Indianapolis** on **July 17-20, 2024**, they should call the parish office at **614-294-5319** before next weekend.

Have a blessed week!  
Msgr. Frank Lane

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](http://www.sjbitaliana.com) under **Livestream Mass**.

## MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

<b>Sunday</b> 8/20	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Vincent Catalogna</b> by Friends of St. John the Baptist
<b>Monday</b> 8/21	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Denise &amp; Mike Gammell</b> by Victoria Scruggs
<b>Tuesday</b> 8/22	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Mary Lou Palma</b> by Louise G. Masdea
<b>Sunday</b> 8/27	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Leo Santilli</b> by Dr. Linda Records
<b>Monday</b> 8/28	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Special Intention for Florence (Squeo) Schillaci</b> by Dr. Maria Regina Coccia
<b>Tuesday</b> 8/29	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>+ Tony Caradonna</b> by Rose Ann Graf

**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 at [k.koesters32@gmail.com](mailto:k.koesters32@gmail.com). Leaders for **August** are:

**August 20**      **Maureen Iosue**  
**August 27**      **Gary Bosco**

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

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**

**Marian Lights: Leah Guarasci**

*by Chris Soteriades*

**Blessed Sacrament: John Rotondo**

*by Chris Soteriades*

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday, August 20, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Davide Cugini, Valerie Milano
<b>Euch. Min 1 &amp; 2:</b> <b>Euch. Min 3, 4, 5:</b>	Kurt Heining, Al Iosue, Gretchen Heining, Margaret Panico-Harn, AnnMarie Pastore
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday, August 27, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Nick D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto
<b>Eucharistic Minister 1 &amp; 2:</b> <b>Eucharistic Minister 3, 4, 5:</b>	Andrea Myers, Ed Pagnanelli, Sharon D'Alberto, AnnMarie Pastore, Pat Rossetti

**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, and John Contino.**

**125 YEAR COMMEMORATION OF OUR CHURCH – Sunday, September 17, St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church is celebrating 125 years!** Join us for a morning of festivities as we commemorate this milestone. More details to come!

## Future Italian Festival Meetings for 2023

Date	Executive Board	General
<b>August 21</b>		<b>6:00 p.m.</b>
<b>August 28</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>September 18</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	
<b>September 25</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>

**"A Night in Verona" Dinner and Dance** – Please join us as we "kick-off" the Start of our **Columbus Italian Festival** week by celebrating with a dinner and dance at **The Berwick on Monday, October 2, 2023**, from **6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.** **\$50.00/person** includes a fabulous Italian dinner and spectacular Italian music by **Ray Massa's EuroRhythms!** ALL tickets **MUST** be purchased **IN ADVANCE!** You can reserve tables of ten (10) for **\$500.00**. For tickets, see **Margaret Panico-Harn** or **Carol Ristucci** after **Sunday Mass** in **Sala Hall** or by contacting **Aggie Howard** in the parish office during the week at **614-294-5319**. All tickets **MUST** be purchased by **Monday, September 25** as **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!** Each ticket purchased will also be good for a **ONE-DAY** free admission into the **Columbus Italian Festival**.

## ITALIAN FESTIVAL NEWS

**Dear Columbus Italian Festival LOVERS**, we invite you to be part of the cultural tent presenters; it is open to all. **IF** you need demonstration ideas: **Risotto – Polenta** – or tales about **Prosecco**. Catch **Landa** at: **614:579-1150** or [Landa7@mac.com](mailto:Landa7@mac.com) **GRAZIE!**

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK	
8/20 Sunday	<p><b>SJB Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane</b> 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim –</b> Meeting in Sala Hall 12:00-3:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>San Giovanni Dancers Practice – Marrapese Hall</b> 3:30-5:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Festival Neighborhood Meeting –</b> 12:00 p.m. – Marrapese Hall</p>
8/21 Monday	<p><b>SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane</b> 9:00 a.m.</p> <p><b>Rotary Club Luncheon Meeting – Marrapese Hall</b> 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Italian Festival General Board – Meeting –</b> Marrapese Hall at 6:00 p.m.</p>
8/22 Tuesday	<p><b>SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane</b> 9:00 a.m.</p>
8/24 Thursday	<p><b>Young Professionals Meeting – Fr. Lane</b> 7:30 p.m. – Italian Cultural Room</p>
	<p><b>Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.</b></p>
	<p><b>Le Donne Group: Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall. There are no meetings in June or July.</b></p>

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S**  
August 13, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday 50

Env:	\$ 4,835.00
Loose:	\$ 313.00
Holy Day:	\$ 35.00
Total	\$ 5,183.00
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ -(414.64)
	\$ 4,768.36

Votives	\$ 49.00
Church in Latin America	\$ 20.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 20.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 60.00
Total	\$ 149.00

**?? ?? ? HOW IS ST. JOHN'S DOING? ?? ??**

**Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/23-6/30/24)**

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Wk.:	\$3,000.04	\$5,183.00	\$2,182.96	73%
FYTD:	\$21,000.28	\$23,436.66	\$2,436.38	12%

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, August 21, 2023**  
Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, August 28, 2023**  
Darlene Rauch and Aggie Howard

**Altar Guild Announcement:** The Altar Guild thanks everyone who signed up for the 2023 Ohio State season football pool. The quick selling period allowed us to draw your 12-game quarterly numbers after Mass on Sunday, August 6. Copies for all participants will be available starting Sunday, August 13 (see Gary Bosco after any Sunday Mass in Sala Hall). The first game at Indiana is Saturday, September 2. Good luck to all and thanks for supporting the Altar Guild's fundraiser that benefits our beautiful church.

**Parli Italiano?** Have you ever wanted to learn to speak Italian? Are you planning a trip to Italy, or are you interested in learning the Italian language? Here is your opportunity! Join us on **Sunday** mornings from **11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** in **Marrapese Hall** for **Italian language** classes, taught by our very own **Maria Lucchin!** This fun-filled, eight-week session runs from **September 10th** through **November 5** (no classes on **October 8** during the **Italian Festival**). These are basic conversational **Italian** language classes for **adults, 18** years and older. The cost is determined by the number of students. To sign up, contact: **Ida Shook** at [shook4@gmail.com](mailto:shook4@gmail.com) **Tania Wade** at [t.wade73@gmail.com](mailto:t.wade73@gmail.com)

Come learn la Bella lingua Italiana... **Ciao!** 

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM:** Faith formation will serve our children for the rest of their lives. This is the reason having a religious education program in every parish is so important. The meeting will be held at **St. John the Baptist Church** in **Sala Hall** immediately following **9:30 a.m. Mass today**. We will discuss opening a new religious education program combining **St. John the Baptist** and **Sacred Heart** parishes that will need your help to make it a success. If you would like to be a part of it, please come!

**YOUR OFFERTORY IS A GIFT TO GOD:** If your **Offertory** is not made electronically, please use your parish **Offertory** envelope to thoughtfully, prayerfully choose your gift. In addition, filling out an envelope or electronic statement helps us keep track of who is actively registered at our parish.

**AROUND US**

**Liturgical Calendar:** The entire month of **August** falls within the liturgical season of **Ordinary Time** and is dedicated to **The Immaculate Heart of Mary**.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of August 2023:**  
*We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.*

# Jubilee of Anniversaries

— A CELEBRATION OF THE DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS —

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**  
St. John Neumann in Sunbury  
**MASS AT 2:30 PM**  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



*marriage8 family life*  
OFFICE OF THE DEACON & ST. COLUMBUS

**ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION: Notre Dame Football: St. Mary Magdalene of Columbus** is sponsoring a one-day bus trip to **Louisville, Kentucky** for the **Notre Dame vs. Louisville** football game on **Saturday, October 7**. Cost is **\$239.00 per person** which includes: Bus ticket, sandwiches, snacks, soft drinks. Children accompanied by a parent are welcome. Only 50 spots available. If you are interested, contact **Julius Palazzo** at [Jmpalazzo@juno.com](mailto:Jmpalazzo@juno.com) or **614-946-5729**.

**BETHESDA HEALING MINISTRY:** “The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

– Lao Tzu

If you (or someone you know) is struggling from a past abortion experience, call **614-309-0157**. For more information on **Bethesda Healing Ministry**, go to our website at [bethesdahealing.org](http://bethesdahealing.org).

**Scam Alert:** Several parishioners have received emails appearing to be from **Monsignor Lane**, which request the purchase of gift cards. Please do not respond to these emails! This is a scam.



**Sacred Heart Jubilee Year:**

To commemorate the **350th anniversary** of the revelations of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus at Paray-le-Monial**, a Jubilee Year

has been declared, beginning on **December 27, 2023**, and continuing through **June 27, 2025**, the **Solemnity of the Sacred Heart**. The **Columbus Diocese** will be planning a pilgrimage to **France** during the **Jubilee Year**. The theme of the **Jubilee Year** is “**To return love for love.**”

**CATHOLIC MEN’S LUNCHEON** – The **Catholic Men’s Luncheon** will be held on **Friday, September 1**, at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown Columbus. Speakers include **Attorney Don Brey & Dr. Michael Parker**. **Mass (optional)** begins at **11:45 am** followed by **lunch at 12:10 p.m.** followed by the speakers’ presentations. No reservations are necessary. **\$12.00 covers lunch and the meeting**. Bring a friend! Our next luncheon is **Friday, October 6, 2023**, and will feature a presentation by **John Bradford**.

YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS COLUMBUS

**Executive Speaker Series**  
**DAVID KARAM**

**Detachment Amidst the Life of a Professional Career**  
7:00 PM | 8.16.23 | ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Registration required at [YPColumbus.org](http://YPColumbus.org)

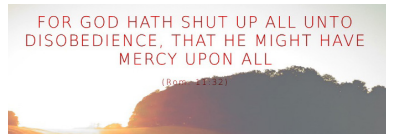
**4-Miler Run/Walk:** The **Friends of the Josephinum** again present the **Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk**. This year’s event will be held on **Saturday, September 30**, at the **Pontifical College Josephinum!** All proceeds are used for scholarships and the financial needs of seminarians. To register, visit <https://m3ssports.com/events/josephinum-4-miler-runwalk/>.



**EARLY FALL RETREAT!** Spend time this fall enriching your relationship. Experience a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. Make 2023 the best year of your marriage by applying today! **The next weekend is September 8-10, 2023**, in the **Central Ohio area**. For more information or to apply, visit our website at [WWMEcolumbus.org](http://WWMEcolumbus.org) or contact **Paul and Marilou Clouse** at **614-834- 6880**. **Early registration is highly recommended.**

**Young Catholic Professionals:** Looking for a community with a professional focus grounded in **Catholic** values? Attend a **YCP** event and join like-minded, mission-driven peers to find **God** in all things and seek excellence and joy in every area of your life. **YCP** brings together young workers and seasoned business professionals in a variety of programs to foster **Catholic** identity, encourage community, and inspire action. The **Executive Speaker Series** is a free event open to the public in which executives share their career and faith journeys with young professionals, challenging them to “**Work in Witness for Christ.**” Attendees enjoy complimentary drinks and appetizers and have a chance to socialize before and after the evening’s presentation. For more information, or to register for future events, please visit [www.youngcatholicprofessionals.org](http://www.youngcatholicprofessionals.org).

**Today’s Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28:** The pagan woman we read about in our **Gospel** expressed an unwavering faith. The initial response of **Jesus** to her desperate cry for help was dead silence. When the woman persisted with her request and when **Jesus** answers, He seems to dismiss her request. But just as the woman was not put off by **Jesus’** silence, she is not put off by His opening statement. Somehow, she knows that **Jesus** will help her. And she understands that **Jesus** is her best hope. She accepts the words **Jesus** has given her – the image of feeding the children rather than dogs, the people of **Israel** rather than the pagans. And, although the words of **Jesus** sound harsh, they express the reality, the culture, of the times. Eventually, the **Lord** rewards her determined faith and grants her request. This pagan woman encourages all of us to remain faithful, even when the grounds for faithfulness seem to be very weak. She inspires us to keep seeking the **Lord**, even when the **Lord** appears to be silent and distant. ~ **Rev. Paul J. Bonk**



“Love alone extinguishes hatred. Love alone ultimately triumphs over injustice. Love alone makes room for others. Love alone is the path towards full communion among us.” @Pontifex

**Prayer:** *O God, who have prepared for those who love You good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of Your love, so that, loving You in all things and above all things, we may attain Your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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*

**Hail Holy Queen**

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

*A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who.. raise their mind with humble confidence to God.*

**Sunday, Aug 20, 2023****That all may be one**

The spirit of division is about being right. The spirit of unity is about embracing Christ. In which direction are we heading? Ecumenism seems an almost quaint idea in the 21st-century church. Other issues seem to have become more critical for many than getting Christians on the same page. Yet a divided church is a scandal to a world that questions our sincerity if we can't even agree on Jesus. Dialogue with others without the need to criticize beliefs or change minds. Create opportunities to pray, study, work, and mission together with local Christians. They will know we are Christians by our love.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7; Romans 11:13-15, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28 (118). *"For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."*

**Monday, Aug 21, 2023****Look beyond the wardrobe**

The saying "Clothes make the man" was certainly not true for Pope Pius X. He was born poor, teased at school for his tattered clothes, and sometimes carried his shoes to make them last longer. When he became pope in 1903, remaining as humble as his origins, he said the only thing that had changed about him was the color of his cassock from black to white—a fact he sometimes forgot since he had to be reminded not to wipe his pen on his clothes anymore. Let Pius X remind you to stay true to your authentic self by keeping your life simple.

MEMORIAL OF PIUS X, POPE

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22 (419). *"If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven."*

**Tuesday, Aug 22, 2023****Eight days a week**

The Queenship of Mary doubles as a liturgical bookend, concluding eight full days since celebrating her Assumption. In liturgical language, these eight days form an octave. Most simply, an octave extends the celebration of a church feast from a single day into eight. Historically, Christianity inherited the practice from Judaism which, for instance, celebrates eight days of Hanukkah and circumcision eight days after a boy's birth—the latter being why many baptismal fonts are octagonal. If a week is seven days, then the eighth day begins a new week—the eighth day signaling the start of something new or renewal, just as Baptism makes a person new or "born again." Honor Mary anew by praying the Salve Regina today.

MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 6:11-24a; Matthew 19:23-30 (420). *"For men this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."*

**Wednesday, Aug 23, 2023****Go deep**

Today is the feast of Rose of Lima, patron of Latin America. You can visit her tomb in the historic center of Lima, Peru, a place teeming with activity. Enter the Dominican monastery where she is buried and leave behind the noise and heat of the street. Descend

a narrow passage; bow your head to clear the low ceiling. You'll emerge into a cool, hushed room with her tomb at the far end. It is a holy place—a place you'd never know if you didn't go deep. How do you get to the deep sacred space within your daily life?

MEMORIAL OF ROSE OF LIMA, TERTIARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16 (421). *"Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."*

**Thursday, Aug 24, 2023****Pure faith**

Tradition has it that Bartholomew was tortured to death for the faith. Scholars believe that he is mentioned in scripture by both his name and by the name Nathaniel. Nathaniel was famously complimented by Jesus for being a true Israelite, with no duplicity. Purity of heart, in fact, is how most holy disciples attain holiness. Through profound connection to God, they avoid guile, duplicity, and other sins that are so easy to fall into when God slides into the background. Saint Bartholomew, help us maintain a clean heart.

FEAST OF BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 21:9b-14; John 1:45-51 (629). *"Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, 'Here is a true child of Israel. There is no duplicity in him.'"*

**Friday, Aug 25, 2023****Women will not remain silent!**

Do you know all 333 women of the Bible? There are at least that many, writes Catholic commentator Alice Camille, and each is worth getting to know. Visible presence of women in leadership roles has long suffered from hierarchical structures rooted in patriarchal values. The establishment of the biblical canon reflects this as well with women's voices and stories rarely included except in support roles. Stories such as that of Ruth and Naomi that survived the canonical cutting floor are a beacon of light and remind us that despite overwhelming suppression of women's voices, they could not be silenced. How are you called to give voice or to amplify suppressed voices today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40 (423). *"Ruth said, 'Do not ask me to abandon or forsake you!'"*

**Saturday, Aug 26, 2023****A ruling from the bench**

Jesus speaks of the scribes and Pharisees sitting on the "chair of Moses." Archeologists have uncovered stone chairs in prominent places in ancient synagogues where such leaders presumably sat as they pronounced on all things related to Jewish Law and Tradition. When it came to fulfilling the spirit of the Law rather than just the letter, Jesus called out the hypocrisy of those who did not practice what they preach. In any field—politics, business, religion—leaders need to be judged not by the eloquence of their words but by the integrity of their actions. That goes for all of us, wherever we take our seat!

TODAY'S READINGS: Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12 (424). *"The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses.... but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice."*

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



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