

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

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
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. Please notify the Parish Office of any changes, such as address or telephone, etc., by calling during regular hours or email 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/CONFESSION:

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

Adam Montemarano – Executive Director
Festival Information: 614-BY ITALY (614-294-8259)

ITALIAN FESTIVAL 2023

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Italian Catholic Church

Dear Friends in Christ,

Many have asked about the structure of our finances, so I thought I would give a summary of how we operate.

St. John the Baptist

1. **St. John's** has five accounts with the **Catholic Foundation**. These funds are specifically donated by benefactors for either special or general needs of the parish. These accounts are restricted. We can access the principal by applying to as in applying for a **Grant**. We do have access to the interest earned by the accounts:

- A. **Marrapese Account** – The interest is used for our scholarship program.
 - B. **ICC Account** – We use the interest for the needs of the **Cultural Center**.
 - C. **Fischarelli Account** – Interest taken for parish needs with the approval of the **Finance Committee**.
 - D. **DeNardo Account** – Interest taken for parish needs with the approval of the **Finance Committee**.
2. **Operational Checking Account** – Funded by the weekly collection and used for daily operational expenses.
3. **Festival Account** – All but **\$40,000.00** of this is transferred each year into the **Designated Account**. The **\$40,000.00** left is seed money for next year's Festival.
4. **Designated Account** – Used for special parish needs – maintenance, etc. – funded by **The Festival**.
5. **Parish Aid Fund** – An account with the **Diocese** which we named **The Café Fund**. This money market account has the income from the insurance for the burned restaurant on the corner of **Lincoln** and **4th**. We have access to the interest in this fund but could access the principal if it were to become necessary.

Sacred Heart

1. **Operational Account** – Funded by the weekly collection and used for the ordinary operational needs of the parish.
2. **SA Reid Memorial Endowment** – An endowment donated to the parish. It is a small fund where interest is rolled over to increase principal.
3. **Parish Aid Fund** – A savings account with the **Diocese** which can be accessed by agreement of the **Diocese** and our **Finance Committee**. Funded by special fundraising events.

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** under **Livestream Mass**.

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**. Leaders for **September** are:
September 10 **Gary Bosco**
September 17 **Albert Iosue**
September 24 **Gary Bosco**

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: **Joyce Tisone**
 by Carl Tisone
Blessed Sacrament: **Ruth Bianco**
 by Chris Soteriades

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**.

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 9/10	9:30 a.m.	+ Mary E. Pishitelli & + Sally Byrne by Phillip & Judy Pishitelli
Monday 9/11	9:00 a.m.	+ Brian Adkins by McCallum Family
Tuesday 9/12	9:00 a.m.	+ Mary Lou Palma by Louise Masdea
Sunday 9/17	9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. @ SH	+ Rina Tiberi by Tim & Ida Shook + Antonio Caradonna by Mr. & Mrs. Arminio
Monday 9/18	9:00 a.m.	+ Rina Tiberi by Tania Wade
Tuesday 9/19	9:00 a.m.	+ Joseph Coccia brother of Dr. Maria Coccia

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	Sunday, September 10, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Gretchen Heininger, Davide Cugini
Eucharistic Minister 1 & 2:	Ed Pagnanelli, Pat Rossetti,
Eucharistic Minister 3, 4, 5:	AnnMarie Pastore, Sharon D'Alberto, Andrea Myers
Sunday	Sunday, September 17, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Kurt Heininger, Ed Pagnanelli
Eucharistic Minister 1 & 2:	Sharon D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto,
Eucharistic Minister 3, 4, 5:	Margaret Panico-Harn, Gretchen Heininger, Al Iosue

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

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Life is a journey that continually searches for meaning. **The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**, which used to be called **RCIA**, is a way for unbaptized persons and those who have been baptized in another **Christian** tradition to become a **Roman Catholic**. For the **unbaptized**, the **OCIA** gradually uncovers the story of **God's** salvation for all. This is completed through the study of the mystery of **Jesus' life, death and Resurrection**, the workings of the **Holy Spirit** revealed in history, as well as sacramental life and spiritual practices of the **Catholic Church**. Within the setting of a parish community and in accordance with the **Church's** liturgical year, this process of formation includes **four** stages, as well as rituals which mark these stages (**National Directory for Catechesis, 35**). If you are a **baptized Christian** who seeks full communion with the **Catholic Church**, or a **baptized Catholic** who has received no other faith formation and has not received the Sacraments of **Confirmation** and **Eucharist**, you are also welcome to this class. Pending responses for this program, the date and time are yet to be decided. For more information about **OCIA**, please contact **Sharon Curtin** at **614-563-8405**, or email **sharon@mcurtin.com**.

125 YEAR CELEBRATION OF OUR CHURCH – Sunday, September 17, St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church is celebrating **125 years!** Join us as we commemorate this wonderful milestone! We will begin with a procession around the church, including our beloved **St. John the Baptist** and the **Italian Concert Band**. During **Mass**, you will hear some of the original hymns and songs that were sung at the first **Mass**. After **Mass** is over, join us for a fabulous reception of music and food in both **Sala** and **Marrapese Halls!**

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: Registration for our newly formed **Sunday School classes** will continue to be held during the weekends of **September 10 and 17**. All classes will be held at **St. John**. Forms can be found at the entrances of both **St. John** and **Sacred Heart** parishes. (In time, forms will be posted on both parish websites.) Please complete the form and drop it in the collection basket at either parish, or give it to **Sharon Curtin, DRE**, who will be on hand after the **9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, September 10 and 17**. The first class will be **September 24** regardless of the number of students who are registered. Grandchildren of grandparents are welcome if the grandparents are registered at either parish. The class begins right after the **9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass** and will last **45 minutes**. **Please meet me in the library.** If you are willing to assist as a teacher or an aide, please call **Sharon Curtin at 614-563-8405**.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK	
9/10 Sunday	SJB Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:30 a.m. SJB Altar Guild Meeting – Library 10:45 a.m. SJB Italian Language Class – Marrapese 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. KCC – Religious Education – Italian Cultural Room 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – Meeting in Sala Hall - 12:00-3:00 p.m. San Giovanni Dancers Practice – Marrapese Hall 3:30-5:00 p.m.
9/11 Monday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:00 a.m. Rotary Club Luncheon Meeting – Marrapese Hall 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
9/12 Tuesday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:00 a.m.
9/13 Wednesday	SJB Finance Meeting – Italian Cultural Room 1:00-3:00 p.m.
9/15 Friday	KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim 7:00 p.m. – SJB Church
	Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.
	Le Donne Group Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall. There are no meetings in June or July.

?? ?? 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	\$4,464.33	\$1,464.29	49%
FYTD:	\$30,000.40	\$32,688.99	\$2,688.59	9%

50/50 Drawing: Congratulations to **Margaret Harn**, winner of the **August 50/50** drawing. Thank you for your support!

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

September 3, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday 39

Env:	\$ 1,978.00
Loose:	\$ 168.00
Aug. EFT:	\$ 2,318.33
Total	\$ 4,464.33
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ -(357.15)
	\$ 4,107.18

Votives	\$ 56.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 35.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 60.00
Total	\$ 151.00

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, September 11, 2023

Nick Persichetti and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, September 18, 2023

David Ross and Aggie Howard



Office Hours:

Parish Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Future Italian Festival Meetings for 2023

Date	Executive Board	General
September 18	6:00 p.m.	
September 25	5:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.

COLUMBUS ITALIAN FESTIVAL NEWS

Time to Volunteer at the Columbus Italian Festival. To sign up to volunteer, please go to the festival website, <http://www.columbusitalianfestival.com>. Contact Carol Ristucci via text at 614-271-1007 or email crisucc06@yahoo.com.

The Columbus Italian Festival is quickly approaching. **Volunteers** are always welcome for the many **Church** booths and activities at the Festival. I appreciate your participation in this event. As you know, to make this event a success, it not only takes a lot of planning but also a lot of volunteers to help. Also, due to limitations on parking around the Festival grounds, free parking will be at **Columbus State**. Please refer to the Festival website for more information.

Cookie Booth: It is that time again calling out to all our **heavenly bakers** for **Pizzelle** and **Biscotti**. You can make them at home, **label** and bring them to the kitchen area in **Sala Hall** and sign the sheet with your name and number of cookies you made. There will also be a sign-up sheet there where you can put the desired shifts you would like to work at the cookie booth or go to bit.ly/cookieboothvolunteer to sign up and use the genius to sign up. **Cookie** containers will be available in **Sala Hall** on the back table if needed. If you have any questions, please contact **Jennifer Marinello** at 614-906-4866 or **Carol Ristucci** at 614-271-1007.

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 **GRAZIE!**

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 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**.

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’s 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 10** through **November 12** (no classes on **9/17** due to the **Church’s 125th**-anniversary celebration and **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

Tania Wade at t.wade73@gmail.com

Learn la Bella lingua Italiana... *Ciao!* 

Kroger Rewards: For August was **\$25.58**. Thank you for your support!

AROUND US

Liturgical Calendar: **September** falls during the liturgical season of **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. **Green** is a symbol of hope, as it is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. The month of **September** is dedicated to **Our Lady of Sorrows**, whose memorial the **Church** celebrates on **September 15**.

54-Day Rosary Novena: Beginning **Friday, September 15, Catholics** across the state of **Ohio** will be joining in prayer for the protection of human life and dignity and the defeat of the dangerous constitutional amendment on the **Ohio** ballot this **November**. A **54-Day Rosary Novena** will be prayed from **September 15** through **Election Day, November 7**.

For more details, flyers are at the back of the church on the table.

Bottoms Up Diaper Drive: Did You Know? Families are considered to have diaper need when they cannot afford a supply of diapers adequate for changing at healthy intervals. Diaper need is a public health issue that threatens child health, maternal health, and household income. Half of all households in the **U.S.** with young children in diapers experience diaper need. For more information, and ways you can help, visit www.bottomsup.life.

Saturday with the Sisters: Girls, grades **8-12**, are invited to “Saturday with the Sisters” on **Saturday, September 23, 2023**, at the **St. Dominic Convent (2575 E. Livingston Avenue)**. The day will include breakfast, **Mass**, Adoration, lunch, and a talk by **Fr. Thomas Blau, O.P.** called “**All About Angels.**” Admission is free but donations will be accepted to go toward the cost of food. Please **RSVP** at saturdaywithsisters@gmail.com. Sponsored by the **Serra Clubs of Columbus and North Columbus**.

The Holy Father’s Intentions for the Month of September 2023: For people living on the margins: *We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.*

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 fifty spots available. If you are interested, contact **Julius Palazzo** at Jmpalazzo@juno.com or **614-946-5729**.

FOOD + EDUCATION = HOPE: It has been said that one person can make a difference, and we all know that to be true; think of what we can accomplish together! **Mary’s Meals** is a global hunger organization that provides meals in the classroom leading to a bridge out of poverty. We invite you to support this wonderful organization on **September 28** by purchasing a table or tickets to an event called: **An Evening With**. This year, the keynote speaker is the founder and **CEO of Mary’s Meals, Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow**. This inspirational evening supports two educational opportunities, locally and worldwide, through **Mary’s Meals**. Proceeds support both **Mary’s Meals** and tuition assistance. Contact **Julie** at jnaporano@scprep.org.

BLUE MASS: **Monday, September 11** at **5:00 p.m.** **St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus, OH 43220**. **St. Timothy Church** and **St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345** will host **The Blue Mass**. The **Celebrant** and **Homilist** for **The Blue Mass** will be **The Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus**.



Today’s Gospel: The Gospel, from **St. Matthew 18:15-20**, tells how to deal with sin in the church; it is a passage on what is commonly called “**church discipline**.” “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may

be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.” Verse 18 then gives assurance that, when this process is followed, **God** is working in it: “**Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.**” And then, verses 19-20 give a final assurance: “**Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.**”

~ <https://www.gotquestions.org>

“The true progress of nations is not gauged by economic wealth, much less by investment in the illusory power of armaments, but by its ability to provide for the health, education and integral development of its people.”

@Pontifex

Prayer: *O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon Your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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, Sep 10, 2023

The long loneliness

"Church" means assembly: It is not good for us to be alone. Today's Suicide Prevention Day reminds us that loneliness is an unhealthy condition. More than 700,000 people die by suicide each year: about 132 a day in the United States. For every suicide, there are more than 20 attempts. Mental illness and substance abuse contribute to the crisis, but marginalized groups are at highest risk: migrants, indigenous people, those who identify as LGBTQ+, and prisoners. The feeling of alienation is real but also preventable. Call or text the crisis hotline at 988 to seek help for yourself or someone you love.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20 (127). *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*

Monday, Sep 11, 2023

A day to remember those who gave everything

Today, the anniversary of the largest terrorist attack in American history, is a day to call to mind those who rushed in to help, at great cost. The first certified fatality of the attacks was Father Mychal Judge, Franciscan friar and New York City Fire Department chaplain, who rushed to the World Trade Center to help. During his life, he was known for ministering to the marginalized and for the words on a prayer card he often distributed: "Lord, take me where you want me to go. Let me meet who you want me to meet. Tell me what you want me to say. And keep me out of your way." Honor his legacy and make his humble prayer yours today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 1:24-2:3; Luke 6:6-11 (437). *"Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?"*

Tuesday, Sep 12, 2023

On Earth we your children invoke your sweet name

Names are a big deal in the Bible. More than a moniker, the names of people—and God—capture, convey, and even conjure a being's very essence. It's why the Hebrews refused, out of respect, to speak God's holiest name and why "taking the Lord's name in vain" is forbidden. We see in biblical history how life-changing experiences prompt a person's change of name, as when Sarai becomes Sarah and Saul becomes Paul. When Jesus talks of acting "in my name," he affirms a power and presence invoked by simply uttering his name. Today, heed Venerable Bruno Lanteri, founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, who instructed: simply "think of Mary, call on Mary."

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19 (438). *"He chose Twelve, whom he also named Apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, ..."*

Wednesday, Sep 13, 2023

Always speak the words of light

With seemingly never-ending revelations of ministerial misconduct, today's feast of Saint John Chrysostom is a sight for sore eyes. The eminent fourth-century preacher and teacher—whose name is a transliteration of the Greek for "golden mouth"—was surely a product of his day. But he was also guided by the Holy Spirit, who inspired him to be baptized as an adult and denounce corruption in the church while serving as a priest and

later as archbishop of Constantinople. As we remember his legacy today, let's take courage to also stand for truth and against all that dishonors the call of the gospel.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26 (439). *"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*

Thursday, Sep 14, 2023

By the wood of the cross

Today's feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross goes back to early days in church history. Saint Helena was the mother of Emperor Constantine (the first Roman emperor to embrace the faith), and Helena is said to have found the actual crucifix of Jesus in Jerusalem in the fourth century, spurring significant devotion to the Holy Cross. This devotion has had staying power perhaps because it helps believers to reflect upon the saving power of Jesus' death. Today when something presents itself as a "cross" to you, take a few moments to contemplate the cross of Christ.

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17 (638). *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish."*

Friday, Sep 15, 2023

I feel your pain

Anyone who loves will experience sorrow. It can't be helped. When a loved one suffers, we suffer. The church looks to Our Lady of Sorrows during those difficult times. Mary has been pierced by the sword of sorrow many times, including the seven noted by tradition: The prophecy of Simeon, the Flight into Egypt, the lost child Jesus later found in the Temple, meeting Jesus on the road to Calvary, the Crucifixion, and Jesus' removal from the cross and his burial. Listen to the aching beauty of the Stabat Mater hymn recited each year on this memorial and know that you are not alone in your suffering. Mary's empathy is one of the saving graces of our faith. She knows how we feel, and sometimes that's all it takes to get us past the pain.

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14 (441); John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35 (639). *"And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

Saturday, Sep 16, 2023

Care for the creation God entrusts to us

High above our heads the ozone layer of the stratosphere absorbs enough of the sun's deadly ultraviolet radiation to make possible life on Earth. But just a few decades ago an alarming depletion of the ozone layer generated worldwide concern over resulting increases in skin cancer, cataracts, and other health issues. These concerns led to the adoption of the Montreal Protocol in 1987, celebrated today, which bans the production of chemicals that cause ozone depletion. In his 2015 encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis applauds the Protocol for helping to protect the Earth, our common home. What can you do for our Earth today?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49 (442). *"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command?"*

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



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