

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/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

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,

This weekend is an incredibly significant celebration at St. John the Baptist. We are celebrating the **125th Anniversary** of the dedication of the church. We can best honor our parish by praying for its continuing ability to carry on the mission of making Christ present in the contemporary world and maintaining the cultural support system that keeps making that possible.

- Don't forget that we are offering an opportunity for Religious Education for the Children and Adult formation (RCIA) for any interested in the Catholic Faith. Check with Sharon Curtin after Mass and watch the bulletin for more news and times.
- The Italian Festival is rapidly approaching. Please remember that we need volunteers from both parishes to make this successful. Sacred Heart is seeking volunteers for parking duty and people from both parishes are encouraged to volunteer for the festival itself. It's a great event in the city and is actually fun to be a part of it.
- We need participation and volunteers to make our parishes run. We also need financial support. I would ask you to watch the collections in the bulletin and see what you can do to help.

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.

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 9/17	9:30 a.m.	+ Rina Tiberi by Tim & Ida Shook + Antonio Caradonna by Mr. & Mrs. Arminio
	11:00 a.m. at SH	
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
Sunday 9/24	9:30 a.m.	+ Joyce Tisone by Carl Tisone
Monday 9/25	9:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist
Tuesday 9/26	9:00 a.m.	+ Mary Lou Palma by Louise Masdea
Tuesday 9/26	1:00 p.m. Padre Pio	+ Tony Caradonna by Caterina Sestito

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: Joyce Tisone
by Carl Tisone
Blessed Sacrament: Mary Lou Palma
by Andrea & Roger Myers

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	Sunday, September 17, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Kurt Heining, Ed Pagnanelli
Eucharistic Minister: 1 & 2: Eucharistic Minister: 3, 4, 5:	Sharon D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto, Margaret Panico-Harn, Gretchen Heining, Al Iosue
Sunday	Sunday, September 24, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Valerie Milano, Tania Wade
Eucharistic Minister: 1 & 2: Eucharistic Minister: 3, 4, 5:	AnnMarie Pastore, Sharon D'Alberto, Kurt Heining, Andrea Myers, Antonio D'Alberto

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 September and October are:

September 17	Albert Iosue
September 24	Gary Bosco
October 1	Tania Wade
October 8	Gary Bosco
October 15	Maureen Iosue
October 22	Gary Bosco
October 29	Gary Bosco

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.



Office Hours:

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

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: Registration for our newly formed **Sunday School classes** will continue to be held during the week of **September 17th**. 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 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**.

Future Italian Festival Meetings for 2023

Date	Executive Board	General
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 cristucci06@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 <https://bit.ly/cookieboothvolunteers> 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!**

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK	
9/17 Sunday	SJB 125 Year Anniversary Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:30 a.m. – Reception – Sala & Marrapese KCC – Religious Education – Italian Cultural Rm 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – No Meeting in Sala Hall – 12:00-3:00 p.m.
9/18 Monday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:00 a.m. Rotary Club Luncheon Meeting – Marrapese Hall 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Italian Festival Executive Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. Marrapese Hall
9/19 Tuesday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:00 a.m.
9/22 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.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S
September 10, 2023
Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 41

Env:	\$	1,660.00
Loose:	\$	324.00
Total	\$	1,984.00
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$	-(158.72)
	\$	1,825.28
Votives	\$	43.00
Africa	\$	10.00
Total	\$	53.00

??\$ 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	\$ 1,984.00	-(1,016.04)	-34%
FYTD:	\$33,000.44	\$34,672.99	\$1,672.55	5%

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, September 18, 2023
David Ross and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, September 25, 2023
Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

“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 8th** 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!*



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT ISSUE 1



What is Issue 1?

Issue 1 is a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would endanger the health and safety of women, threaten parental rights, and allow for abortion through all nine months of pregnancy. Ohioans will vote on November 7, 2023, whether to make this change to the Ohio Constitution.

What would Issue 1 do?

Put women at risk:

- **Health and safety standards in Ohio could be eliminated.** Doctors could no longer need to examine a woman or explain the risks of the abortion procedure ahead of time.

Threaten parental rights:

- **A fifteen-year-old could have an abortion without her parents knowing.** Current Ohio law requires parental notification and consent before a child under 18 can obtain an abortion. These parental right protections could be removed as they directly conflict with the amendment which would allow all individuals, including minors, to make their own reproductive decisions.

Allow for abortions of fully formed babies:

- **Abortion would be legal through all 9 months of pregnancy.** Physicians at an abortion clinic could use a woman's age or emotional well-being as a reason to perform an abortion in the 3rd trimester.

See ["Where Does it Say That?"](#) for specific information.

Would abortion be illegal in Ohio if Issue 1 does not pass?

If Issue 1 does not pass, abortion would still be legal in Ohio until a baby's heartbeat can be detected. This standard was challenged in court and placed on hold, allowing for abortions up to 22 weeks as of September 15, 2023. Current laws that protect the safety of women and parental rights would stay in effect.

Doesn't Issue 1 simply restore Ohio back to when Roe v. Wade was in effect?

Issue 1 goes dangerously beyond what was legalized in the Roe v. Wade ruling. It opens the door to remove important health and safety measures that protect women, threatens parental consent and notification of any minor seeking an abortion, and allows for abortion through all nine months of pregnancy.

Will miscarriage care or ectopic pregnancy treatment be denied if Issue 1 fails?

The passing or failure of Issue 1 will have no effect on the care a pregnant woman receives when her life is in danger, even if the treatment results in the loss of life of her unborn child. There is a fundamental difference between an elective abortion and the care provided after a miscarriage. In the case of an ectopic pregnancy, the life-affirming option is to surgically remove the mother's fallopian tube in which the embryo has implanted. No law restricts this care in Ohio or any other state in the country.

How is the Church helping pregnant women in need?

For decades, numerous Catholic social service agencies, in collaboration with faith-based and secular organizations, have assisted pregnant women in need with material resources and personal accompaniment during pregnancy and after their child is born. Project Rachel helps those struggling post-abortion. Every woman should be able to depend upon a community for support and the Catholic Church remains committed to woman in need.

[Learn more: ohiocathconf.org](#)

What is the Church doing to protect life and defeat Issue 1?

Each diocese in Ohio is working together, through the Catholic Conference of Ohio, to help Catholics understand the dangers of Issue 1 to women, parents, and life. We are also part of the Protect Women Ohio coalition to let all voters know Issue 1 is harmful for Ohioans.

What can I do to help defeat Issue 1?

1. PRAY & Fast
2. EDUCATE Yourself and TELL OTHERS about the dangers of Issue 1
3. Register & VOTE NO on Issue 1

Where can I learn more?

Read the full text of the proposed change to the Ohio Constitution and learn about the concerning language that puts women at risk, threatens parental rights, and allows for abortions through all nine months of pregnancy.



Click to View
["Where Does It Say That?"](#)

Or visit
www.ohiocathconf.org/protect

Special Thank You: to the **Piave Club** and **John Contino** for the donation made to **St. John the Baptist Italian Church**.

Abruzzi Club Gnocchi Dinner: Sunday, October 15, at 5:00 p.m. Gnocchi, Sausage, Salad, Dessert – \$15.00
Presale Tickets Only! Contact: Pat Rossetti at 614-329-3900.

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**.

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.*

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.

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.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023 – SPEAKER JOHN BRADFORD. Join us Friday, **October 6** at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown **Columbus** for a luncheon featuring a talk titled **"What is a Man? The Hunt for Manhood"** by **John Bradford**, **Founder and President of Wilderness Outreach**, a 501c3 public nonprofit corporation. Learn more about **Wilderness Outreach** at <https://www.wildernessoutreach.net>. If you are interested in sponsoring this or another luncheon, contact **Jim Gernetzke** at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com. **Holy Mass** (optional) begins at **11:45 a.m.** followed by lunch at **12:10 pm** and **Mr. Bradford's** presentation. No reservations are necessary. \$12.00 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend!

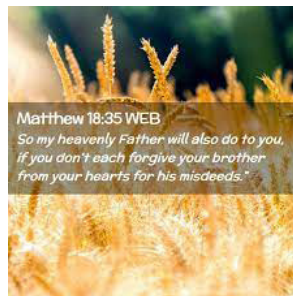


The Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference is a **Catholic** conference in the **Diocese of Columbus** that seeks to empower young adults to transform their communities through their identity in **Christ**.

This conference has been designed and developed by young adults for young adults. We want to give conference participants the practical tools and resources to live out their discipleship and create faith-filled communities of young adults where they live. **Join us on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at Saint John Neumann Parish in Sunbury. Doors open at 8:15 a.m.** For more information on the agenda, keynote speakers and registration, please visit <https://www.ccyac.org>.

RADIO FUN THAT WILL LEAVE YOU SMILING: (September 20-22). Join the **St. Gabriel Radio AM 820 Fall Spirit Drive** as we welcome **30 local priests** for a live, **three-day** radio event from **Wednesday, September 20** through **Friday, September 22**. Each participating priest is grouped with two other priests as they compete in a live radio basketball tournament. You can help your favorite team by making a donation, prior to or during the radio fundraiser. To make a donation, call **614-459-4820** or go to **StGabrielRadio.com** and be sure to write in the priest's name in the "comments" section.

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.



Today's Gospel: The **Gospel** is from **St. Matthew 18:21-35**. On reading or hearing this story of the merciless servant, each one of us would rightly judge him a mean, heartless man, who puts himself outside the pale of mercy. When we hear what the king did to this heartless servant, we heartily approve and say: "It served him right, he got what he richly deserved." However, we had

better stop and think for a moment today and reflect that every time we have sinned mortally, we have incurred an unpayable debt to **God**. Each time we have received **absolution** we have come out of **God's** courtroom as free men, because of **God's** loving, infinite mercy. How then can it happen that we could be so heartless, mean, and foolish as to refuse to forgive a neighbor for some offense he has committed against us? This will be the fate of all unforgiving **Christians**; they will meet an unforgiving **God** when they are called to settle their accounts. We still have time to put our affairs in order. We still can forgive all our enemies from our heart. If we do not, we are cutting ourselves off from the possibility of having our own sins and offenses forgiven by **God**: **"So also, my heavenly Father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."**

– Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings*
by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

We do not need bombs and guns to bring peace, we need love and compassion.

MOTHER TERESA



Prayer:

Look upon us, O God, Creator, and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of Your mercy, grant that we may serve You with all our heart. 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 17, 2023

Each one, teach one

Teachers, preachers, and professors have their place. But most of us learn life lessons more broadly. The first school is our home environment. Groups we affiliate with and wider media influences also communicate their values. In 1935, the Vatican called for special acknowledgment of how our parish catechists pass on the faith. While it's right to honor our DRE or religion teachers on this Catechetical Sunday, let's recall too the role of parents and indeed all parishioners in modeling a life rich in love, generosity, compassion, and forgiveness. Catechists literally "echo" the example of Jesus. Deliver your echo boldly!

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 27:30—28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35 (130). *"Peter approached Jesus and asked him, 'Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?'"*

Monday, Sep 18, 2023

Make of your life a mission of peace

In an address to the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Illinois in 1954, Dag Hammarskjöld, the second United Nations secretary-general (1953-61), referred to churches as the "guardians of ... the deepest beliefs and the loftiest dreams ..." of humanity. He died in a plane crash on this date while on a peace mission in the Congo and is the only person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously. Pope Francis praised him in 2015 for giving his life for "reconciliation among peoples." May the example and inspiration of Hammarskjöld, and the many who work to end conflict in the world, unite the people of God in their pursuit.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 7:1-10 (443). *"I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed."*

Tuesday, Sep 19, 2023

The real magic of relics

The significance of saintly relics is best understood in light of basic Catholic teaching: Relics aren't talismans born of superstition, nor are they magical souvenirs from worship-worthy saints. Moreover, relics deserve the same basic respect as other human remains. This is key because, historically, relics have been the subject of misunderstanding and abuse, everything from pilgrims who would steal bits of saintly bodies to Martin Luther's objection when relics were sold and hoarded like baubles. God alone works miracles and is worthy of worship. Saints merely agree to be the conduit—in obedience to Divine Love—sometimes paying the price with their martyrs' blood. Consider: The real miracle of Januarius' blood might be that he was willing to sacrifice it.

MEMORIAL OF JANUARIUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17 (444). *"A great prophet has arisen in our midst and God has visited his people."*

Wednesday, Sep 20, 2023

Be inspired to broaden your concern

On this day in 1918, at the age of 58, Mary Theresa Dudzik entered into eternal life. She accomplished a lot of good in her time on Earth. After immigrating to Chicago from Poland at 21, she would invite poor elderly women and girls to her home. "I felt the misery and suffering of others, and it seemed to me that I could not love Jesus, or even expect Heaven if I were concerned only about myself," she wrote. Dudzik started the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1893, the first order of religious women founded in

Chicago. The community devoted itself to aiding the elderly and those in need. She received the honorary title of "Mother" in 1948 and is now a candidate for sainthood. Learn more about Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik and her heroic virtue.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35 (445). *"To what shall I compare the people of this generation?"*

Thursday, Sep 21, 2023

Witness value

When the name Saint Matthew comes up, many people recall him as the tax collector apostle who wrote the Gospel of Matthew. Modern scholarship has challenged the belief that Matthew the apostle wrote the gospel with his name on it, and other details of Saint Matthew's death by martyrdom cannot be definitively proven. Maybe having precision about all aspects of Matthew's life is not the most important factor in this feast, however. The church celebrates Matthew for being a faithful apostle and evangelist, things to which every Christian can aspire. Does your life evangelize, that is, bear witness to your belief?

FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13 (643). *"Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience."*

Friday, Sep 22, 2023

Delve into fresh spiritual classics

The Spirit dwells in each of us and is expressed in myriad ways. The church treasures this rich diversity as "refractions of the one pure light of the Holy Spirit," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it. Too often erased historically, the experiences of women haven't always been allowed to shine as brightly, however. And so we lift up writers such as Monica Coleman, Gloria Anzaldúa, Mary Oliver, Jung Eun Sophia Park, and Phyllis Tickle, renowned spirituality author who died on this date in 2015. Read one of these or another author whose particular "refraction" resonates with your own.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3 (447). *"Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness."*

Saturday, Sep 23, 2023

The essentials of sainthood

Controversy shadowed the life of the mystical Padre Pio, as Pius of Pietrelcina was known. He was said to bear the stigmata, or wounds of Christ, though detractors claimed he manufactured the wounds with carbolic acid. However one views such claims and counter claims, the undeniable fact is that he was a compassionate counselor to the thousands who came to see him during his lifetime, a tireless servant who lived a simple life. At Padre Pio's canonization Mass in 2002, Saint John Paul II said: "The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord." You don't have to be a mystic or stigmatist to mirror the ministry of Christ in your own life—all you need is a kind heart and generous spirit.

MEMORIAL OF PIUS OF PIETRELcina, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15 (448). *"And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold."*

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



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