

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 Scruggs, 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 **Sunday** we will begin the religious education program for our parishes. They will be held in the Library at St. John the Baptist after the **9:30 a.m. Mass**.

On **October 11**, we will begin our **RCIA** program for:

1. Any who are interested in learning more about the **Catholic Faith**
2. All who are thinking about joining the **Church**
3. Those who are in a relationship with a **Catholic** and would like to understand the other person better
4. Those who are just curious about **Catholicism**
5. Those **Catholics** who would like to refresh their understanding of their **Faith**.

This will also be held in the **Library of St. John the Baptist**. The **Wednesday Evening Mass** will be moved from **Sacred Heart** to **St. John the Baptist** since our meeting space is there. The Mass will change from 6:30 to 6:00 p.m. with RCIA following at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Library on the second floor.

A very important message: The Italian Festival is coming very soon. There is always a need for volunteers. Anyone from St. John's or Sacred Heart who are able and willing to help, please call the office and you will be directed how to sign up. Jeremy Polk is organizing the volunteers at Sacred Heart to help with the parking. Parking is a great service to the Festival and an important fundraiser for Sacred Heart. It's a great opportunity to serve our communities.

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**.

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

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 9/24	9:30 a.m.	+ Joyce Tisone by Carl Tisone
	11:00 a.m. at SH	+ Antonio Caradonna by Mr. & Mrs. Castelluccio
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
Sunday 10/1	9:30 a.m.	+ Mary Elizabeth Pishitelli by Phillip & Judy Pishitelli
Monday 10/2	9:00 a.m.	+ Christopher Cua by Rich
Tuesday 10/3	9:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist

Mass Time Change: Mass times at Sacred Heart are Wednesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. and St. John the Baptist are Mondays and Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. Starting October 11, Masses on Wednesdays at Sacred Heart will be held at St. John the Baptist at 6:00 p.m. With RCIA following at 7:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish Library on the second floor.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	Sunday, September 24, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Valerie Milano, Tania Wade
Eucharistic Minister 1 & 2:	AnnMarie Pastore, Sharon D'Alberto
Eucharistic Minister 3, 4, 5:	Kurt Heining, Andrea Myers, Antonio D'Alberto
Sunday	Sunday, October 1, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Kurt Heining, Gretchen Heining
Eucharistic Minister 1 & 2:	AnnMarie Pastore, Ed Pagnanelli
Eucharistic Minister 3, 4, 5:	Pat Rossetti, Antonio D'Alberto, Margi Baker

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.**

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights:

Joyce Tisone

by Carl Tisone

Blessed Sacrament:

Teresa Behal

by Chris Soteriades

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 937-902-7446** or via email **k.koesters32@gmail.com**. Leaders for **September and October** are:

September 24	Gary Bosco
October 01	Tania Wade
October 08	Gary Bosco
October 15	Maureen Iosue
October 22	Gary Bosco
October 29	Gary Bosco

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: One of the most important aspects a parish must have to survive is a strong religious education program. **St. John/Sacred Heart** classes begin this morning, **September 24**, in the Library on the second floor at **St. John the Baptist Church**. Classes will be held 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**. If you are willing to assist as a teacher or an aide, please call **Sharon Curtin 614-563-8405**, or email at **SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org**.



Office Hours: Parish Office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.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** as 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. For more information about **OCIA**, please contact **Sharon Curtin** at **614-563-8405**, or email **SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org** The first class is **October 11, 7:00 p.m.**, in the **Library at Saint John the Baptist Church on the second floor.**

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

September 17, 2023

Number of Envelopes used Sunday 55

Env:	\$ 2,920.00
Loose:	\$ 561.00
Total	\$ 3,481.00
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ -(278.48)
	\$ 3,202.52
Votives	\$ 43.00
Africa	\$ 40.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 22.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 2.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 10.00
Total	\$ 117.00

THANK YOU!

The **Altar Guild** would like to thank everyone for making the **125th Anniversary Celebration** of the dedication of **St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church** a memorable occasion! Special thanks go to the following: **Monsignor Lane** for all his support and celebration of the **Mass**; **Father Metzger** and **Deacon Iannarino** for **Concelebrating the Mass**; **Gina Bishop, John Huffman**, and the **Choir Members: Margaret Panico Harn, Ida Shook, Tania Wade, Patti Clifford, Ed Pagnanelli, Keith Pecinovsky** for the beautiful songs. **Rick and Landa Brunetto** and the band; **Carol Ristucci** for the outdoor decorations; **Kerree Susi** for all the **History Boards** and **postcards**; **Reno Volpe** for all the flowers; **Vince Militello** for the meats and cheeses; **Auddino's Bakery** for the rolls; **RDP** for the sandwich condiments; The **Korean Catholic Community** for the beautiful floral arrangement; **Patti Clifford, Rosanne Graf, Darlene Rauch, Maria Cioli, and Sue Guy** for all their help; **Mark Agriesti** and **Patty Weimer** for the coffee; **Aggie Howard** for all of her assistance and of course, all the members of the **Altar Guild: Patty Weimer, Margaret Panico-Harn, Carol Ristucci, Tina Solazzo, BettyJo LaPenna, Dianna Williams, Paola Cioli, Kerree Susi, Ida Shook, Tania Wade, and Teresa Metcalf.** Many thanks to all!

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

9/24 Sunday	<p>SJB Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:30 a.m.</p> <p>SJB LeDonne Group Meeting – Marrapese Hall 10:30-11:00 a.m.</p> <p>SJB Italian Language Class – Marrapese Hall 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p> <p>SJB PSR Class – Sharon Curtin – Library After 9:30 a.m. Mass</p> <p>San Giovanni Dancers Practice – Marrapese Hall 3:30-5:00 p.m.</p> <p>KCC – Religious Education – Italian Cultural Room 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</p> <p>KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – Marrapese Hall – 12:00-3:00 p.m.</p>
9/25 Monday	<p>SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Italian Festival Executive Meeting – Marrapese Hall 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>Italian Festival General Meeting – Marrapese Hall 6:30 p.m.</p>
9/26 Tuesday	<p>SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>Padre Pio Prayer Group – Chapel 12:30 p.m. Rosary – 1:00 p.m. Mass</p>
9/29 Friday	<p>KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim 7:00 p.m. SJB Church</p>
	<p>Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.</p>
	<p>Le Donne Group Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall.</p>

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	\$3,481.00	\$480.96
FYTD:	\$36,000.48	\$38,153.99	\$2,153.51

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, September 25, 2023

Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday October 2, 2023

Darlene Rauch 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 – NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR!** Each ticket purchased will also be good for a **ONE-DAY** free admission to 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 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 or **Tania Wade** at t.wade73@gmail.com.

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

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's that time again! Calling out to all of 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 the <https://bit.ly/cookieboothvolunteers> and use SignUpGenius 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!**

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

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.*

Columbus Frassati Society: invites those in their **20's and 30's** to Christ in the City, 7:00 p.m. **Thursday, September 28, St. Patrick Church** (280 N. Grant Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215). Come for **Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, and Dominican Compline** (Night Prayer), followed by fellowship at a nearby restaurant. Please be sure to enter the building through the back doors by the **St. Patrick parking lot**.

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 50 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 501(c)(3) 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 p.m.** and **Mr. Bradford's** presentation. No reservations are necessary. **\$12.00** covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend!



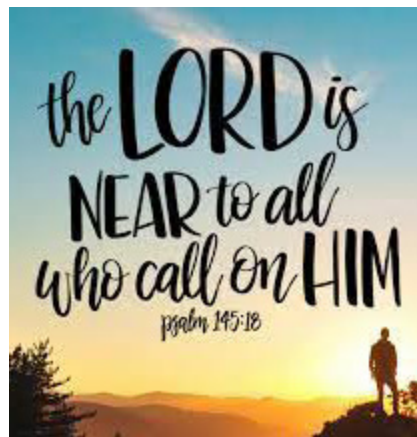
The Columbus Catholic Young Adult Conference is a **Catholic Conference** in the **Diocese of Columbus** that seeks to empower young adults to transform their communities through their identity in **Christ**.

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 am. For more information on the agenda, keynote speakers and registration, please visit <https://www.ccyac.org>.**

Today's Gospel: The Gospel is from **St. Matthew 20:1-16a**. The work we must do in **God's** vineyard is the fulfilling of the duties of our state in life. By carrying out these duties faithfully and honestly, we are doing the will of **God**. The greater part of our day, and indeed of our life, will be taken up with tasks of themselves worldly, but these tasks when done in the state of grace and with the intention of honoring **God**, have a supernatural value. For this, we must thank **God** for **His** goodness and generosity. Looking back on life, how many years have we really given to **God**? Were we clear with our intention, or were we idle? If we were idle, today's parable gives us new hope and courage. It may be the Sixth or the Ninth or even the Eleventh Hour of our life, but we can still earn heaven if we listen to **God's** call and set to work diligently in **His** vineyard. If we put our conscience right with **God** today and resolve to be loyal to **Him** from now on, He will be as generous to us, as the parable promises.

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

"Without forgiveness, there is no hope; without forgiveness, there is no peace. Forgiveness is the oxygen that purifies the air of hatred; it is the antidote to the poisons of resentment; it is the way to defuse anger and heal so many maladies of the heart." @Pontifex

**Prayer:**

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of You and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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 24, 2023

At home in the world

Free to leave, free to stay. Liberty of movement is a right most of us take for granted. Have you resided in more than one place? On this 109th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Pope Francis asks us to imagine a world in which everyone has the option to stay or go as they please. It necessitates a world in which staying is safe: free from discrimination, violence, and dire poverty. All would have the protection of equal rights and respect, and could reach their potential in their present circumstances. Until that day, welcoming the stranger is our sacred obligation.

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a; Matthew 20:1-16a (133). *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."*

Monday, Sep 25, 2023

Be creative for the sake of creation

The Season of Creation, an annual ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home, began on September 1 (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) and ends on October 4 (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi). There is still more than a week left for you, your family, your cohort of friends, your school, and your parish to renew your relationship with the Creator and with creation, through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. How? Pray. Read Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato si'*. Coordinate a cleanup project or other sustainability effort. Use your voice and advocate for climate justice. Best idea yet? Come up with one no one has thought of!

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezra 1:1-6; Luke 8:16-18 (449). *"No one who lights a lamp conceals it ... rather, he places it on a lampstand so that those who enter may see the light."*

Tuesday, Sep 26, 2023

Freely share the gifts you've been given

Cosmas and Damian were legendary. Many churches have been built in their honor, and their names make the short list of saints enshrined in Eucharistic Prayer I, used during the Mass. During the final years of Rome's brutal persecution of Christians, the twin physicians lived in Syria—then an eastern province of the Roman Empire. Not only were they gifted healers, but they refused to charge for their services. As they explained, "We treat the infirm by the power of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and take no payment for rendering aid to the sick, because our Lord commanded His disciples, 'Freely have you received, freely give.'" How have you been blessed by God, and how can you share that with others?

MEMORIAL OF COSMAS AND DAMIAN, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Luke 8:19-21 (450). *"My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."*

Wednesday, Sep 27, 2023

Now on tour

Today is World Tourism Day. According to the United Nations, the tourism sector employs one in every 10 people on Earth, and millions more benefit economically from tourism, though the wealth generated isn't always shared equitably. For tourists, exploring new places and enjoying favorite ones can be exhilarating—but bad behavior can ruin a trip. Keeping an attitude of openness and gratitude, as well as respect for local people and customs while on

vacation or a tour can transform the experience. Archbishop Rino Fisichella of the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelization wrote in anticipation of today's observance, "A tourism that respects the person and the environment opens the way to perceiving the goodness of the Father who reaches out to everyone with his love." It's hard to imagine a better souvenir than that.

MEMORIAL OF VINCENT DE PAUL, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezra 9:5-9; Luke 9:1-6 (451). *"Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere."*

Thursday, Sep 28, 2023

Lighten the load

You may have heard the old English Christmas song about a Bohemian king who became Saint Wenceslaus, in part because of his great charity. The most famous tale from the charitable king's life was recorded in the carol "Good King Wenceslaus." The king helps a poor man keep from freezing by trodding a path in the snow for him, easing the man's journey to shelter. It ends with an admonishment to do likewise for anyone who suffers and "[you] shall yourselves find blessing." Do a favor for someone in need today, and like Wenceslaus, you will find blessing.

MEMORIAL OF WENCESLAUS, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Haggai 1:1-8; Luke 9:7-9 (452). *"Who then is this about whom I hear such things?"*

Friday, Sep 29, 2023

Entertaining angels

Care for strangers has always been a strong imperative in Christianity. Yet in today's highly politicized environment, it is challenging to reach out to strangers who some have deemed to be threats—people like refugees and other marginalized communities. Scripture is clear: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Angels? It's far easier to see angels from the safety of a holy card or a statue. But think for a moment and see if you have at some point encountered an angel through the presence of a stranger.

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab; John 1:47-51 (647). *"How do you know me?"*

Saturday, Sep 30, 2023

Christianity, by the book

As early Christianity distanced itself from Judaism, Christians began to lose touch with their faith's deep Jewish roots. Saint Jerome (born around 340) helped to reestablish the link. He learned Hebrew from a Christian monk who had converted from Judaism. More unusual for the time, he studied with Jewish rabbis to gain a better understanding of Hebrew scripture. He then spent 15 years producing the foundational Latin translation of the Hebrew Bible, which we know as the Old Testament. He later said, "For if, as Paul says, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, and if the man who does not know Scripture does not know the power and wisdom of God, then ignorance of Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." Crack open the Good Book today, in honor of a key figure who helped shape it.

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a; Luke 9:43b-45 (454). *"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Pay attention to what I am telling you.'"*

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



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