

# 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 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](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 Italian Catholic Church

### Dear Friends in Christ,

We are still offering **RCIA** beginning **October 11**. There will be **Mass** at **St. John** at **6:00 p.m.** and **RCIA** starts in the library at **7:00 p.m.** This is open for anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of **Catholicism** and is required for anyone who might wish to enter the Church.

Because of the **RCIA**, the **Wednesday** evening **Mass** will be at **6:00 p.m.** and will be at **St. John** and not **Sacred Heart**. **Thursday** evening **Mass** at **6:30 p.m.** will remain at **Sacred Heart**.

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.sjitaliana.com** under **Livestream Mass**.

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

## MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 10/8	10:30 a.m.	+ Leo Santillo by Dr. Linda Records
	11:00 a.m. at SH	+ Antonio Caradonna by Mr. & Mrs. Carlo Di Cristoforo
Monday 10/9	9:00 a.m.	+ Mary Lou Palma by Her Wonderful Friends
Tuesday 10/10	9:00 a.m.	+ Elliott & Alice McCallum by the McCallum Family
Wednesday 10/11	6:00 p.m.	+ Antonio (Tony) Polletta by Patricia Clifford
Sunday 10/15	9:30 a.m.	+ Bonnie & Charlie Agriesti by Maria & Teresa & Family
Monday 10/16	9:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of the Cauperchioli Family by Dr. Maria Regina Coccia
Tuesday 10/17	9:00 a.m.	+ Fred & Nell Anderson by The McCallum Family
Wednesday 10/18	6:00 p.m.	Living & Deceased Members of Sacred Heart & St. John's

### 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.

**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:

October 8 Gary Bosco  
October 15 Maureen Iosue  
October 22 Gary Bosco  
October 29 Gary Bosco

**Mass Time Change:** Mass times at Sacred Heart are **Thursdays** at **6:30 p.m.** and at **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, October 8, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Antonio D'Alberto, Nick D'Alberto Tania Wade, Landa Brunetto
Eucharistic Minister 1 & 2:	Pat Rossetti, Ed Pagnanelli,
Eucharistic Minister 3, 4, 5:	Margaret Panico-Harn, Al Iosue, Sharon D'Alberto
Sunday	Sunday, October 15, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Ed Pagnanelli, Valerie Milano
Eucharistic Minister 1 & 2:	AnnMarie Pastore, Sharon D'Alberto,
Eucharistic Minister 3, 4, 5:	Kurt Heining, Gretchen Heining, Andrea Myers

### Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: Joyce Tisone  
by Carl Tisone

Blessed Sacrament: Danny LaPenna  
by Joe Gioffre



**BANNS of MARRIAGE**  
Michael Auddino and Maria Frissora  
October 21, 2023

**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@sjitaliana.org**. The first class is **October 11, 7:00 p.m.**, in the library at **Saint John the Baptist Church** on the second floor.

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Our first class was held **September 24**. Next week, we will not be in session because of the parish festival here at **St. John**. We will resume **October 15** following the **9:30 a.m. Mass** and will meet in the parish library on the second floor. Hope to see you there. Questions? Contact **Sharon Curtin** at **614-563-8405**, or **SCurtin@sjitaliana.org**.

**EVENTS FOR THE WEEK**

10/8 Sunday	<u>Columbus Italian Festival Mass – Celebrated by Bishop Earl Fernandes</u> 10:30 a.m. <u>NO Italian Language Class</u> <u>SJB NO PSR Class</u> <u>NO KCC – Religious</u> <u>KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – At the Park</u> 12:00 p.m.
10/09 Monday	<u>SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane</u> 9:00 a.m.
10/10 Tuesday	<u>SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane</u> 9:00 a.m.
10/11 Wednesday	<u>SJB Finance Committee Meeting – Italian Cultural Room – 1:00 p.m.</u> <u>SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane</u> 6:00 p.m. <u>SJB RCIA Class – Library</u> 7:00-8:30 p.m.
10/13 Friday	<u>KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim</u> 7:00 p.m.
	<u>Altar Guild Reminder</u> – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.
	<u>Le Donne Group</u> 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  
October 1, 2023**

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 35

Env:	\$ 1,556.00
Loose:	\$ 888.00
Sept. EFT:	\$ 1,838.33
Total	\$ 4,282.33
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ -(342.59)
	\$ 3,939.74
Votives	\$ 83.00
St. Anthony Bread	\$ 52.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 185.00

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

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

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)
This Wk.:	\$3,000.04	\$4,282.33	\$1,282.29
FYTD:	\$42,000.56	\$44,934.32	\$2,933.76

**Income and Expenses from August 1, through August 31, 2023.**

Income:	\$ 20,180.34
Expense:	\$ 44,301.81
Difference:	-\$ 24,121.47



**DONATE QR CODE:** Please help St. John the Baptist maintain this beautiful 125-year-old building with a donation by using the QR code to donate. Thank you!

**SJB Collection Counters for Tuesday, October 10, 2023**  
Maruja Paule and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday October 16, 2023**  
Nick Persichetti and Aggie Howard



**Office Hours:** Parish office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The Office will be closed Monday, October 9 in Observance of Indigenous Peoples/ Columbus Day and resume on Tuesday, October 10.

**PAVERS:** The front Pavilion of St. John's Church is covered with Pavers. These Pavers are available for purchase and engraving in remembrance of family members and loved ones. For more information, please call the office of St. John at 614-294-5319.

**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 September 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](mailto:shook4@gmail.com)  
Tania Wade at [t.wade73@gmail.com](mailto:t.wade73@gmail.com)



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

**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.

**Abruzzi Club Chili Cook-Off and Bingo:** Friday night, October 27 for a chili cook-off and Bingo. Bring a pot of chili to share or just come and enjoy everyone else's. All you care to eat chili, with salad and dessert is just \$10.00. If you bring a pot of chili to share, your dinner is at no cost. The winner will receive two free dinners at a future Bingo night. All profits from the dinner will be split with St. John. You can play bingo for \$10.00 or \$15.00, and all money collected goes back out in prize money. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. and Bingo at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Scott at 614-562-3652 or [info@abruzzo.club](mailto:info@abruzzo.club).

**AROUND US**

**Liturgical Calendar:** October falls during the liturgical season known as 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 October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of October 2023:** We pray for the Church that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

**Friary Cook Needed – Holy Family Church (Columbus)** seeks a qualified individual to serve as a Cook, approximately 15 hours per week, for the community of Mercedarian Friars. This position is responsible for preparing a daily meal, Monday through Friday. This also includes some grocery shopping. For more details, contact Holy Family Church at [dprunte@holycolumbus.org](mailto:dprunte@holycolumbus.org).





CHESTERTON ACADEMY  
OF ST. BENEDICT

### Coming to Columbus in Fall

**2024:** A classical high school in the **Catholic** tradition –

**Chesterton Academy of St. Benedict (grades 9-12).** Learn about the school and meet the founding team at an information session, **Tuesday, October 24, 7:00-8:00 p.m.** in **St. John the Baptist Marrapese Hall.** For additional details and to RSVP, visit [www.chestertonacademystbenedict.org](http://www.chestertonacademystbenedict.org).



Bottoms Up  
DIAPER BANK

### Did You Know – Childcare for Those in Need:

Most childcare centers require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers. Without diapers, babies cannot be placed in childcare facilities nor participate in early childhood education programs. Without childcare, parents cannot go to work. For more information, and ways you can help, visit [www.bottomsup.life](http://www.bottomsup.life).

**Our Lady of Victory:** Please join us at **Our Lady of Victory Parish Life Center** for our famous **“Rummage Sale and Bake Sale.”** Household goods, electronics, arts and crafts, holiday items and delicious home-baked goods. For questions, contact: **Marilyn at 614-226-1547 or Pat at 614-657-2375.**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**1559 Roxbury Road, Columbus 43212**

### CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER

**3, 2023 – SPEAKER: FATHER PeterClaver Kasasa**

**Kiviiri.** Join us **Friday, November 3** at **St. Patrick Church**

in downtown **Columbus** for a luncheon featuring a talk by

**Father PeterClaver Kasasa Kiviiri, Parochial Vicar at St.**

**Matthew the Apostle Parish,** who was ordained earlier this

year by **Bishop Fernandes. Fr. Kiviiri** will share his vocation

story and observations from his first months as a priest. If you

are interested in sponsoring this or another luncheon, please

contact **Pat Foley** at [foley513@gmail.com](mailto:foley513@gmail.com). **Holy Mass**

(optional) begins at **11:45 a.m.** followed by lunch at **12:10 p.m.**

and **Fr. Kiviiri's** presentation. No reservations are necessary.

**\$12.00 covers** the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **Mark**

**your calendar for our final luncheon of the year on Friday,**

**December 1, 2023, when Bishop Earl Fernandes will give**

**his annual talk to the luncheon club.**

**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>.

COLUMBUS CATHOLIC  
YOUNG ADULT  
CONFERENCE





TRUST  
IN  
HIM

10.14.23

PSALM 37:3-5

OCTOBER 14

CCYAC.ORG TO REGISTER



### SUPPORT LEARNING IN OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**WITH A DONATION TO TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS!** Every

year, teachers in the **Catholic** schools in the **Diocese of**

**Columbus** spend hundreds of dollars of their own money

to equip their classrooms with basic supplies for students

or to purchase special items to make learning fun and

relevant. The **Tools for Schools** program help lessen these out-of-pocket

costs for our educators so they can focus on what matters most for students

– exceptional academics, service to others, and teaching them what it

means to be a child of **God.** To donate, scan the QR code or visit [www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/tools-for-schools](http://www.columbuscatholicgiving.org/tools-for-schools).

You also may send a

**check to: Office of Catholic Schools, ATTN: Tools for Schools, 197 E.**

**Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215.** Thank you for your support!

### The Sisters of Children of Mary

**OPEN HOUSE** at **Children of Mary Convent** in **Newark, October 15 and**

**16 from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.** introducing our new pilgrimage site and outdoor

shrine to **Our Eucharistic Lord.** Come at **1:00 p.m.** to see the grounds,

**2:00 p.m.,** a short **Eucharistic** procession and **Benediction** at the shrine,


a healing **Holy Hour** followed by a guest speaker at **4:00.** **Divine Office**

will be chanted in chapel at **5:00.** Those who wish may bring a packed

supper and eat in our welcome center or by the pond where there are picnic

tables. **Night Prayer** from **7:30-8:00 p.m.** For more info, call **740-323-1977**

or [childrenofmarysisters@gmail.com](mailto:childrenofmarysisters@gmail.com).



## THE HOLY ROSARY

"Say the Rosary every day...  
Pray, pray a lot and offer sacrifices for  
sinners...  
I'm Our Lady of the Rosary.  
Only I will be able to help you.  
...In the end My Immaculate Heart will  
triumph."

Our Lady at Fatima

**Today's Gospel:** The **Gospel** is from **Matthew 21:33-43.** In **God's** plan of

love and mercy, the tragedy of **Calvary** turned out to be the great "triumph of

failure." That death brought life to the world and opened the gates of **God's**

eternal kingdom for all nations and races. The **Gentiles** rallied around the

standard of **Christ.** A new vineyard was set up in which all men could work

for their **Father** in heaven and for their own eternal interests. **Christians**

today are the successors of the first **Gentile** followers of **Christ.** We, too,

have been called to work in **God's** vineyard. Are we working honestly

and devotedly? Are we producing the grapes and the wine that our divine

**Master** expects of us? If our answer is "yes, I am living a true **Christian** life,

I am working for **God's** honor and glory and for my own eternal salvation,"

then we can say a heartfelt "thank you" to our merciful **Father** and ask Him

to keep us ever on this right path. But if our answer is "no," then let us pay

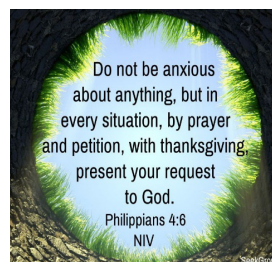
heed to today's lesson. What happened to the chief priests and elders can

and will happen to unfaithful **Christians** if they persevere in their infidelity

and disobedience. But we can still put ourselves right with **God.** Let us do it

today – tomorrow may be too late.

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



**Prayer:** *Almighty ever-living God, who in the*

*abundance of Your kindness surpass the*

*merits and the desires of those who entreat*

*You, pour out Your mercy upon us to pardon*

*what conscience dreads and to give what*

*prayer does not dare to ask. 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, Oct 08, 2023**

**To the greater good!**

Our country's second poet laureate, Richard Wilbur (1921-2017), fought in the Second World War. It convinced him that writing verse was serious business: "One does not use poetry ... to organize oneself and the world, until one's world somehow gets out of hand." Wilbur explained: "I feel that the universe is full of glorious energy ... and that the ultimate character of things is comely and good. I am perfectly aware that I say this in the teeth of all sorts of contrary evidence, and that I must be basing it partly on temperament and partly on faith." Believe in the ultimate goodness, regardless of any evidence to the contrary!

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43 (139). "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious ... think about these things."

**Monday, Oct 09, 2023**

**Going the distance for faith**

In the third century, Saint Denis evangelized the country that would come to be France (then called Gaul), and he is thought to have been the first bishop of Paris (then called Lutetia). He was so successful at making converts that the Roman governor beheaded him on the highest hill in the city, now known as Montmartre. It was said he picked up his head and kept preaching while walking many miles before reaching his burial site in a town later named after him. He is the patron saint of France and one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Call on him for a missionary zeal that just won't quit.

MEMORIAL OF DENIS, BISHOP, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 1:1—2:1-2, 11; Luke 10:25-37 (461). "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind."

**Tuesday, Oct 10, 2023**

**Don't shortchange charity**

In 2021, Pope Francis used today, World Mental Health Day, to pray for those "affected by mental disorders and also the victims, often young, of suicide." This June, Francis mentioned teen suicide again, decrying a "culture that leads young people to think that they are 'losers.'" Francis also emphasized the basic human right to medical care and social services—so critical for mental health—but he also pointed to us individual Christians, who in our "haste" don't often stop long enough to care for each other. "It is easy to delegate charity to others, yet the calling of every Christian"—according to Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan—"is to become personally involved." His advice? Learn from Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who said, "charity must not remain locked in the depths of one's heart."

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42 (462). "The Lord said to her in reply, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.'"

**Wednesday, Oct 11, 2023**

**A shrine for the ages**

In America's "first city," St. Augustine, Florida, many Catholics today will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of La Leche, dedicated to a Marian apparition first recognized during the time of the Spanish colonial empire. The devotion, depicting Mary nursing the infant child Jesus, traveled with settlers to Florida in the 16th century, and a shrine to her was built at Mission Nombre de Dios in the

new colony of St. Augustine. The shrine is the oldest in the United States, having received canonical coronation in 2021, and is a popular pilgrimage site for those seeking intercession related to a pregnancy. Maybe today is the day for you to offer a special prayer for someone in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4 (463). "All the nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord, and glorify your name."

**Thursday, Oct 12, 2023**

**Come as you are**

Christians whose personalities would never be called pious or meek might take heart in Caryl Houselander (1901-54), whose death we commemorate today. She smoked, drank, and was said to have a sharp tongue. But people were drawn to her for good counsel, and Houselander's spiritual writing persists. A sample: "Love is most likely to spring from another's need for us, and the fact of spending ourselves for another always generates new life in us." With your own God-given personality, warts and all, take a step today toward building the Kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13 (464). "And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find."

**Friday, Oct 13, 2023**

**The devil doesn't have a prayer**

In an interview in *Exorcists against Satan* by Italian journalist Fabio Marchese Ragona, Pope Francis was asked about the devil. "It is possible that I get on the Devil's nerves," he said, "because I try to follow the Lord and do what the Gospel says. And that annoys him. At the same time, he is certainly happy when I commit some sin. He seeks man's failure, but he has no chance if there is prayer." It is a great mystery that God should permit diabolical activity, says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "but we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him" (CCC 395). Take the simple steps of daily prayer and good works to keep the devil at bay.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26 (465). "If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?"

**Saturday, Oct 14, 2023**

**Redeeming qualities**

There was a profound division in the church during the third-century pontificate of Callistus I. The pope believed and taught that even the most serious sins like murder and adultery could be absolved in a sincere confession. His position scandalized many church leaders in Rome who didn't agree. They believed that some sins were too serious to be forgiven, and they accused Callistus of laxity and sympathizing with heretics. Eventually Callistus prevailed and Confession became the healing sacrament for all sin, even the most serious. Thank our merciful God for guiding the church toward an ethic of redemption.

MEMORIAL OF CALLISTUS I, POPE, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28 (466). "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

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



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