

A photograph of the St. John the Baptist Catholic Church building, featuring a prominent steeple with a cross and a brick facade with arched windows. The church is set against a clear blue sky.

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.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Italian Catholic Church

I hope all enjoyed **Thanksgiving Day** and its celebration. We have much to be thankful for here at **St. John**. Our **Festival** was very successful, our **Mass** attendance is great, and we have many activities for a variety of groups and interests.

Beginning the first **Sunday of Advent**, we will start praying the **Lord's Prayer in Italian**. There will be copies of the prayer available in the pews. Before **Mass**, **Maria** will go over the pronunciation for those who may not be familiar with it. It is the basic prayer given us by **Jesus** and the more languages we can pray it in the better!

We also would like to remain connected with our parishioners who are homebound and no longer able to join us for **Mass**. We know they are scattered throughout the **Franklin County** area and even beyond but a visit from a parishioner or a Communion call might really be appreciated. Anyone who would be interested in being part of this outreach to the **Homebound**, please call the office, leave your name, and contact information so we can include you as we go forward with this.

Many Blessings for the week!
Fr. Lane

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

MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sunday 11/26	9:30 a.m.	+ Americo Milano by Maria Ciotola
Monday 11/27	9:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Members of St. John the Baptist
Tuesday 11/28	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Padre Pio	+ Howard & Susie Baumann by Victoria Scruggs + Tammy (Trejo) Cyrus by Victoria Scruggs
Wednesday 11/29	6:00 p.m.	+ Donato Cardani by David & Michelle Ross
Sunday 12/3	9:30 a.m.	+ Vincent Catalogna by "Friends of St. John the Baptist"
Monday 12/4	9:00 a.m.	+ Rina Tiberi by Tania Wade
Tuesday 12/5	9:00 a.m.	+ Dr. Frank P. Sobolewski by the McCallum Family
Wednesday 12/6	6:00 p.m.	+ John Joseph Spetrino by Linda Spohn & Family
Friday 12/8	12:00 noon	+ Amalee Soteriades by Patty Clifford

MASS INTENTIONS

Please consider your **Mass Intention** for your loved ones for our weekday **Masses**, **Mondays**, **Tuesdays**, and **Wednesdays** as **Sunday Mass Intentions** are all booked. **Thank you!**

Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:

Marian Lights: Joyce Tisone
by Carl Tisone
Blessed Sacrament: Danny LaPenna
by Joe Gioffre

Mass Time Change: Mass times at Sacred Heart are **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** and **St. John the Baptist** are **Mondays, Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.** and **Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.** followed by RCIA at 7:00 p.m. at **St. John the Baptist Parish Library on the second floor.**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Sunday	Sunday, November 26, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Kurt Heiningger, Gretchen Heiningger
Eucharistic Ministers 1 & 2:	Margaret Panico-Harn, Andrea Myers,
Eucharistic Ministers 3, 4, 5:	Sharon D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto, Marji Baker
Sunday	Sunday, December 3, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Lector 1 & 2:	Tania Wade, Davide Cugini
Eucharistic Ministers 1 & 2:	AnnMarie Pastore, Ed Pagnanelli,
Eucharistic Ministers 3, 4, 5:	Margi Baker, Margaret Panico-Harn, Al Iosue

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 at 937-902-7446** or via email **k.koesters32@gmail.com**. Leaders for **November and December** are:

November 26	Tania Wade
December 3	Gary Bosco
December 10	Maureen Iosue
December 17	Gary Bosco

Padre Pio Prayer Group: Tuesday, November 28, at 12:30 p.m. starting with the Rosary followed by Mass at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception is December 8, a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass at Sacred Heart will be at 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon at St. John.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION: After careful consideration, **Monsignor Lane** has decided we no longer will offer religious education, Grades 1-8, at **St. John the Baptist** or **Sacred Heart Parishes**. After **five** weeks of trying to engage children and parents into the program, it was decided there was not enough interest at this time. Granted, it has been many years since religious education was offered here, and many of the parishioners are older; however, this area is growing, and there will be new folks interested in joining this parish. They will want to have an active, religious education program. We will try again in **March 2024** to begin registration for the **Fall**. It is our hope there will be a few children who will join the program, as well as parents willing to assist. We will continue to invite grandchildren of parishioners, as well as non-Catholic children. If you have any questions, please call **Sharon Curtin at 614-563-8405** or **SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org**.

RCIA: Classes are now being offered for both **Sacred Heart** and **St. John the Baptist** parishes on **Wednesday** evenings right after the **6:00 p.m. Mass** at **St. John**. **RCIA class** starts at **7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Library located on the **second floor**. This class is required for anyone who wants to enter the **Catholic Church**, for those baptized **Catholic** but did not complete the Initiation **Sacraments**, as well as those who simply desire to deepen their understanding of **Catholicism**. **Questions? Contact Sharon Curtin at 614-563-8405, or SCurtin@sjbitaliana.org.**

ITALIAN FESTIVAL NEWS: The Italian Board and General Meeting will be on **Monday, December 4, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE 2023		
Christmas Vigil	Church	Mass Time
December 24	Sacred Heart	9:00 p.m.
	St. John	4:00 p.m.
Christmas Day	Church	Mass Time
December 25	Sacred Heart	10:30 a.m.
	St. John	No Mass
New Year's Eve	Church	Mass Time
December 31	Sacred Heart	11:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.
	St. John	9:30 a.m.
New Year's Day	Church	Mass Time
January 1	Sacred Heart	No Mass
	St. John	11:00 a.m.

EVENTS FOR THE WEEK	
11/26 Sunday	SJB Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 9:30 a.m. SJB Social/Activities Council – Library 12:00-2:00 p.m. KCC – Religious Education Class – Italian Classroom – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – Meeting in Sala Hall after Mass 12:00-3:00 p.m.
11/27 Monday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 9:00 a.m.
11/28 Tuesday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 9:00 a.m. Padre Pio Prayer Group – SJB Chapel – 12:30 Rosary, 1:00 p.m. Mass
11/29 Wednesday	SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 6:00 p.m. SJB RCIA Class – 7:00-8:30 p.m.
12/1 Friday	KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – 6:00 p.m.
	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 – 10:45-11:15 a.m. There are no meetings in June or July.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN – November 19, 2023
Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 40

Env:	\$ 1,895.00
Loose:	\$ 317.00
Total	\$ 2,212.00
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ -(176.96)
	\$ 2,035.04
Votives	\$ 50.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 44.00
St. Anthony's Bread	\$ 5.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 52.00
Total	\$ 151.00

??? *HOW IS ST. JOHN DOING?* **???**
Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/23-6/30/24)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)
This Wk.:	\$ 3,000.04	\$ 2,212.00	-\$ 788.04
FYTD:	\$ 63,000.84	\$ 64,079.65	\$ 1,078.81

Income and Expenses from September 1, through September 30, 2023.

Income:	\$ 15,687.80
Expense:	\$ 28,302.87
Difference:	-\$ 12,615.07

DONATE QR CODE AND WEBSITE INFORMATION



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



SJB Collection Counters for Monday November 27, 2023

Maruja Paule and Aggie Howard

SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 4, 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.

PAVERS: The front Pavilion of **St. John 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**.



This is a newly formed Italian Club for Young Adults. **La prossima** is a **Young Adult Group** keeping the culture alive through the next generation. A vibrant club for young adults of **Italian descent**.

CHARITY NEWSIES PAPER SALE AND PRESIDENT'S CHURCH SERVICE:

Since **1907**, **Charity Newsies** have provided warm new clothing to school-age children in **Franklin County**. Over **800,000** children have been clothed by the **Newsies**. On **Saturday, December 9, 300 Newsies** will take to the streets and sell a special edition of the **Dispatch** for **"whatever your heart tells you to give"** with **100%** going to clothe children. **Newsies** is excited to announce again this year, the **President's Church Service** will be held at **St. John the Baptist Church on Sunday, December 3, 9:30 a.m.** **Charity Newsie** members will be notified of this **Mass**. Please keep the **Newsies** in your prayers for a safe and successful paper sale.

The Altar Guild: The **Altar Guild Ohio State Bowl** game pool is now sold out. Square numbers will be drawn after **Sunday Mass** in **Sala Hall**. Once we know who **OSU's opponent** will be (should be **early/mid-December**) copies of the scoresheet will be available for all participants. Thanks for helping to support the **Guild's fundraiser** that supports our church. Sales for the **Super Bowl** will begin at the end of **December**.

St. John the Baptist Giving Tree: The Social/Activity Council is bringing back the **Giving Tree**. It has been quite some time since we have done this at **St. John**, and we believe it is a wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those in need during the holiday season. Starting **Sunday, November 26**, you will find a **Christmas Tree** in **Sala Hall** decorated with special ornaments. Each ornament represents an item in need that you can purchase as a gift. If you would like to participate, simply select an ornament from the tree, purchase the specified item, and bring it to the church, unwrapped, with the ornament attached no later than **Sunday, December 10**. All the items collected will be delivered to the organization we are working with so they can provide gifts to those in need this holiday season. **Your contribution will truly make a difference!**

Limoncello Crafting a Zesty Success! What's Next On The Events Calendar? Our **Limoncello** crafting event was a resounding success and many asked, "What's next?" Well, mark your calendars for the evening of **Wednesday, December 13 after 6:00 p.m. Mass!** We are gearing up for a **second** dive into the heart of **Italian tradition** for another unforgettable experience. Get ready for some cultural immersion and learning, with a dash of **Italian flair!** Save the date and stay tuned as more details are coming soon!

Kroger Community Rewards Fundraiser: Did you know that every time you use your **Kroger Plus Card** when purchasing groceries, **Kroger** donates money to our church? All you have to do is register your card at www.kroger.com/communityrewards. It's that easy! Follow the steps below to enroll your **Kroger Card** today!

1. Go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page. Click "**Get Started**" on the **Link your Shoppers Card** section.
3. Sign into your online Kroger account (or create an account if you don't have one).
4. In the **Find an Organization** field, search for "**St. John the Baptist Italian**" or type in our organization's number "**YY987**" then click "**Enroll.**"
5. Once you enroll, every time you use your **Kroger Plus Card** at **Kroger**, your purchases will earn money for our church!

Please share this **Fundraising Program** with your friends and family!

AROUND US

Liturgical Year: The entire month of **November** falls during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green. The month is dedicated to the **Holy Souls in Purgatory** whose feast is celebrated on **November 2**.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON – FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023 – SPEAKER BISHOP EARL FERNANDES. Join us **Friday, December 1** at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown **Columbus** for a luncheon featuring his **Excellency Bishop Earl Fernandes, Bishop of the Columbus Diocese**, who will present his annual address to the luncheon club. The **December** luncheon is sponsored by **The Catholic Foundation**. Started in **1984**, the **Catholic Foundation** has provided over **\$200 million** in funding for organizations throughout the **Columbus Diocese** and beyond. More information about the **Catholic Foundation** is available at <https://catholic-foundation.org/>. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, please contact **Pat Foley** at foleyp513@gmail.com. **Holy Mass** (optional) begins at **11:45 a.m.** followed by lunch at **12:10 p.m.** and **Bishop Fernandes'** presentation. No reservations are necessary. **\$12.00** covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **There is no luncheon in January, but plan to attend our luncheon on Friday, February 2, 2024, when Bishop Fernandes will return to present the Catholic Man of the Year Award.**

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of November 2023: *We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.*



Bottoms Up
DIAPER BANK

Did You Know? – Clean, Dry, and Healthy

Some mothers scrape out a diaper and re-use it when they can't afford enough diapers to keep their baby clean, dry, and healthy. The physical, psychological, and emotional toll of this practice on baby and mother can be significant. For more information, and ways you can help, visit www.bottomsup.life.

Bethesda on Giving Tuesday: We are truly thankful for your support of **Bethesda Healing Ministry** over the past year. Considering **Ohio's November election**, the media attention may have brought feelings of grief and remorse for those with a past abortion experience. **Bethesda Healing Ministry**, a **Catholic Christian Ministry**, provides help and hope by helping women and men navigate the waters of healing while providing a safe haven for them to share their story with others who have walked the same path. The initiative of **#GivingTuesday** began in **2012** and has become an annual event on the **Tuesday** after **Thanksgiving**. This year, we are asking for your participation. We ask that you prayerfully consider donating to support **Bethesda Healing Ministry** on or before **Tuesday, November 28, 2023**. Donations may be made through the **Catholic Foundation Bethesda Healing Ministry Donor Advised Fund** or our giving page where you have the option of a one-time gift or a recurring donation. You can access both on the Bethesda website: <https://www.bethesdahealing.org/donate>. Thank you for your time and consideration. May God bless you and your families this holiday season.

It is my hope and prayer that each of you can joyfully say:
"With Jesus, I too am a king." I too reign: as a living sign
of the love of God, of his compassion and his tenderness.
@Pontifex

Today's Gospel: The **Gospel** is from **Matthew 25:31-36**, with **Jesus** describing His second coming as that of a king arriving in all His majesty and sitting on His kingly throne to judge all mankind. **Christ** Himself in this description of the last judgement, describes His role as that of a king. This Gospel reading, therefore, reminds us of the **Kingship of Christ**. On this Feast of **Christ our King**, let us renew our pledge of loyalty to Him, and so that this pledge will not be an empty formula, let each one of us resolve to study, once more, the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and see how well we put them into practice. If we have failed in the past, let us resolve to begin again today. Let us help one another by bearing one another's burdens. This is what **Christ** asks of us. This is how we can prove ourselves loyal and grateful subjects. This is what we will be judged on when we meet Him on our last day. If we love our neighbor with an active and practical love for **Christ's** sake, we are thereby loving **God**, and are keeping "the two greatest commandments on which the whole law and the prophets depend."

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

Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!

Mark 11

Prayer: *Almighty ever-living God, whose will be to restore all things in Your beloved Son, the King of the universe, grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render Your majesty service, and ceaselessly proclaim Your praise. 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, Nov 26, 2023**Save the best for last**

The film industry has always had a love affair with the afterlife. From *It's a Wonderful Life to Heaven Can Wait* to *Ghost to Flatliners*, stories remind us that our choices in this world have ramifications in the next. More recent shows—*Dead Like Me*, *The Good Life*, *After Life*, and *Hotel del Luna* among many others—are less traditionally religious but no less curious about what comes next. Every culture and generation seems to sense the need for spirit guides and guardians, as well as justice and an hour of reckoning. As the church year closes, contemplate the ledger of your years. Does it add up to a heavenly ending?

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46 (160). *"He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'"*

Monday, Nov 27, 2023**Conversion can be revolutionary**

British poet Alice Meynell, who died on this day in 1922, converted to Catholicism while recovering from chronic illness, and her writing thereafter turned to religious subjects. She married a Catholic newspaper publisher and founded a Catholic suffragist organization. When a British priest preached against giving women the right to vote because it would risk "bringing a revolution of the first magnitude," Meynell replied, "...the vaster the magnitude of the revolution, the better." One hundred years after her death, the struggle for equality continues. How do the teachings of Jesus inform your work for justice?

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4 (503). *"She, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."*

Tuesday, Nov 28, 2023**Little lamb, who made thee?**

Happy birthday to the English poet William Blake, born this day in 1757. Though not Catholic, he's inspired great Catholic poets and many of his poems—like "Jerusalem"—became hymns. Trappist monk Thomas Merton wrote his master's thesis on Blake, emphasizing his spiritual significance in *Seven Storey Mountain*: "His rebellion ... was fundamentally the rebellion of the saints. It was the rebellion of the lover of the living God, the rebellion of the one whose desire of God was so intense and irresistible that it condemned, with all its might, all the hypocrisy and petty sensuality and skepticism and materialism" of organized religion. Pray for all who search for God but find obstacles in religious institutions—and enjoy Blake's "The Lamb."

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11 (504). *"Jesus said, 'All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.'"*

Wednesday, Nov 29, 2023**Gracious encounters of the digital kind**

Did you buy anything on Cyber Monday? Did you make a charitable donation yesterday, on Giving Tuesday? Whether you did or not, this week's digital focus continues today, which is recognized as Electronic Greetings Day. Pope Francis' 2020

encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* considers how the internet is a powerful tool and how it's our job to use it in a way that makes the world better. "We need constantly to ensure that present-day forms of communication are in fact guiding us to generous encounter with others," he writes. Make time today to send an encouraging email or ecard to someone who needs to hear from you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19 (505). *"The writing I will read for you, O king, and tell you what it means."*

Thursday, Nov 30, 2023**Be a first responder**

Is there an Andy, Andre, or Andrea in your life? Whether they know it or not, they bear the name of the Apostle Andrew, one of the fishermen Jesus famously called to be "fishers of men." The Eastern church recognizes Andrew as the first to be called by Jesus. Tradition has it that Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross because he felt unworthy to die on a cross identical to Christ's. Andrew led the way in accepting Jesus' invitation to follow him. How will your life today respond to that invitation?

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Friday, Dec 01, 2023**Compassionate in the face of controversy**

St. Vincent Medical Center in Manhattan, now closed, was in the eye of the AIDS epidemic storm of the 1980s and 1990s. A Catholic hospital run by the Sisters of Charity, St. Vincent opened its doors to care for those who were sick and dying from AIDS. Some staff disagreed with this stance and left. But not the sisters. They stayed true to Jesus' command to care for the suffering, especially those cast aside by society. They entered into dialogue with the gay community, activists, and hospital administrators to better understand their patients and how best to serve them. May we remember their unwavering commitment and compassion—and do likewise.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33 (507). *"Know that the Kingdom of God is near."*

Saturday, Dec 02, 2023**Be a freedom fighter**

The term *modern slavery* covers practices such as forced labor, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking ... situations of exploitation enforced by violence, coercion, or deception. Here's the shocking news: Modern slavery has increased significantly in the past five years. Ten million more people, largely women and children, were trapped in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016, bringing the total estimate to 50 million worldwide. Our God is a God of freedom, who releases us from bondage of all kinds. On this U.N. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, raise your voice in a phone call, email, or letter to elected officials. Let's put an end to this!

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36 (508). *"Be vigilant at all times."*

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



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