

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](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.

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST Italian Catholic Church

Today, we begin the season of **ADVENT**. We have journeyed with the **Lord** throughout the year and come to the edge of eternity. Now, we pause and return to the beginning to walk the road once more to salvation in the company of **Jesus** and the **Apostles**. Each time we travel the life journey with the **Lord**, we have the opportunity to grow in our awareness of who **Jesus** is and what He has done for us.

May we pray that this time we gain new insights and new depth in our faith and our appreciation of all that the **Lord** is doing for us. May we also grow closer to the mystery of **God** made present in humanity and in the world which He has created.

**Many Blessings for the week!**  
Fr. Lane

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

## MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

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
Sunday 12/10	9:30 a.m.	+ Jim Graf by the Graf Family
Monday 12/11	9:00 a.m.	+ Joan Royer by the McCallum Family
Tuesday 12/12	9:00 a.m.	The Living & Deceased Members of the Gideon Family by Dr. Maria Regina Coccia
Wednesday 12/13	6:00 p.m.	+ Paul Seeger by the Altar Guild

### 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:** Joe Pingue "Good Health"  
by Chris Soteriades

**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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday, December 3, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Tania Wade, Davide Cugini
<b>Eucharistic Ministers 1 &amp; 2:</b>	AnnMarie Pastore, Ed Pagnanelli,
<b>Eucharistic Ministers 3, 4, 5:</b>	Margi Baker, Margaret Panico-Harn, Al Iosue
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sunday, December 10, 2023, 9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Nick D'Alberto, Antonio D'Alberto
<b>Eucharistic Ministers 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Gretchen Heininger, Al Iosue, Pat Rossetti,
<b>Eucharistic Ministers 3, 4, 5:</b>	Kurt Heininger, Sharon D'Alberto

### 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 **December** are:

**December 3** Gary Bosco  
**December 10** Maureen Iosue  
**December 17** Gary Bosco

**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 noon** at **St. John.**

**The La Befana Celebration** will be **January 8, 2024,** after **9:30 a.m.** Mass in **Marrapese Hall.** Please bring children, grandchildren and enjoy this beautiful Italian tradition. Sponsored by the **Le Donne.**

**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](mailto: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 am & 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	
12/3 Sunday	<b>SJB Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 9:30 a.m.</b> <b>SJB – Taylor Baptism – 1:30 p.m.</b> <b>KCC – Religious Education Class – Italian Classroom – 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.</b> <b>KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – Meeting in Sala Hall after Mass 12:00-3:00 p.m.</b>
12/4 Monday	<b>SJB – Mass Msgr. Lane – 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Italian Festival Board &amp; General Meeting – Marrapese Hall 6:30 p.m.</b>
12/5 Tuesday	<b>SJB – Mass Msgr. Lane – 9:00 a.m.</b>
12/6 Wednesday	<b>SJB – Mass – Msgr. Frank Lane – 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>SJB RCIA Class – 7:00-8:30 p.m.</b>
12/8 Friday	<b>SJB Mass – Msgr. Lane – Immaculate Conception – 12:00 noon</b> <b>KCC Mass – Fr. Francisco Kim – 6:00 p.m.</b> <b>Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.</b> <b>Le Donne Group – Meetings are the last Sunday of each month after Mass in Marrapese Hall. 10:45-11:15 a.m.</b> <b>There are no meetings in June or July.</b>

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN**  
November 26, 2023  
Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 27

Env:	\$ 1,749.00
Loose:	\$ 252.00
Holy Day:	\$ 60.00
Total	\$ 2,061.00
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$ (164.88)
	\$ 1,896.12
Votives	\$ 41.00
St. Anthony's Bread	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 120.00
50/50 Drawing	\$ 10.00
Total	\$ 181.00

**?? ?? 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	\$ 2,061.00	-\$ 939.04
FYTD:	\$ 66,000.88	\$ 66,140.65	\$ 139.77

**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 to donate. Thank you!



**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, December 4, 2023**

Nick Persichetti and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday December 11, 2023**

David Ross and Aggie Howard



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

**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.

**Volunteers needed** to help decorate St. John the Baptist Church for Christmas. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 23 in the church. Bring a step stool/step ladder if you have one.

**Christmas Flowers:** Christmas poinsettias are available again this year. Flowers may be requested in memory of a loved one and will be placed on the altar throughout the Christmas Season. An envelope for Christmas poinsettias is included in the December offertory envelopes. You may also put your donation and memorial request in a regular envelope and place it in the collection basket. There is a suggested donation of \$10.00 per poinsettia. The Christmas flowers add such beauty to St. John during this special time of year. Thank you.

**Bishop Watterson High School:** Choirs will hold their Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 12 at Sacred Heart Church at 7:00 p.m. All are invited.

**la prossima**  
societa'

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP**  
Keeping the culture alive through the next generation in shared clubs for young adults of Italian descent

@laprossimasocieta'

sign up here!

**This is a newly formed Italian Club for Young Adults.** La prosoma 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 at 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. There is 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!**

**The Artistry of Antipasto.****Creating a Charcuterie Board Italian Style!**

Discover the art of pairing cheeses, cured meats, condiments, bread, and wines, which complement your culinary creations. Join us as **Danny Faiella** unveils the secrets to crafting an authentic Italian charcuterie board that will captivate your guests this holiday season. **When: Wednesday, December 13** following the **6:00 p.m. Mass (6:30 p.m.)** **Where: Marrapese Hall** **Cost: \$10.00** per person – We will enjoy the masterpiece that's created. Don't miss this chance to elevate your entertaining skills to Italian perfection! **RSVP to Ida Shook at [shook4@gmail.com](mailto:shook4@gmail.com). Buon appetito!**

**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](http://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](http://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!

**December 12: Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe:**

**Mary**, who was "intimately united with the birth of the Church in America, became the radiant Star illuminating the proclamation of Christ the Savior to the sons of these nations." – John Paul II

## AROUND US

**You are invited to pray for the Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of December 2023: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.**

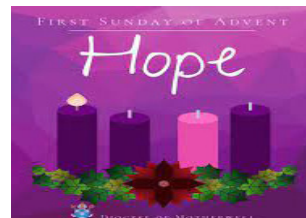
**Liturgical Calendar:** The first two days of **December** fall during the liturgical season known as **Ordinary Time** and is represented by the liturgical color green. The next **22** days fall during the liturgical season of **Advent** and are represented by the liturgical color purple. The remaining days of **December** mark the beginning of the **Christmas** season. The liturgical color changes to white or gold – a symbol of joy, purity, and innocence. The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

**Nominations now open for the 2024 Catholic Man of the Year:**

The **Catholic Men's Luncheon Club** is accepting nominations for the **Diocese of Columbus 2024 Catholic Man of the Year**. The annual award will be presented by **Bishop Earl Fernandes** on **Friday, February 2, 2024**, at the **Men's Luncheon** held at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown Columbus. The **Catholic Man of the Year** is awarded to one layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the "good and faithful servant." The recipient will have the opportunity to share his personal testimony during the ceremony. Nominations will be accepted through **Sunday, December 31, 2023**. For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to <https://www.catholicmensministry.com/catholicmanoftheyear>. Submit your nomination and let us know why your parishioner, husband, father, son, uncle, brother, or friend is the **Catholic Man of the Year!**

**Today's Gospel:** The **Gospel** is taken from **Mark 13:33-37**. "Watch!" is **Christ's** advice and command. We don't know the year, the day, or the hour when our master will call us. That year, day and hour will be unexpected, even if we are advanced in years or have been suffering from prolonged illness. We shall not be unprepared for it if we have tried all our lives to be faithful to **Christ** and to our **Christian** faith. This holy season of **Advent** is an opportune time for each one of us to investigate one's life and see how one stands with **God**. **Christmas** should remind us of the Second Coming of **Christ**, which will be very soon for all of us.

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



**Welcome to Advent:** For **Catholics**, the new **Liturgical Year** commences today with the **First Sunday of Advent**, opening the **Advent** season. In this new **Liturgical Year**, the **Church** not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment

to the faith by all those who follow **Christ** – this time of prayer and penance. The entire **Liturgy of the Advent** season spurs us to an awakening in our **Christian** life and will put us in a "vigilant" disposition, to wait for **Our Lord Jesus** who is coming. The **1st Sunday of Advent** symbolizes **Hope** with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that **Jesus** is coming.

**Prayer:** *Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet Your Christ with righteous deeds at His coming, so that, gathered at His right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. 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, Dec 03, 2023****A season of welcome**

The color violet reminds us that a new season has begun: a time to prepare to welcome Christ in our midst for all days and in all persons. Coincidentally this year, Advent starts on the World Day for Persons with Disabilities. How welcoming is our church to the people with physical and mental challenges? Not just improving accessibility with an entrance ramp or elevator but providing accommodations for those with hearing, visual, and intellectual impairments, including for liturgies and sacramental preparation? Take a look around your own parish. Is it true that "all are welcome"?

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37 (2). *"We are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands."*

**Monday, Dec 04, 2023****Iconic inspiration**

Think of how much sacred images of Jesus, Mary, angels, and the saints—in painting, stained glass, and sculpture—have filled your life and stimulated your spirit. You might have many sacred images throughout your home. Perhaps you can find them in different public places in your city. Our Catholic churches are certainly full of them. Think of how much they inspire and prompt you to momentary prayer, a fleeting lifting of your heart and mind to God as you pass by them, or to long stretches on your knees, deep in conversation. You can partly thank John Damascene, who defended holy images against iconoclasm, a movement in the eighth century that was opposed to the veneration of icons. Treasure the rich imagery of our tradition.

## MEMORIAL OF JOHN DAMASCENE, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). *"Many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven."*

**Tuesday, Dec 05, 2023****Be a light in the darkness**

As Advent days grow ever darker, Isaiah offers hope: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light" (Isa. 9:1). We Christians seek the Son's light, but we also take the Savior at his word when he describes us as the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:14). 'Tis the season, to celebrate those who shared their light, such as Rosa Parks, who co-led the Montgomery bus boycott beginning this day in 1955. Or Mary McLeod Bethune, who formed the National Council of Negro Women 20 years earlier. To quote Saint Isidore of Seville (who opened the Fourth Council of Toledo on this day in 633): "Just as we must love God in contemplation, so we must love our neighbor with action."

## ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth."*

**Wednesday, Dec 06, 2023****Peace on Earth requires living on the edge**

This year we celebrate the centennial of the birth of Phil Berrigan, the famed peace activist and one-time Josephite priest. His dedication to serve the African-American community quickly blossomed into an all-out crusade for justice, resulting in his many

arrests, sentences, and continuing activities to emphasize the Catholic opposition to bloodshed. He was hardly rewarded for his efforts in this life, and in this time of war in our day, we owe him a great debt. We can pay it by walking as he walked, in the path toward peace.

## ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). *"On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever."*

**Thursday, Dec 07, 2023****Unite to fight for good**

Today is Pearl Harbor Day, when the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor officially thrust the United States into World War II. Americans sacrificed in multiple ways to serve the war effort, from military service to rationing. What if we were to unite in the same way to fight poverty? An emphasis on charity and justice for the poor exists within all the Abrahamic traditions, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Who is fighting poverty in your community? Take a step today to unite with them.

## ADVENT WEEKDAY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven."*

**Friday, Dec 08, 2023****A day of grace**

Today is all about grace. It was God's grace that provided Mary with the privilege of being born without original sin; it was Mary's grace that said yes to God's plan; and it is our grace to honor Mary's witness and protection. As Pope John Paul II explains, "Grace means love and the gift of God himself, the completely free gift in which God entrusts to [us] his Mystery." In honor of this day, pray the mysteries of the Rosary.

## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.)

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."*

**Saturday, Dec 09, 2023****Mary mirrors her people**

Can you imagine what today's saint, Juan Diego, was going through when he encountered Our Lady of Guadalupe? First of all, she looked nothing like the pictures of the Blessed Virgin he was used to. She wasn't a blue-eyed, white European. She was brown-skinned with dark hair and dark eyes. She wasn't wearing a blue veil either. And she didn't even speak to him in Spanish, but in Nahuatl, the ancient language of his ancestral Aztec. Was she for real? When the image of the Virgin appeared on his cloak, he knew she was. Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe, who acts as a reflection for all the faithful.

## MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN, VISIONARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"*

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



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