



# Church of the Assumption

a Roman Catholic Parish

ERECTED A.D. MCMVII

## Second Sunday of Lent 5 March 2023

To all who are tired and need rest;  
to all who mourn and need comfort;  
to all who are friendless and need friendship;  
to all who are discouraged and need hope;  
to all who sin and need a Savior; and to whomsoever will,  
**THIS PARISH OPENS WIDE HER DOORS  
IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS!**

### **SACRAMENTS**

#### **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**

Saturday (anticipated): 5:30 PM  
Sunday: 8:00 AM; 10:30 AM; 12:00 PM  
Monday-Saturday: 8:00 AM  
**Holy Days of Obligation:** see inside

#### **Penance & Reconciliation:**

**Monday-Thursday; Saturday: 7:30-7:50 AM**  
**Saturday afternoon: 4:00-4:50 PM**

A Catholic is obliged to confess serious sins in kind and number to a priest. If one is conscious of having committed serious sin, Confession ought to be made before receiving the Eucharist.

**Baptism:** Please call to arrange for your child's baptism before or soon after birth. A Godparent must be a Catholic in good standing.

#### **Anointing of the Sick:**

Please call for a priest to celebrate this Sacrament of Healing and Forgiveness for someone who is seriously ill or in danger of death. Do not wait until the sick person is unconscious.

#### **Matrimony:**

All Catholics ought to seek to have their marriage blessed by the Church so as to live in God's good graces & receive the Eucharist. Marriage cannot validly exist between baptized persons unless it is also a sacrament (Canon 1055.2). Contact a priest a year prior to the intended date of marriage to ensure proper preparation.

**Confirmation:** Need to complete your Sacraments of Initiation? Call Mrs. Kachnowski at 908-245-6572. She will help you prepare for confirmation. If they can do so without serious inconvenience, Catholics ought to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation before being admitted to marriage (Canon 1065).

**RCIA: Desire baptism?** Called to be a Catholic Christian? Contact Deacon David at 908-245-6572 and he will help you discern God's call to holiness.

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Paul J Prevosto, pastor  
[Fr.Prevosto@proton.me](mailto:Fr.Prevosto@proton.me)  
Rev. James Spera, pastor emeritus  
Rev. Deacon David Farrell  
[assumptionschool113@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionschool113@gmail.com)  
Rev. James Platania, weekend assistant  
Rev. Solomon, Ngwumezie, weekend asst.  
Rev. David McLaughlin, in residence  
Mrs. Virginia Jediny, Office Manager  
[assumptionrp@yahoo.com](mailto:assumptionrp@yahoo.com)  
Mrs. Debbie Kachnowski, PCL  
[assumptionschool110@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionschool110@gmail.com)  
Mrs. Donna Schmatz, music director

### **TRUSTEES**

Mr. John Ballantyne, Trustee  
Mrs. Elizabeth Santora, Trustee

### **CONTACTS**

Telephone: 908-245-1107  
FAX: 908-245-2789  
Parish email: [assumptionrp@yahoo.com](mailto:assumptionrp@yahoo.com)  
Parish Website: [www.assumptionrp.com](http://www.assumptionrp.com)

### **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday:  
8:00 AM till 4:00 PM

### **ASSUMPTION SCHOOL OF RELIGION OFFICE**

908-245-6572  
Email: [assumptionschool110@gmail.com](mailto:assumptionschool110@gmail.com)

This QR Code will bring you to the **Breviary**, the Official Daily Prayer of the Church which priests and religious have vowed to pray. Laity are invited and encouraged to pray these prayers daily also.



Focus your camera on the QR Code to the left and you will have the readings for the day.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

5:30 PM ANTICIPATED MASS FOR SUNDAY  
**Corporate Mass:** Al Bonaira, Alex Martino,  
 Adela Martino, Larry Martino

**SUNDAY March 5 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

8:00 AM **People of the Parish**

10:30 AM **Virginia & Dominick Pepe**  
 (Love, the Family)

12:00 PM **Salvatore Nobile**  
 (from: Mr. & Mrs. Pluchino)

**MONDAY March 6**

8:00 AM **Domenica Grossi**  
 (Love, Teddy)

**TUESDAY March 7 *Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs***

8:00 AM **John & Anne Sokol**  
 (Love, Barbara)

**WEDNESDAY March 8 *John of God, religious***

8:00 AM **Millicent Infuso**  
 (from: Dave & Linda Farrell)

**THURSDAY March 9 *Frances of Rome, religious***

8:00 AM **Giuseppe Berardinelli**  
 (from: Maria DiFabio)

**FRIDAY March 10**

8:00 AM **Mary Soltis**  
 (from: Loren & Chris Harms)

**SATURDAY March 11**

8:00 AM **Evangelina Matarredona**  
 (from: Debbie & Joe Kachnowski)

5:30 PM ANTICIPATED MASS FOR SUNDAY  
**James & Eve Cumming**  
 (Love, Daughter Janet Eve Landis)

**SUNDAY March 12 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

8:00 AM **People of the Parish**

10:30 AM **Millicent Infuso**  
 (from: Brandon, Miguel & Kristen Gamba)

12:00 PM **Ann Marie Bonnasissa**  
 (Loving Family)



“It is most laudable in a married woman to be devout, but she must never forget that she is a housewife. And sometimes she must leave God at the altar to find Him in her housekeeping.” - St. Frances of Rome



**Prayer List: To have someone placed on or removed from the sick list please call the Rectory.** We invite you to clip out this section each Sunday. Perhaps you could put it near a prayer book, in your Bible, or in your pocket or purse. It is a good thing when we pray with and for one another. Thank you and God bless you!

**Our Parish Community prays for the sick:**

Chris Lettieri, Patrick Ahern Jr., Altigracia Alvarez, Kathy Barz, Fred Boyne, Brendan, Joe Caponegro, Ken Castenon, Rev. Msgr. Peter Cheplic, Christine Conrad, Kay Downey, Ronald Fellner, Charles Frank, Nicholas Fusco, John Garofalo, Lynn Gehrmann, Fran Getchies, Harold Gibson, Bonnie Greer, Cynthia and Thomas Ingman, A.M.J., Elizabeth Knych, Cyndee Kurri, Michael Lacey, Nancy Lanfrank, Stella LoPiccolo, Christine Marino, Janet Marino, Christine Mattingly, Chantell McDonald, Eleanor Morehouse, Tanina Naccarato, Carol Fellner Nasta, Monica Quigley O'Brien, Margie Ortizio, Lily Rita Procopio, Rudy Salazar, Roseann Santanna, Ann Sisalli, Antonio Spano, Gabrielle Spano, Debra Szajko, Lynn Tumblety, Tony & Laura Wargacki

Please pray for our Faithful departed & their loved ones

Angelo Capone, Rose Ann Santanna

**Prayer for Our Troops**

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.



**Adoration & St. Anthony Novena Tuesdays 7:30 PM Church**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38  
**Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12  
**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16; Mt 20:17-28  
**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6; Lk 16:19-31  
**Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46  
**Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  
**Sunday:** Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 or Jn 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

For readings go to: [www.usccb.org/bible/readings/](http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/)



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Time: 7:00 p.m.  
 Every Friday during Lent

**MEETINGS**

Finance Council	May 01	7:00	UPH
Pastoral Council	Mar 13	7:00	UPH
St. Vincent de Paul	Mar 14	8:00	Chapel
Rosary Society	Mar 06	7:00	LPH
Knights of Columbus	Mar 22	8:00	Loreti Hall

**F**rom the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate, and were very much afraid. (Mt 17:5)



In the cloud that overshadowed the apostles, they heard the voice and fell to the ground because they knew it was God's. My thought is this: how many of us would hit the ground on hearing God's voice? Well, that would depend on our relationship with the Almighty. If we have a better relationship with our handheld devices than with our prayer books, if we know our politics better than we know our fellow parishioners, if we know how to make megabucks more than we know the poor, then I would say we would not recognize God's voice or at least be slow in realizing who is speaking to us before we fall to the ground.

A Christian's life has to be centered on our relationship with Christ. Sacraments are a great way to start for they sanctify us. In the Sacraments we encounter Jesus Christ. In baptism we are cleansed of sin and become a member of God's family. In confirmation we grow more deeply in love in receiving the fullness of Holy Spirit. At Eucharist, we are united with Christ in a very intimate union, receiving his Body & Blood. When we fall to sin and break away from God, we have sacramental confession where Christ absolves our sin, rejoining us in a holy union with him. Marriage is such a beautiful image of Christ's love for his bride the Church, that a Catholic couple represents to us that beautiful intimacy our souls ought to have with Christ.

We also increase our relationship with God through our prayer life and good works (alms giving and fasting). In fasting and other forms of mortification and self-denial, we recognize the spiritual part of our being. That part of us created in God's image and likeness. In giving to others, we come to see God in the poor, the suffering, and in those who seek God with a sincere heart.

Prayer is the time we take to place ourselves in God's presence and listen to Him speak to our hearts. Do we not as Catholics kneel down or make ourselves still in prayer? All the more, spiritual reading counters the bombardment of secularism with which we are force fed daily in a world that has forgotten her Creator. Prayer is quality time with the One who knows best those He has made.

So the next time we hear the voice of God, we will be able to recognize Him and fall to our knees because we have loved others, prayed with a loving heart, and received the graces of our Creator through the Sacraments he has given to his Church for our own sanctification.

Pax Christi, Fr. Paul

## WANTED: COMMUNION MINISTERS & READERS

**Readers for Mass:** please consider this ministry. As a reader you proclaim the word of God during the celebration of Holy Mass.

**Communion Ministers:** please consider the awesome ministry of assisting Father in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and perhaps to the home bound.

**Please call** Father at 908-245-1107 and let him know you would like to be considered for either of these ministries.

### The Lazarus Ministry

Those who share their faith with the bereaved help them in a time of great stress. Planning the Funeral (Mass of Christian Burial) is important to the Catholic faithful. The Lazarus ministry helps in selecting music and readings, but most of all it helps the family in their time of need. As Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Be Christ's presence in this time of grief. **Call Marge Denci at 908-272-6455** to find out more & volunteer.

**Save the Children from "adult" websites.  
Protect your chastity, now!**

Go to [Freefiltering.org](http://Freefiltering.org) and learn how to block those unwanted sites from your eyes. Protect your virtue, guard your children's innocence.

It really works, by blocking sites in your Wi-Fi server. Act now before your children see one more pornographic site or one more "social media" site promoting LGBTQ+ propaganda.

## Sanctity of Life

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD

The Church can also be a place to heal. We are called to "be merciful like the Father." So many are suffering from the effects of abortion. Where can they heal? Where can they feel safe and loved?

The Archdiocese of Newark Respect Life Office will be hosting four upcoming Rachel's Vineyard retreats in 2022 to heal the wounds from abortion. Retreat dates are:

March 24-26  
September 22-24

Contact the Respect Life Office for more details by calling 973-497-4350, or e-mail:

[Cheryl.riley@rcan.org](mailto:Cheryl.riley@rcan.org)

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)



## COME, PRAY WITH US

**St. Anthony Novena** - Tuesday Evenings at 7:30 PM

**Holy Rosary** - First Sundays at 10:00 AM in the church

**Perpetual Novena of St. Jude** - after the Saturday 8 AM Mass

## Lenten Confessions: Saturday, March 18 12:30—5:00 PM

**Special Donations**—call the office to make donations for Hosts & Wine for Mass, Candles, Sanctuary Light or Tabernacle flowers. Special Donation envelopes are at the doors of the church.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF JENNIE BAVARO** (Happy Birthday Mom)  
From Carmela Lefano & Family  
Donation of Bread & Wine for Mass

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANNA CICALESE**  
(Happy Birthday Mom in Heaven)  
From Joe & Theresa Cicalese  
Donation of Bread for Mass

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF GAETANO MOLINARI** (Happy Birthday)  
From Helen and Maria  
Donations of Candles

**IN THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS ON US**  
From Joe & Theresa Cicalese  
Donation of Bread for Mass

### Lent & Easter Food Donations are needed!

If you are able to donate, we are in need of the following items:

- ◆ Cereal
- ◆ Rice
- ◆ Tuna Fish
- ◆ Spaghetti & Macaroni
- ◆ Pasta Sauce
- ◆ Soup
- ◆ Canned Potatoes (sweet and white)
- ◆ Canned Corn, String Beans, and Peas
- ◆ Macaroni & Cheese
- ◆ Baked Beans
- ◆ Corn Muffin Mix
- ◆ Canned Fruit - Pineapple
- ◆ Cake Mix & Icing

Hams are needed for Easter!! Easter Bags will be distributed on Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 from 9:00-10:00 am

Please make sure the food is not outdated. You may drop off your donations in the back of the church on the weekend and at the Annex on Thursday from 6:30-7:00 pm.

Monetary donations should be made out to the Church of the Assumption and please note on the check "Food Pantry".

Any questions regarding the food pantry, please contact Annette Venturo at 908-298-1262 or email [annmar@verizon.net](mailto:annmar@verizon.net)

## Lent

Lord, Holy Father,  
show us what kind of man it is  
who is hanging for  
our sakes on the cross,  
whose suffering causes the rocks themselves  
to crack and crumble with compassion,  
whose death brings the dead back to life.

Let my heart crack and crumble  
at the sight of him.

Let my soul break apart  
with compassion for his suffering.

Let it be shattered with grief  
at my sins for which he dies.  
and finally let it be softened  
with devoted love for him. Amen.

-St. Bonaventure

### LENT, TRIDUUM & EASTER SCHEDULE A.D. 2023

**Stations of the Cross:** Fridays of Lent at 7:00 PM

#### Confessions:

**March 18 from 12:30 till 5:00** Guest confessors available  
**Monday-Thursday; Saturday at 7:30 AM**  
**Saturdays at 4:00 PM**

#### **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Masses: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, \*12:30 PM\*

#### HOLY WEEK

Monday -Wednesday, April 3-5, 2023

Masses: 8:00 AM

**The Chrism Mass at  
the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart**  
Monday, April 3, 2023 at 8:00 PM

#### **Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023**

Lauds (Morning Prayer): 8:00 AM

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 8:00 PM**

Church will remain open for Adoration until Midnight

#### **Good Friday, April 7, 2023**

Lauds (Morning Prayer): 8:00 AM

**THE PASSION OF THE LORD: 3:00 PM**

Church open until 8:00 PM

Stations of the Cross: 7:00 PM

#### **Holy Saturday, April 8, 2023**

Lauds (Morning Prayer): 8:00 AM

Church open until 1:00 PM

Blessing of Paschal Foods: 12 noon

#### **EASTER VIGIL MASS OF THE RESURRECTION**

Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 8:00 PM

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection, April 9, 2023**

Masses: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 noon

#### **The Extended Vigil Mass of Pentecost**

Saturday, May 27, 2023 at 5:30 PM

**Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023**

Masses: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 noon



**Feb. 22 through Apr. 2, 2023**

7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

396 Bloomfield Ave. Montclair, NJ 07042

in the public thoroughfare across the street from a high-volume abortion facility (Pilgrim Medical Center)

To sign-up on-line: [40DaysforLife.com/Montclair](http://40DaysforLife.com/Montclair)  
or contact Lisa Hart at:

[LisaHartPT@yahoo.com](mailto:LisaHartPT@yahoo.com) or by cell: 973-769-4422



## STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Collection (Feb 26): \$5309.00  
Ash Wednesday: \$1568.00

## **Posting an Announcement in the Bulletin**

If you would like to put a notice in the bulletin, please forward it to [Fr.Prevosto@proton.me](mailto:Fr.Prevosto@proton.me) within 8-10 days before the Sunday in which you want it to appear. If there is a holiday, then 14 days ahead, please.

We give special thanks to **Carol Ballantyne** and **Barbara Sokol** for their many years of publishing the bulletin. Ad multos annos.

## **Charitable Gift Annuities**

Making a significant gift to your parish can increase your bottom line! By making a gift for a charitable gift annuity, you receive an income tax deduction and annuity payments for life. Plus, part of each payment is tax-free. Learn more about this wonderful opportunity by contacting Theresa Lynch, Planned Giving Manager, Archdiocese of Newark at (973) 497-4042 or by email at [Theresa.lynch@rcan.org](mailto:Theresa.lynch@rcan.org).

## **St. Patrick's Day Dinner-to-Go**

Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots and Irish soda bread.

**\$25 for 2 dinners, \$50 for 4.**

All proceeds will go to the Church Improvement Fund. Please contact Virginia at 908-245-1107 or Bryan at 908-247-8370 to place orders by March 6th.

**Pickups: from 4 - 6:30 PM  
on Saturday, March 11th**

## **PLEASE REGISTER AS A PARISHIONER**

Advantages of Registration

1. Eligibility to be a godparent. Properly married in the church, at least 16, received Confirmation and practicing the faith dutifully without impediment.
2. The parishioner rates for weddings and Catholic schools
3. Proof of residency for immigrants and a positive recommendation from the pastor that you contribute to the parish and society.
4. Receiving envelopes shows that you contribute to the welfare of the parish.



**Annual Appeal** the 2023

**Make your gift today.**

**When you make your pledge you may designate it for a special program.**

**Remember to select  
Assumption Parish (024),  
Roselle Park.**

**Go to [rcan.org/sharing](http://rcan.org/sharing)**

The 2023 Annual Appeal is underway! We have **\$9910.00** already pledged. This is approximately 26% of our goal of \$37,598. Stretch goal is \$41,101.00

The outpouring of support from many parishioners like you helps sustain the important ministries across the Archdiocese of Newark. These programs help to make our own parish a more vibrant place of worship.

If you have yet to give, please pick up a pledge envelope at the back of the church or visit [www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing).

Thank you for your prayers and support.

**Novena to St. Joseph (March 11-19)**

Solemnity of St. Joseph – March 20

**Angelus in honor of Saint Joseph**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

O, blessed and just Joseph,  
show yourself a father to us also,  
and guide us on the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from all evil.

Together with the Virgin Mary, your bride,  
guide us, educate us and intercede for us,  
so that we can be joyful instruments of peace and salvation.

Ký-ri- e, e-lé- i- son.

Chris- te, e-lé- i- son

Ký-ri- e, e-lé- i- son

**Ký-ri- e, e-lé- i-son.**

**Chris- te, e-lé- i-son.**

**Ký-ri- e, e-lé- i-son**

God, the Father of Heaven,  
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
Holy Trinity, One God,

**have mercy on us.**

**have mercy on us.**

**have mercy on us.**

**have mercy on us.**

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Saint Joseph,  
Descendant of David,  
Light of the Patriarchs,  
Spouse of the Mother of God,  
Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,  
Foster-father of the Son of God,  
Diligent protector of Christ,  
Servant of Christ,  
Head of the Holy Family,  
Joseph most just,  
Joseph most chaste,  
Joseph most prudent,  
Joseph most strong,  
Joseph most obedient,  
Joseph most faithful,  
Mirror of patience,  
Lover of poverty,  
Model of workers,  
Glory of home life,  
Guardian of virgins,  
Pillar of families,  
Solace of the wretched,  
Hope of the sick,  
Patron of the dying,  
Patron of the afflicted,  
Patron of the poor,  
Terror of demons,  
Protector of Holy Church,

**pray for us.**

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,

**R. Spare us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,

**R. Graciously hear us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,

**R. Have mercy on us.**

V. He made him the lord of His house:

**R. And ruler of all His substance.**

Let us pray.

O God, who in Your unspeakable providence did vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Your own most holy Mother: grant, we beseech You, that we may deserve to have him for our intercessor in heaven, whom we reverence as our defender on earth: who lives and reigns, world without end.

**Amen.**

**The Angelus of St. Joseph**

V. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

**R. So that He would not divorce Mary.**

Hail Joseph, rich in grace, the Lord is with you.

Blessed are you among men, and blessed is the fruit of Mary's womb, Jesus.

**Holy Joseph, foster-father of the Son of God,  
pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our  
death. Amen.**

V. Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.

**R. For what is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Joseph...

V. She is to give birth to a son, and you must name him Jesus.

**R. For he will save his people from their sins.**

Hail Joseph...

V. Pray for us, O glorious patriarch, saint Joseph,

**R. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray.

Aided by the patronage of your Most Holy Family,  
we beg you, O Lord, for your mercy:  
make our hearts despise all earthly things,  
and love you, the true God, with perfect charity.  
Who live and reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. (3x)**

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord.

**And let perpetual light shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

The Lord is with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Through the intercession of the blessed Joseph,

May Almighty God bless you,

The Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Concluding Antiphon or Hymn**

Ecce fídelis servus et prudens, quem constituit  
Dóminus super fámiliam suam. (T.P. Alleluía)

Behold the faithful and prudent servant  
whom the Lord has appointed over his family. (T.P. Alleluia)



# St. John of God

Feast: March 8

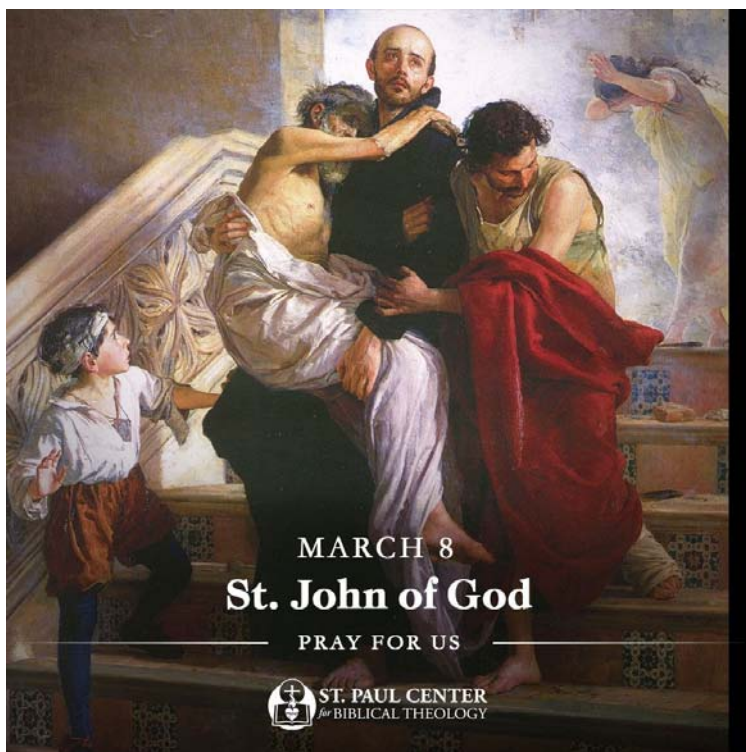
Born at Montemoro Novo, Portugal, 8 March, 1495, of devout Christian parents; died at Granada, 8 March, 1550. The wonders attending the saint's birth heralded a life many-sided in its interests, but dominated throughout by implicit fidelity to the grace of God. A Spanish priest whom he followed to Oropeza, Spain, in his ninth year left him in charge of the chief shepherd of the place, to whom he gradually endeared himself through his punctuality and fidelity to duty, as well as his earnest piety. When he had reached manhood, to escape his master's well-meant, but persistent, offer of his daughter's hand in marriage, John took service for a time in the army of Charles V, and on the renewal of the proposal he enlisted in a regiment on its way to Austria to do battle with the Turks. Succeeding years found him first at his birthplace, saddened by the news of his mother's premature death, which had followed close upon his mysterious disappearance; then a shepherd at Seville and still later at Gibraltar, on the way to Africa, to ransom with his liberty Christians held captive by the Moors. He accompanied to Africa a Portuguese family just expelled from the country, to whom charity impelled him to offer his services. On the advice of his confessor he soon returned to Gibraltar, where, brief as had been the time since the invention of the printing-press, he inaugurated the Apostolate of the printed page, by making the circuit of the towns and villages about Gibraltar, selling religious books and pictures, with practically no margin of profit, in order to place them within the reach of all.

It was during this period of his life that he is said to have been granted the vision of the Infant Jesus, Who bestowed on him the name by which he was later known, John of God, also bidding him to go to Granada. There he was so deeply impressed by the preaching of Blessed John of Avila that he distributed his worldly goods and went through the streets of the city, beating his breast and calling on God for mercy. For some time his sanity was doubted by the people and he was dealt with as a madman, until the zealous preacher obliged him to desist from his lamentations and take some other method of atoning for his past life. He then made a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadeloupe, where the nature of his vocation was revealed to him by the Blessed Virgin. Returning to Granada, he gave himself up to the service of the sick and poor, renting a house in which to care for them and after furnishing it with what was necessary, he searched the city for those afflicted with all manner of disease, bearing on his shoulders any who were unable to walk.

For some time he was alone in his charitable work soliciting by night the needful supplies, and by day attending scrupulously to the needs of his patients and the rare of the hospital; but he soon received the co-operation of charitable priests and physicians. Many beautiful stories are related of the heavenly guests who visited him during the early days of herculean tasks, which were lightened at times by St. Raphael in person. To put a stop to the saint's habit of exchanging his cloak with any beggar he chanced to meet, Don Sebastian Ramirez, Bishop of Tuy, had made for him a habit, which was later adopted in all its essentials as the religious garb of his followers, and he imposed on him for all time the name given him by the Infant Jesus, John of God. The saint's first two companions, Antonio Martin and Pedro Velasco, once bitter enemies who had scandalized all Granada with their quarrels and dissipations, were converted through his prayers and formed the nucleus of a flourishing congregation. The former advanced so far on the way of perfection that the saint on his death-bed commended him to his followers as his successor in the government of the order. The latter, Peter the Sinner, as he called himself, became a model of humility and charity.

Among the many miracles which are related of the saint the most famous is the one commemorated in the Office of his feast, his rescue of all the inmates during a fire in the Grand Hospital at Granada, he himself passing through the flames unscathed. His boundless charity extended to widows and orphans, those out of employment, poor students, and fallen women. After thirteen years of severe mortification, unceasing prayer, and devotion to his patients, he died amid the lamentations of all the inhabitants of Granada. His last illness had resulted from an heroic but futile effort to save a young man from drowning. The magistrates and nobility of the city crowded about his death-bed to express their gratitude for his services to the poor, and he was buried with the pomp usually reserved for princes. He was beatified by Urban VIII, 21 September, 1638, and canonized by Alexander VIII, 16 October, 1690. Pope Leo XIII made St. John of God patron of hospitals and the dying.

Rudge, F.M. "St. John of God." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 8. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1910. 25 Feb. 2023 <<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08472c.htm>>.



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