



Prayers for week ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 23RD OCTOBER

Monday 23rd October St John of Capistrano

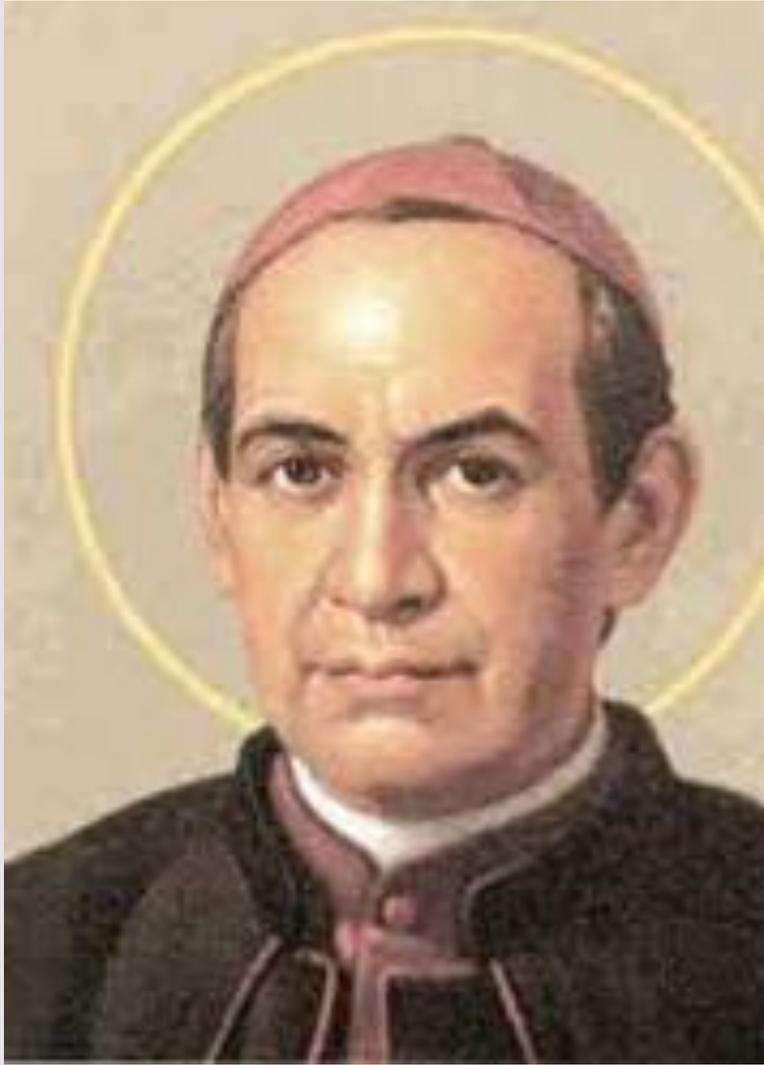


John was born in Capistrano, Italy, in 1385, and studied law. After practicing as a lawyer in the courts of Naples, he was appointed the governor of Perugia. During a war with a neighbouring city, he was imprisoned. During his imprisonment, John began to study theology, and when he was released in 1416, he forswore his secular profession and entered a Franciscan community at Perugia.

When John was well into old age, at the age of seventy, the Holy Roman Empire was facing the daunting military power of the Ottoman Empire. Both Rome and Vienna were under threat of siege. Thus, John was commissioned by Pope Callixtus III to incite in his enthralled audiences' interest in a crusade to oppose the invasion. Extending his leadership beyond simply the pastoral sphere, John also served as a leader in the defense of Belgrade and marched at the head of 70,000 soldiers who won a decisive victory in Belgrade in 1456. John died only three months later.

St. John of Capistrano is the patron saint of military chaplains and of those who work as judges and in various legal professions. Some of his relics rest in the reliquary chapel in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Hail Mary...



Tuesday 24th October St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

- St. Anthony Mary Claret was a spiritual man at a young age. He was devoted to the Church, and received a call to the religious life. He was ordained and founded the Congregation of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, better known as the Claretians. He had a profound compassion for the poor, and continued to assist the poor throughout his entire life. He at one point, was appointed the Archbishop of Cuba, and then returned to Spain. His heart was found incorrupt. Many pilgrims visit his grave, and he is one of the few saints known to have been given the privilege of literally carrying the Blessed Sacrament in his heart. His life shows us that one man can make a difference; by using the talents that God gives us.
- Hail Mary...



*Wednesday 25th
October
Sts Crispin and
Crispian*

Sts. Crispin and Crispinian were brothers. Together, they evangelized Gaul in the middle of the third century. Working from Soissons, they preached the streets by day and made shoes by night. Their charity, piety, and contempt of material things impressed the locals and many were converted to Christianity.

The brothers refused to yield to the persecutors of the Faith who wanted Crispin and Crispinian to apostatize. They were both beheaded in Rome ca. 286 A.D. They are the patrons of cobblers, glove makers, lace makers, lace workers, leather workers, saddle makers, saddlers, shoemakers, tanners, and weavers.

A great church was built at Soissons in the 6th century in their honour.

Hail Mary...

Thursday 26th October

Our Lady of Victories



Pope St. Pius V (the Pope who codified the Tridentine rite of the Mass) established the Feast of Our Lady of Victory in 1571 in thanksgiving after the defeat of Muslim forces during the naval battle off Lepanto, Italy. Two years later, Gregory XIII changed the name of the feast to Our Lady of the Rosary, and set the date for its celebration as the first Sunday in October. Pope Clement XI extended the feast to the Universal Church in 1716, and later the date for the feast was set as October 7.

However, there is also a celebration for the Feast of Our Lady of Victories. In 1620, King Louis XIII of France made a vow that if his troops were successful in ousting the Protestants (Huguenots) from their fortress in La Rochelle, he would build a church in honour of the Blessed Virgin. After the victory in 1628, a site for the church was chosen on the property of the Discalced Hermits of St. Augustine in Paris.

Louis laid the first stone himself, one that was inscribed with a dedication to Our Lady of Victories, on September 9, 1629. (The church building was completed only in 1740.) In 1630, a poor labourer entered the Augustinian Order and took the name Brother Fiacre. He took up residence at the shrine and lived there until his death in 1684. Brother Fiacre was renowned as a mystic. He had a vision of the Virgin in 1637, when Mary asked him to tell the king that the latter would soon be blessed with a son who would inherit the throne. Louis XIV was born on February 10, 1638, and, in thanksgiving, his father consecrated France and the royal family to the Blessed Virgin. Blessed John Henry Newman went there to give thanks for his conversion, which had been the subject of prayer there. Later, the young St. Thérèse of Lisieux prayed before the statue of Our Lady of Victories for Mary's help in following her vocation.

Hail Mary...

Friday 27th October

St Emilina of Boulancourt

Emilina joined the Cistercian Abbey of Boulancourt at Longeville, France when she was still very young. She was noted for her deep prayer life, fasts, and austere, sometimes severe self-imposed penances such as wearing a pointed chain under her habit, walking barefooted throughout the year and fasting from food and liquids three days a week. Word of her devotion soon spread, and pilgrims came to consult her about holiness and prayer. She had the gift of prophesy, and sometimes prophesied about visitors before they arrived. She never sought honour or glory for herself from her gifts, but dealt with visitors humbly and patiently, always concerned with their conversion and relationship with God.

Hail Mary...

