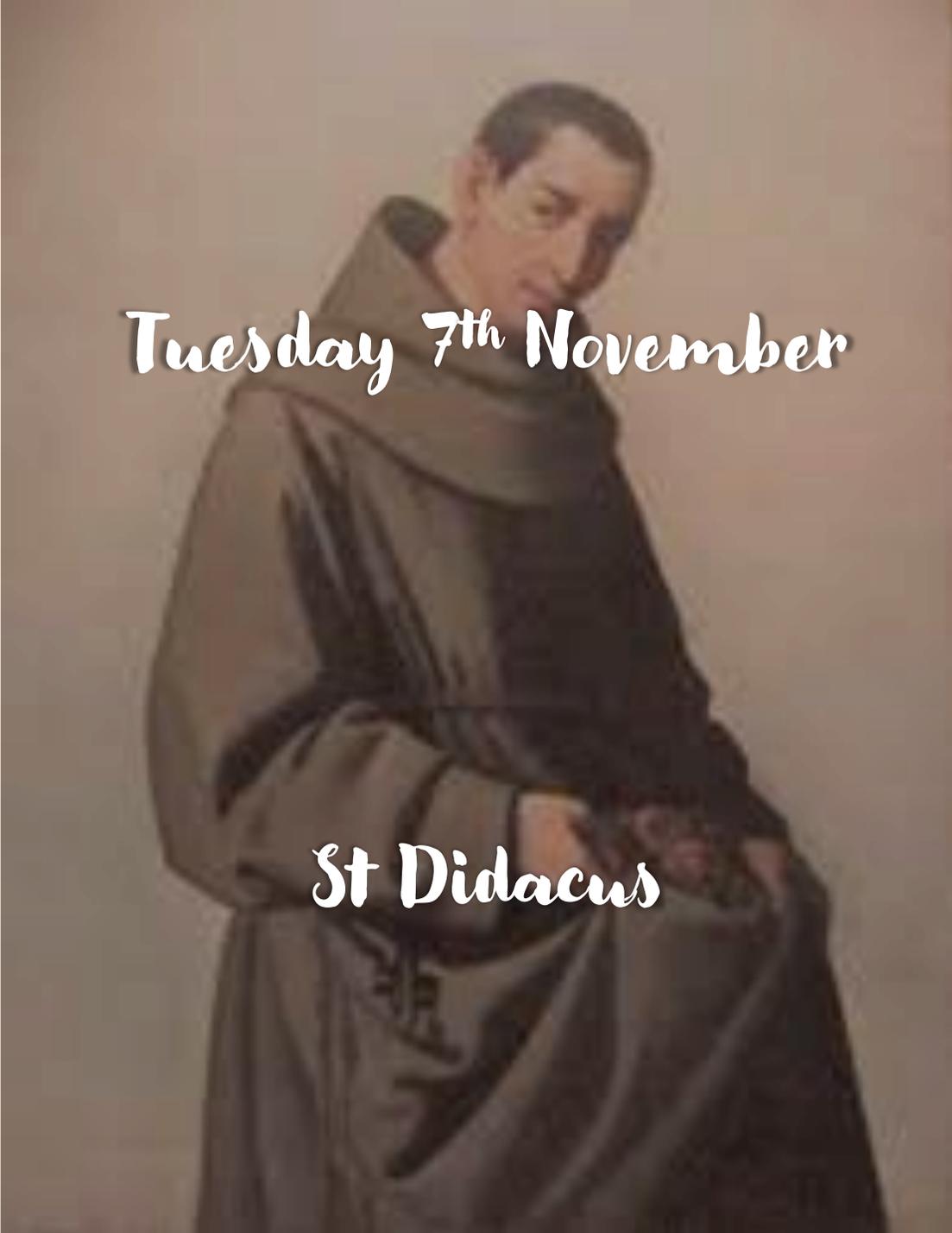




Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 6TH NOVEMBER



Tuesday 7th November

St Didacus

Didacus is living proof that God “chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.” As a young man in Spain, Didacus joined the Secular Franciscan Order and lived for some time as a hermit. After Didacus became a Franciscan brother, he developed a reputation for great insight into God’s ways. His penances were heroic. He was so generous with the poor that the friars sometimes grew uneasy about his charity.

Didacus volunteered for the missions in the Canary Islands and laboured there energetically and profitably. He was also the superior of a friary there. In 1450, he was sent to Rome to attend the canonization of Saint Bernardine of Siena. When many of the friars gathered for that celebration fell ill, Didacus stayed in Rome for three months to nurse them. After he returned to Spain, he pursued a life of contemplation full-time. He showed the friars the wisdom of God’s ways.

As he was dying, Didacus looked at a crucifix and said: “O faithful wood, O precious nails! You have borne an exceedingly sweet burden, for you have been judged worthy to bear the Lord and King of heaven” (Marion A. Habig, OFM, *The Franciscan Book of Saints*, p. 834). San Diego, California, is named for this Franciscan, who was canonized in 1588.

Almighty and eternal God, in whose marvelous ordering of things the weak of this world are singled out to shame the strong, grant, we pray, that by imitating the humility of St. Didacus [Diego] here on earth, we may be raised up to eternal glory with him in heaven. Amen



Monday 6th November

St Leonard

According to unreliable sources, Leonard was a Frank courtier who was converted by St. Remigius, refused the offer of a See from his godfather, King Clovis I, and became a monk at Micy. He lived as a hermit at Limoges and was rewarded by the king with all the land he could ride around on a donkey in a day for his prayers, which were believed to have brought the Queen through a difficult delivery safely. He founded Noblac monastery on the land so granted him, and it grew into the town of Saint-Leonard. He remained there evangelizing the surrounding area until his death. He is invoked by women in labour and by prisoners of war because of the legend that Clovis promised to release every captive Leonard visited.

Living God, you have given us St. Leonard as an example of one who extended himself to relieve the difficulties of others; help us to know in our hearts the love you have for us all so we may reach out in genuine empathy to those in our community who feel lonely, isolated, or overwhelmed by grief or loss. Amen

Wednesday 8th November



John Duns OFM (c. 1265/66–1308), commonly called Duns Scotus, was a Scottish Catholic priest and Franciscan friar, university professor, philosopher, and theologian. He is one of the four most important philosopher-theologians of Western Europe in the High Middle Ages, together with Thomas Aquinas, Bonaventure, and William of Ockham. Scotus has had considerable influence on both Catholic and secular thought. As well as great philosophical thinking, Scotus also developed a complex argument for the existence of God, and argued for the Immaculate Conception of Mary.

Prayer to St. John Duns Scotus

*Blessed John Duns Scotus,
you strove to understand, explain, and defend
the truths of the holy Christian Faith in the light
of human reason.*

*For all truths, natural and supernatural,
are from one and the same Source:
the eternal God who is truth and light and love.*

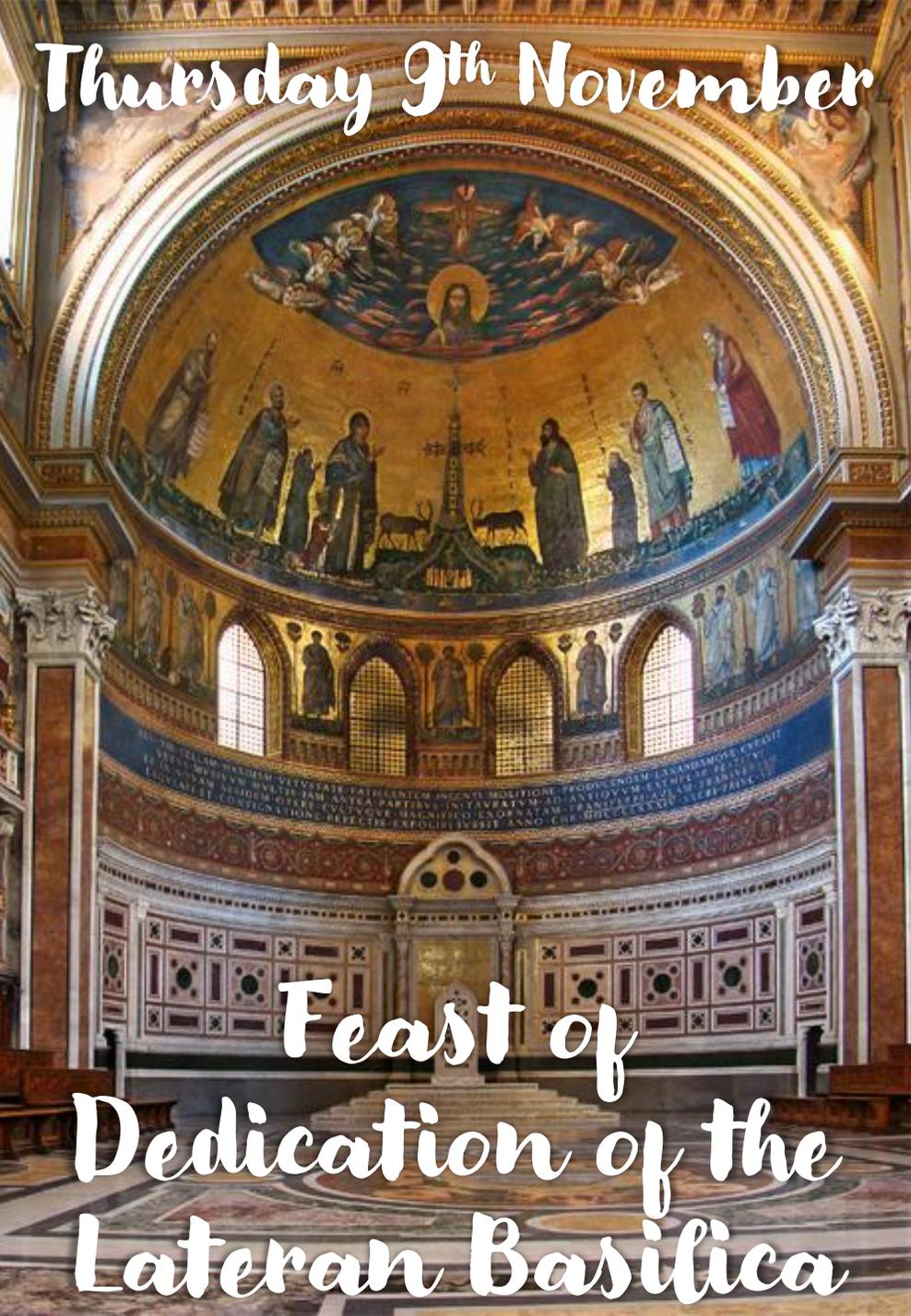
*And so you proposed and expounded the perfect
purity and holiness of the Blessed Virgin Mary
in the first moment of her Immaculate Conception.*

*By her intercession and yours,
may the Most Holy Trinity
grant the conversion of sinners
and the favour of:*

[add your request]

Amen.

The Feast of
Blessed John
Duns Scotus



Thursday 9th November

Feast of
Dedication of the
Lateran Basilica

The Cathedral of the Most Holy Saviour and of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran is the cathedral church of the Diocese of Rome in the city of Rome, and serves as the seat of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope. The anniversary of the dedication of this church has been observed as a feast in Roman Catholicism only since the 12th century, a time of increasing centralisation of papal authority in the history of the Church. In view of its role as the mother church of the world, this liturgical day is ranked worldwide as a feast.

Prayer for the Holy Father

Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to Your shepherd, the Pope, a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care may he, as successor to the apostle Peter and vicar of Christ, build Your church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Friday 10th November



The Feast of
St. Leo the Great

Pope Leo I (c. 400–461), also known as Leo the Great, was bishop of Rome from 29th September 440 until his death. Pope Benedict XVI said that Leo's papacy "was undoubtedly one of the most important in the Church's history."

He was a Roman aristocrat, and was the first pope to have been called "the Great". He is perhaps best known for having met Attila the Hun in 452 and persuaded him to turn back from his invasion of Italy. He is also a Doctor of the Church, most remembered theologically for issuing the Tome of Leo, a document which was a major foundation to the debates of the Council of Chalcedon, the fourth ecumenical council. That meeting dealt primarily with Christology and elucidated the orthodox definition of Christ's being as the hypostatic union of two natures, divine and human, united in one person, "with neither confusion nor division".

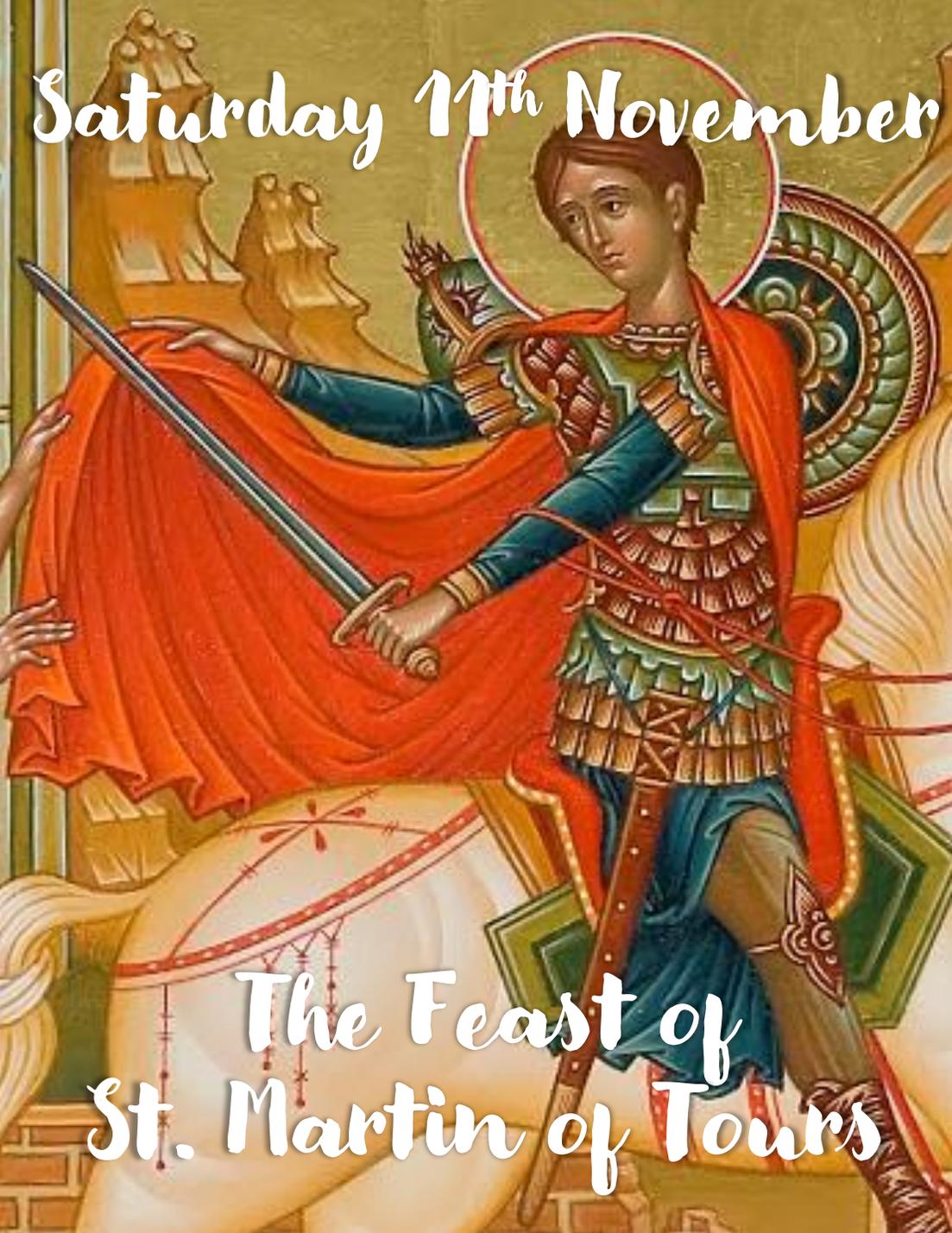
A Prayer to St. Leo the Great

Pope St. Leo the Great, we know little for certain about your early life, but we know that you answered God's call to serve His Church. Please bring my petitions before God whose call you answered!

You served the Church faithfully as a deacon, and you became known for your virtues. Then, you answered God's call to lead His Church as the Pope.

Pray for me, that I may always be open to doing God's will in my life, no matter what He might call me to. Pray that I may be as devoted a servant of God as you were.

Pope St. Leo the Great, pray for us!



Saturday 11th November

The Feast of
St. Martin of Tours

St. Martin of Tours (316–397) was the third bishop of Tours. He has become one of the most familiar and recognisable Christian saints in France, heralded as the patron saint of the Third Republic, and is patron saint of many communities and organisations across Europe. A native of Pannonia (in modern central Europe), he converted to Christianity at a young age. While Martin was a soldier in the Roman army and stationed in Gaul (modern-day France), he experienced a vision, which became the most-repeated story about his life. One day as he was approaching the gates of the city of Amiens, he met a scantily clad beggar. He impulsively cut his military cloak in half to share with the man. That night, Martin dreamed of Jesus wearing the half-cloak he had given away. He heard Jesus say to the angels: "Martin, who is still but a catechumen, clothed me with this robe." When Martin woke, he found his cloak restored to wholeness. The dream confirmed Martin in his piety, and he was baptised at the age of 18.

Prayer in Honour of St. Martin of Tours

Lord God, source of all that is good, we praise your holy name on this day in which we celebrate the memory of your faithful servant, Martin of Tours. By the example of his life, renew in us the desire to follow daily in the footsteps of Christ, your Son. Bless this nourishment, which we receive from your bounty. May it strengthen us for your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.