



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 29TH JANUARY

Tuesday 30th January



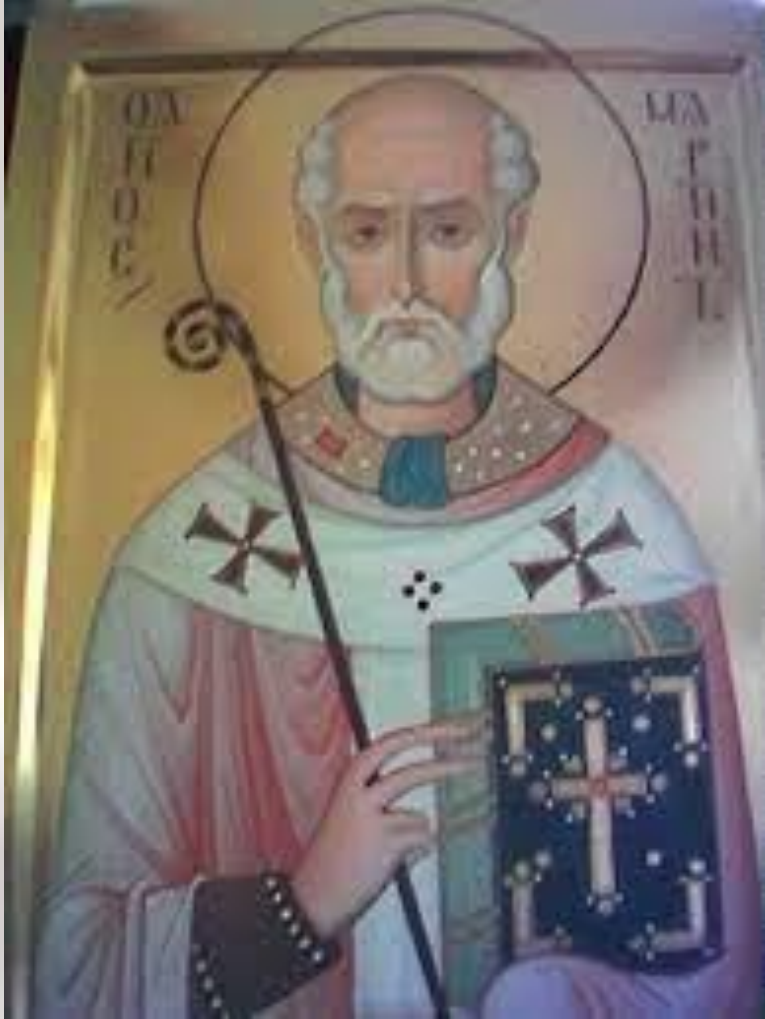
St. Adelgundis

Virgin and abbess, also known as Adelgundis, Aldegonde, or Orgonne. She was a member of the royal family of the Merovingians and was raised by two saints: St. Walbert and St. Bertila, her parents. The family resided in the Hainault region of Flanders, a region of the Low Countries. Aldegundis refused offers of marriage from other nobles and received the veil from St. Amandius, the bishop of Maastricht. She followed this ceremony of acceptance into the religious life with the foundation of a convent near the Sambre River, at a desert site called Malbode. Her sister, St. Waldetrudis, had founded a convent at Mons. Aldegundis' foundation became Mauberge, a noted Benedictine monastery, later taken over by canonesses. Aldegundis is reported to have died of cancer at the age of forty-four. She is the patron Saint of cancer sufferers.

Today we pray for those who have been diagnosed with cancer. We pray that they might find comfort from those who love and care for them.

Our Father....

Monday 29th January



Sulpitius distinguished himself for his eloquence, the fineness of his spirit, his ability to make use of legal cavils, his rigorous judgment and the solidity of his arguments. His reputation reached far. With luck and genius, he could aspire to the highest state offices. Completely absorbed by worldly concerns, in a time when all hopes smile at the imagination, he married a consul's daughter, one equally wealthy and well-connected. Few young men could boast of better prospects at the beginning of career, for one full of honours. Sulpitius decided to consecrate himself to God and to divest himself of his countless possessions. However, as had Saint Ambrose done, so did Sulpicius refrain from selling his inheritances to distribute proceeds to the poor; he was content to surrender his possessions to the Church and to reserve to himself their usufruct. The change of life annoyed his father, and Sulpitius became the butt of his old friends' jokes.

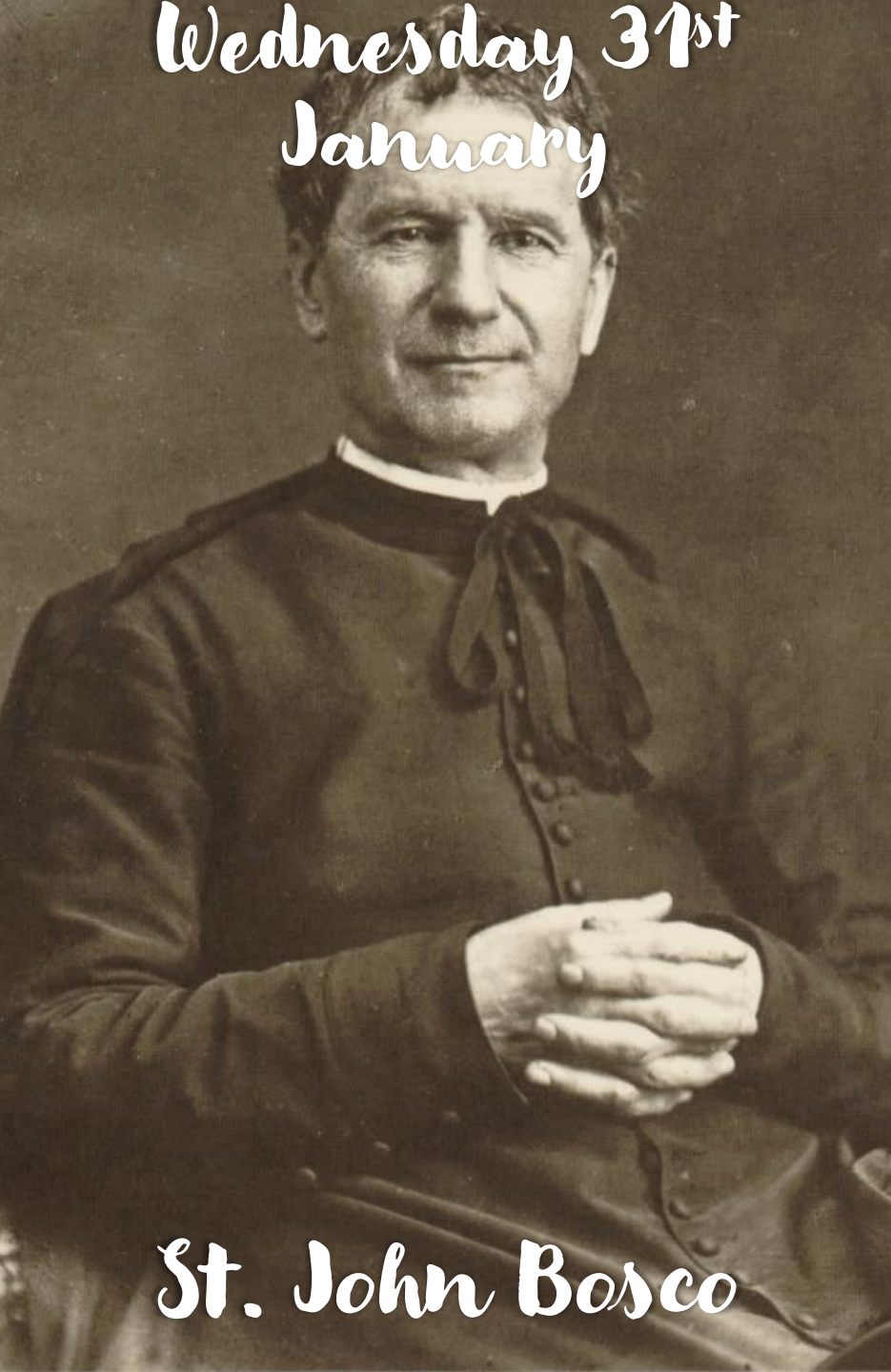
Later generations have known Sulpitius Severus as the historian of San Martin of Tours. Though the holy prelate had the habit of not talking about himself and keeping for himself the special graces God granted him, Sulpitius claimed to have learned some of the facts related in his biography directly from St. Martin himself. Other elements, including many interesting circumstances, were revealed to him by the religious of the Church of Tours or the monks of Marmoutier.

Today we pray for those who have been made fun of or bullied because of their faith. Help us to have the courage to stand up for our beliefs and values.

Our Father....

St. Sulpitius Severus

Wednesday 31st
January



St. John Bosco

John Melchior Bosco; 16 August 1815- 31 January 1888), popularly known as Don Bosco was an Italian Roman Catholic priest, educator, and writer of the 19th century. While working in Turin, where the population suffered many of the ill-effects of industrialisation and urbanisation, he dedicated his life to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth. He developed teaching methods based on love rather than punishment, a method that became known as the Salesian Preventive System.

A prayer of St. John Bosco

*Most Holy Virgin Mary, Help of Christians,
how sweet it is to come to your feet
imploing your perpetual help.*

*If earthly mothers cease not to remember their children,
how can you, the most loving of all mothers forget me?*

*Grant then to me, I implore you,
your perpetual help in all my necessities,
in every sorrow, and especially in all my temptations.*

I ask for your unceasing help for all who are now suffering.

Help the weak, cure the sick, convert sinners.

Grant through your intercessions many vocations to the religious life.

Obtain for us, O Mary, Help of Christians,

that having invoked you on earth we may love and eternally thank you in heaven.

Amen

Thursday 1st February



- Saint Brigid was born Brigit, and shares a name with a Celtic goddess from whom many legends and folk customs are associated. There is much debate over her birthparents, but it is widely believed her mother was Brocca, a Christian baptized by Saint Patrick, and her father was Dubthach, a Leinster chieftain. Brocca was a slave, therefore Brigid was born into slavery. Little is known about Saint Brigid's life after she entered the Church, but in 40 she founded a monastery in Kildare, called the Church of the Oak. It was built above a pagan shrine to the Celtic goddess Brigid, which was beneath a large oak tree.
- Brigid and seven friends organized communal consecrated religious life for women in Ireland and she founded two monastic institutions, one for men and one for women. There is evidence that Brigid was a good friend of Saint Patrick's and that the *Trias Thaumaturga* claimed, "Between St. Patrick and Brigid, the pillars of the Irish people, there was so great a friendship of charity that they had but one heart and one mind. Through him and through her Christ performed many great works."
- Saint Brigid helped many people in her lifetime, but on February 1 525, she passed away of natural causes. Her body was initially kept to the right of the high altar of Kildare Cathedral, with a tomb "adorned with gems and precious stones and crowns of gold and silver," but in 878, during the Scandinavian raids, her relics were moved to the tomb of Patrick and Columba.
- St Bridgid, Pray for us. Our Father....

St Bridgid of Ireland

Friday 2nd February



The Presentation of the Lord

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord commemorates the occasion when the Virgin Mary, in obedience to Jewish law, went to the Temple in Jerusalem both to be purified forty days after the birth of her son, Jesus, and to present him to God as her firstborn.

A prayer for the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord

*Almighty ever-living God,
we humbly implore your majesty
that, just as your Only Begotten Son
was presented on this day in the Temple
in the substance of our flesh,
so, by your grace,
we may be presented to you with minds made pure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Saturday 3rd February



Blaise of Sebaste was a physician and bishop of Sebastea in historical Armenia who is venerated as a Christian saint and martyr. St. Blaise is the patron saint of wool combers and throat disease. According to the Acta Sanctorum, he was martyred by being beaten, attacked with iron combs, and beheaded. According to the Acts, while Blaise was being taken into custody, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and implored his intercession. Touched at her grief, he offered up his prayers, and the child was cured. Consequently, Saint Blaise is invoked for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat.

In many places, on the day of his feast the blessing of St. Blaise is given: two candles (sometimes lit), blessed on the feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas), are held in a crossed position by a priest over the heads of the faithful or the people are touched on the throat with them.

A prayer to St. Blaise

O glorious Saint Blaise, who by your martyrdom did leave to the Church a precious witness to the faith, obtain of us the grace to preserve within ourselves this divine gift, and to defend, without human respect, both by word and example, the truth of that same faith, which is so wickedly attacked and slandered in these our times. You who did miraculously restore a little child when it was at the point of death by reason of an affliction of the throat, grant us thy mighty protection in like misfortunes; and, above all, obtain for us the grace of Christian mortification together with a faithful observance of the precepts of the Church, which may keep us from offending Almighty God. Amen.

St. Blaise