



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 19TH FEBRUARY

Monday 19th February



Saint Mansuetus of
Milan

Among the scant information about his life, it is known that in 679 he organized and held a synod with his suffragan bishops in Milan in order to condemn the Monothelite doctrine. According to Paul the Deacon this synod issued a letter, written by a Damian later bishop of Pavia, directly to Emperor Constantine IV. A year later Mansuetus and his suffragan bishops participated in Rome to a synod opened by Pope Agatho on 27 march 680 and subscribed the acts there issued. This 680 Rome synod was held in preparation of the Third Council of Constantinople, which a few months later condemned the Monothelism.

Mansuetus died on 19 February probably of 685. His remains were buried in the Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio, but were later translated to the Basilica di Santo Stefano Maggiore and again in 1987 to South transept of the Milan Cathedral.

His feast day is February 19 in the Roman Rite and September 2 in the Ambrosian Rite. A late tradition, with no historical basis, associates Mansuetus with the Roman family of the Savelli.

Our Father ...

Tuesday 20th February



Saint Tyrannio of Tyre also known as Tirannione or Tyrannion was the bishop of Tyre, Phoenicia modern Sur, Lebanon. He was martyred in the persecutions of Diocletian where he was torn by iron hooks in 310 in Antioch modern Antakya, Turkey.

Reflection:

Heavenly Father, today we think of all those who have suffered as a result of persecution. We ask that you bring them a sense of hope. Be with them in their pain and sorrow. Help us to be witnesses of your love and speak up when we see someone who is being mistreated.

Our Father ...

Saint Tyrannio of Tyre

Wednesday 21st
February



St. Peter Damian

St. Peter Damian was born in Ravenna around 988, the youngest of a large noble, but poor family. Orphaned early, he was at first adopted by an elder brother, who ill-treated and under-fed him while employing him as a swineherd. After some years, another brother, Damianus, who was archpriest at Ravenna, had pity on him and took him away to be educated. Adding his brother's name to his own, Peter made such rapid progress in his studies of theology and canon law, first at Ravenna, then at Faenza, and finally at the University of Parma, that, around the age of 25, he was already a famous teacher at Parma and Ravenna. The saint is represented in art as a cardinal bearing a knotted rope (the disciplina) in his hand; also sometimes he is depicted as a pilgrim holding a papal Bull, to signify his many legations.

A prayer to St. Peter Damian:

St. Peter Damian, you did not have the benefit of a secure family life after your parents died in your youth. Despite the difficulties you faced under the care of your brother, you began on the path to serving God. Please bring my petitions before God Whom you served! You began to devote yourself to holy practices during your time as a student when you were a young man. You continued to grow in holiness throughout the rest of your life. Pray for me, that I may eagerly serve God in my own life. Pray that I may never allow difficulties and trials to prevent me from striving for holiness.

Amen.



Thursday 22nd February

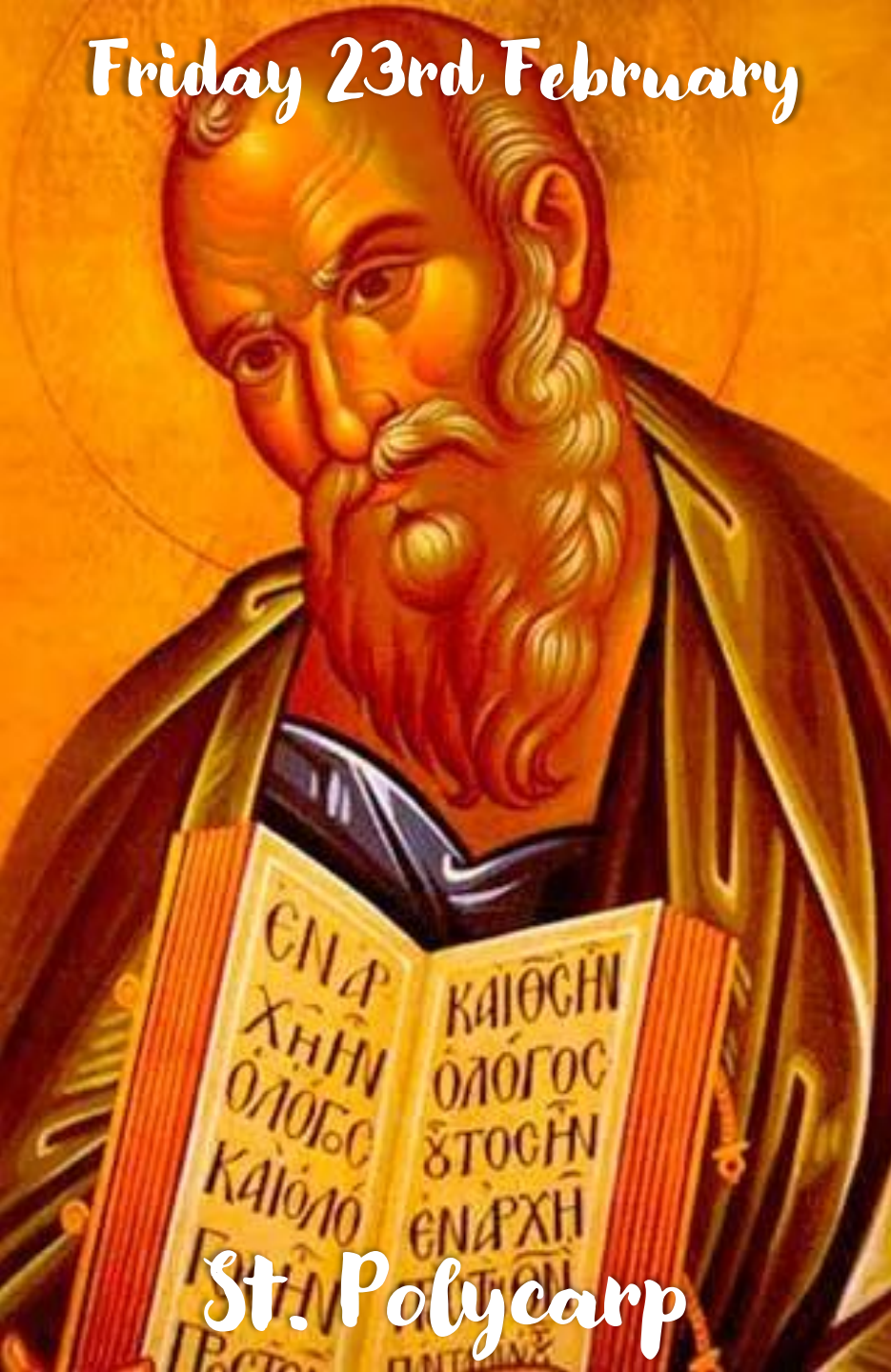
The Chair of St Peter

The Chair of Saint Peter (Latin: Cathedra Petri), also known as the Throne of Saint Peter, is a relic conserved in St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the sovereign enclave of the Pope inside Rome, Italy. The relic is a wooden throne that tradition claims belonged to the Apostle Saint Peter, the leader of the Early Christians in Rome and first Pope, and which he used as Bishop of Rome. The relic is enclosed in a sculpted gilt bronze casing designed by Gian Lorenzo Bernini and constructed between 1647 and 1653. In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI described the chair as "a symbol of the special mission of Peter and his Successors to tend Christ's flock, keeping it united in faith and in charity."

The dates of these celebrations were January 18 and February 22. No surviving chair has been identified with either of these chairs. The feasts thus became associated with an abstract understanding of the "Chair of Peter", which by synecdoche signifies the episcopal office of the Pope as Bishop of Rome, an office considered to have been first held by Saint Peter, and thus extended to the diocese, the See of Rome.

Our Father...

Friday 23rd February



St. Polycarp

Polycarp (AD 69 - 155) was a Christian bishop of Smyrna. According to the 'Martyrdom of Polycarp', he died a martyr, bound and burned at the stake, then stabbed when the fire failed to consume his body.

Both Irenaeus and Tertullian say that Polycarp had been a disciple of John the Apostle, one of Jesus' disciples. In 'On Illustrious Men', Jerome writes that Polycarp was a disciple of John the Apostle and that John had ordained him as a bishop of Smyrna. Polycarp is regarded as one of three chief Apostolic Fathers, along with Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch.

Prayer in honour of St. Polycarp:

God of all creation,

You gave your bishop Polycarp the privilege of being counted among the saints who gave their lives in faithful witness to the gospel. May his prayers give us the courage to share with him the cup of suffering and to rise to eternal glory. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.



Saturday 24th February

St Adela

St. Adela was born sometime around the year 1067 and was the youngest daughter of William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy and King of England, and his wife Mathilde of Flanders. Around the year 1080, she married Stephen III, Count of Blois, who was one of the richest men in Europe. Adela supported scholars and poets at her court, and this significantly contributed to the spiritual and cultural life of her time. She also generously endowed abbeys and churches with money so they could expand and preserve the culture and arts of the time. In 1122, when her children were grown, Adela became a nun in a convent that followed the rule of life given by St. Benedict. While in the convent, she was overjoyed that her youngest son Henry was made a bishop in 1129. Adela lived in the convent in prayer and humility until her death in 1137.

Reflection:

Adela is an excellent example of how people with money and power can use these to advance the Kingdom of God. We may not have as much money and power as she did, but what we have we can use to help others learn about and follow Jesus.

Our Father...