



*Prayers for the Week Ahead*

WEEK BEGINNING 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

# Monday 10th March



John Ogilvie's noble Scottish family was partly Catholic and partly Presbyterian. His father raised him as a Calvinist, sending him to the continent to be educated. He decided to become Catholic and was received into the Church at Louvain, Belgium, in 1596 at the age of 17.

John secretly entered Scotland posing as a horse trader or a soldier returning from the wars in Europe. Unable to do significant work among the relatively few Catholics in Scotland, John made his way back to Paris to consult his superiors. Rebuked for having left his assignment in Scotland, he was sent back. He warmed to the task before him and had some success in making converts and in secretly serving Scottish Catholics. But he was soon betrayed, arrested, and brought before the court. Condemned to death as a traitor, he was faithful to the end, even when on the scaffold he was offered his freedom and a fine living if he would deny his faith. His courage in prison and in his martyrdom was reported throughout Scotland. John Ogilvie was canonized in 1976, becoming the first Scottish saint since 1250.

## Reflection

John came of age when neither Catholics nor Protestants were willing to tolerate one another. Turning to Scripture, he found words that enlarged his vision. Although he became a Catholic and died for his faith, he understood the meaning of “small-c catholic,” the wide range of believers who embrace Christianity. Even now he undoubtedly rejoices in the ecumenical spirit fostered by the Second Vatican Council and joins us in our prayer for unity with all believers.

# Saint John Ogilvie



# Tuesday 11th March



Born a Scottish prince, the son of King Kenneth II of Strathclyde, Constantine led a life of vice until his conversion, possibly after hearing the evangelizing preaching of Saint Columba and Saint Kentigern.

He was married, and the father of at least one son, and briefly king of Stathclyde. When his wife died, he abdicated his position and founded a monastery at Govan on the river Clyde. He became a monk there, and evangelized the region.

Constantine bled to death in 874 in a cave near Crail after his right arm was cut off by Danish pirates

He is considered a martyr in for defending his Christian land against pagan invaders

## Saint Constantine II

# Wednesday 14th March

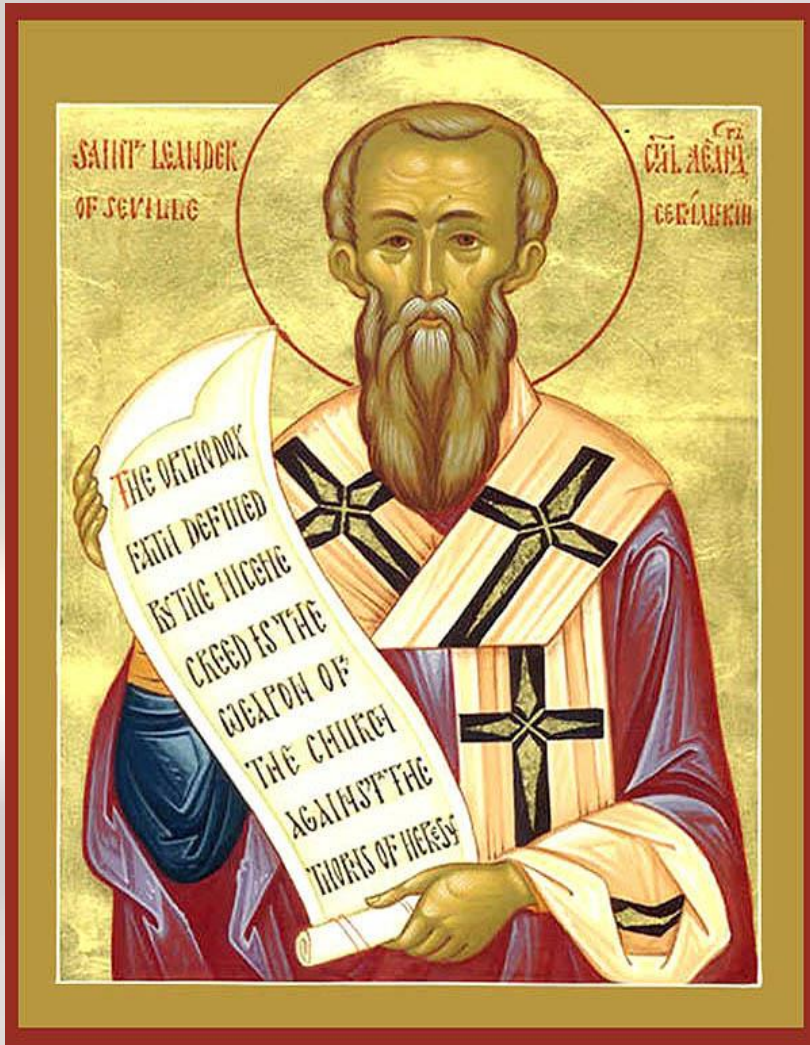


Seraphina was born poor, and though she stayed that way, she still found ways to help those in worse shape than herself. She was a pretty girl but she lived as a hermit in her home, doing chores, giving to the poor when she could such as spinning, sewing, and praying through the nights. Seraphina's father died when she was very young. Soon after, she was stricken with a condition that made any movement painful; she had to be carried everywhere on a board. Seraphina lived the rest of her life in constant suffering, and neglect, which she turned over to God in her constant prayers. She never joined an order but lived her life under Benedictine Rule. She was devoted to Saint Gregory the Great who suffered from a condition like hers. She received a vision from Saint Gregory who foretold the date of her death. She died of natural causes.

## Saint Seraphina



# Thursday 13th March



## Saint Leander of Seville

Leander was the son of Severianus and Theodora, known for their piety. He was the elder brother of Saint Isidore of Seville, Saint Fulgentius of Ecija, and Saint Florentina of Cartagena. Monk at Seville, Spain. Bishop of Seville.

He converted Saint Hermengild and Prince Reccared, sons of the Arian Visigoth king Leovigild, who then exiled Leander to Constantinople from 579 to 582. There he became close friends with the papal legate who later became Pope Saint Gregory the Great. Leander recommended that Gregory write his famous commentary (Moralia) on the Book of Job.

When Reccared ascended the throne, Leander was allowed to return to Seville. He worked against Arianism, and presided over the Third Council of Toledo in 589. He revised and unified the Spanish liturgy, and his boundless energy and steady faith led the Visigoths back to orthodox Christianity. Leander wrote an influential Rule for nuns. He introduced the Nicene Creed to Mass in the west and he is honored as a Doctor of the Faith by the Church in Spain.

### Reflection

Heavenly Father, help me today to see how I can be a great influence on other people. Direct my words and actions so that I may be a power for good. Help me to see others as you see them.

Amen

# Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March



## St Matilda of Ringelheim

Matilda, Queen of Germany and wife of King Henry I was the daughter of Count Dietrich of Westphalia and Reinhild of Denmark. She was born about 895 and was raised by her grandmother, the Abbess of Eufurt convent. Matilda married Henry the Fowler, son of Duke Otto of Saxony, in the year 909. She was widowed in the year 936, and supported her son Henry's claim to his father's throne. When her son Otto (the Great) was elected, she persuaded him to name Henry Duke of Bavaria after he led an unsuccessful revolt.

St Matilda was known for her considerable almsgiving. She was severely criticized by both Otto and Henry for what they considered her extravagant gifts to charities. As a result, she resigned her inheritance to her sons and retired to her country home. She was later recalled to the court through the intercession of Otto's wife, Edith. Matilda was welcomed back to the palace and her sons asked for her forgiveness.

### **Reflection**

Dear Lord, we thank You for giving us St. Matilda as an example of holiness. Help us to imitate the love of You she showed throughout her whole life. As a wife and mother she faced many difficulties. But despite her husband's death and the conflicts between her sons, she did all you could to serve God worthily and to help lead her family members to virtue.

Pray for me, that I may always seek to serve God in my life. Pray that I may grow closer to God each day. Amen