



Prayers for the Week Ahead

WEEK BEGINNING 10TH NOVEMBER

Monday 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".

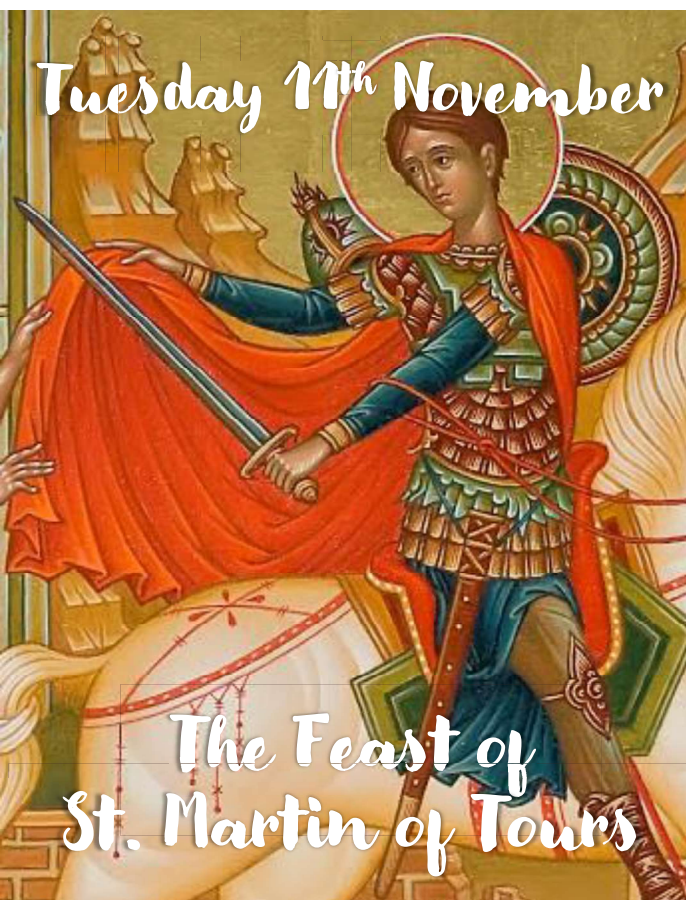
A Prayer to St. Leo the Great

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!



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.



Josaphat Kuntsevych, O.S.B.M., (c. 1580-1623) was a Polish-Lithuanian monk and archeparch (archbishop) of the Ruthenian Catholic Church, who on 12 November 1623 who died a very violent death as he was killed by an angry mob in Vitebsk, Vitebsk Voivodeship, in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (present-day Belarus). He is "the best-known victim" of anti-Catholic violence related to implementing the Union of Brest, and is declared a martyr and saint of the Catholic Church.

Prayer in Honour of St. Josaphat

Stir up within You Church, we beseech You, O Lord,
the Spirit with which blessed Josaphat,
Your Martyr and Bishop, was filled,
when he laid down his life for his sheep:
so that, through his intercession,
we too may be moved and strengthened by the same Spirit,
and may not shrink from giving our lives for our brothers and sisters.
Amen.

**Thursday 13th
November**



**The Feast of
St. Agostina
Petrantoni**

Agostina was born to a small farm family, the daughter of Francesco Pietrantoni and Caterina Costantini. She became a nurse at the Holy Spirit Hospital, near the Vatican, in Rome in 1886. She joined *the Sisters of Charity*, a congregation dedicated to service to the sick, in 1887, taking the name Agostina.

She worked with the critically ill and contagious, catching typhus and malaria in the process. After she caught tuberculosis, she worked in the TB ward where a patient stabbed her to death. She died praying that he be forgiven.

**Friday 14th
November**



**The Feast of
St. Lawrence
O'Toole**

St. Lawrence, it appears, was born about the year 1125. When only ten years old, his father delivered him up as a hostage to Dermot Mac Murehad, King of Leinster, who treated the child with great inhumanity, until his father obliged the tyrant to put him in the hands of the Bishop of Glendalough, in the county of Wicklow. The holy youth, by his fidelity in corresponding with the divine grace, grew to be a model of virtues. On the death of the bishop, who was also abbot of the monastery, St. Lawrence was chosen abbot in 1150, though he was only twenty-five years old, and governed his numerous community with wonderful virtue and prudence. In 1161 St. Lawrence was unanimously chosen to fill the new metropolitan See of Dublin. About the year 1171 he was obliged, for the affairs of his diocese, to go over to England to see the king, Henry II, who was then at Canterbury. The Saint was received by the Benedictine monks of Christ Church with the greatest honour and respect. On the following day, as the holy archbishop was going to the altar to officiate, a maniac, who had heard much of his sanctity, and who was led on by the idea of making so holy a man another St. Thomas, struck him a violent blow on the head. All present concluded that he was mortally wounded; but the Saint came to himself, asked for some water, blessed it, and having his wound washed with it, the blood was immediately stopped, and the Archbishop celebrated Mass. In 1175 Henry II of England became offended with Roderic, the monarch of Ireland, and St. Lawrence undertook another journey to England to negotiate a reconciliation between them. Henry was so moved by his piety, charity, and prudence that he granted him everything he asked, and left the whole negotiation to his discretion. Our Saint ended his journey here below on the 14th of November, 1180, and was buried in the church of the abbey at Eu, on the confines of Normandy.