

# ST LEONARD PARISH

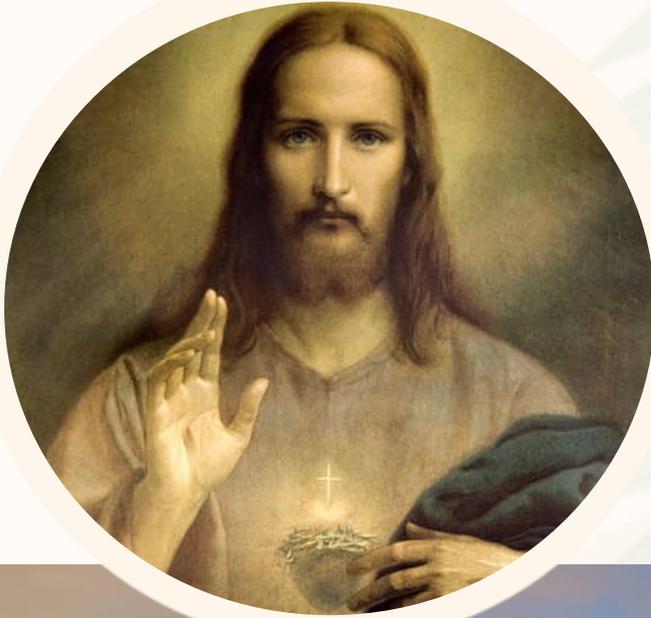
320 Hanover Street, Boston, MA 02113. P: 617-523-2110 | F: 617-367-0456

## WEEKLY BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

*“Let your face shine upon  
your servant;  
and teach me your laws.”*

LK 14:25-33



## SAINT LEONARD OF PORT MAURICE PARISH

admin@saintleonardchurchboston.org

P: 617-523-2110

### Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00 PM
Sunday	9:00 AM
	10:30 AM (Italian)
	12:00 Noon
Mon-Fri	12:05 PM

### Confessions

Saturdays 4:15 - 4:45 PM  
and upon request

## SAINT STEPHEN CHURCH

401 Hanover St, Boston, MA 02109

P: 617-523-2110 | F: 617-367-0456

### Mass Schedule

Saturday	4:00 PM
Sunday	11:00 AM
Thurs-Fri	7:30 AM

### Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Rev. Michael Della Penna, OFM  
Deacon: Brother Charles Gingerich, OFM  
Italian Ministry: Rev. Federico Cinocca  
Rev. Robert Caprio, OFM  
Sacristan: Charles Falla, OFS  
St Stephen Rector: Rev. David Costello

### Parish Office

Mon - Thu 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
Friday Closed

### Saint John School

Tel: 617-227-3143

Mon - Fri 8AM - 3PM

<https://sjsne.com/>

### Saint Francis Gift and Book Store

Mon - Thurs 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Fri - Sat 1:00 pm - 7:30 pm  
Sunday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

## SAINT LEONARD CHURCH SCHEDULE OF DEVOTIONS

**8:15 AM mass will be suspended Until Fall**

**Mon - Fri** 11:30 AM Rosary  
12:05 Mass

**Monday** 12:30 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet

**Tuesday** 12:30 PM St Anthony Novena

**Wednesday** 12:30 PM Litany of St Joseph  
1st Wed of every month  
Queen of Peace Prayer Group  
6:30 PM Rosary, 7PM Mass

**Thursday** Pure in Heart Young Adults  
6:30 PM Rosary, 7PM Mass

**Friday** 12:30-3:30 PM Adoration  
3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet



# SAINT LEONARD CHURCH

Mass Intentions September 04 - September 10

**September 04- Sunday**

**9:00am** – Deceased members of the DePasquale Family and Varano Family; Roger Mustone

**10:30am** - Rosetta Miele, San Gerardo

**12:00pm** - David Gallagher

**September 05 - Monday**

**12:05pm** - Clare Rahner

**September 06 - Tuesday**

**12:05pm** - Clementine & Francesco Federico

**September 07 - Wednesday**

**12:05pm** - Intentions of Joseph V. Federico

**September 08 - Thursday**

**12:05pm** - Intentions of Anna keane

**September 09 - Friday**

**12:05pm** - Robert Crowley

**September 10 - Saturday**

**5:00pm** - Angie & Nicholas DiBisceglia & Grandson John; John, Patrick & Anthony Bobnis



The Bread and Wine will be offered the week of September 04 - September 10 at Saint Leonard Church for Joyce Anne Dabene



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn the week of September 04 - September 10 at Saint Leonard Church for Joyce Anne Dabene



# REFLECTION

*Anyone who does not carry his Cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*

In today's Gospel Jesus seems to do all he can to put people off from following him. No sane, reasonable person, he seems to say, would seriously consider becoming his disciple. A disciple of his must hate his family, and even his own life. At this point we rush to the footnotes, and we read, with relief, that "hate" here is a Semitic idiom. It refers not to negative emotion, but to preference. Nevertheless: the language Jesus uses is deliberately, provocatively strong, even violent. It would not be less shocking for a contemporary Jew than it is for us, because their religion put enormous emphasis on love for one's own family. Then Jesus says that any disciple of his must be ready to carry his Cross. This is an invitation willingly to undergo the most horrible, humiliating, extreme manner of tortured, agonized death, quite commonly carried out in public at the time, as a very effective means of terrifying the subject population. Finally, to follow Jesus you have to give up all your possessions; otherwise, "you cannot be my disciple".



Jesus spoke these words on his final journey to Jerusalem. He addressed them in the first place to those who were with him because they were caught up in the excitement and enthusiasm of the crowds. Happy to follow the superstar celebrity, and eager to witness yet more sensational miracles of healing, they hoped above all for imminent political liberation. But no: discipleship of Jesus must cost a lot more than easy conformity with the crowd. St. Luke's Gospel is the only one to report

the two rather strange comparisons Jesus makes here: the man planning to build a tower, and the King preparing to set out for war. It's as if Jesus here turns and confronts the fickle rabble. Do you want to follow me? He asks. Think: it will cost you more than you bargained for. Are you ready or able to pay the price?

The sayings are deliberately paradoxical, and the comparisons certainly cannot be pressed. Because actually it would never be reasonable to sit down and decide not to follow Jesus. No: every sane, reasonable person should want to be his disciple, and should be happy to pay the full price he asks, with joy and gratitude.

Today's Gospel gives us the chance to affirm once again, to ourselves, to one another, to the Lord, that yes: we do want to follow Jesus! We do want to be his disciples! For he is the Lord. He died for us, and rose again from the dead. He is the Son of God; he is our Savior, our Redeemer, our Life, our Light, our Salvation, our Hope, our Love, our Glory, our Joy. He is not a threat to us, not a harsh tyrant, not a cruel Master. No: Jesus came to heal, to liberate, to lift us up. He offers to take away from us what we want and need to get rid of - to be free from. That is, above all, our sins, and also our worldly attachments. In their place he offers us what is utterly and ultimately desirable: a share in his own divine Sonship; true holiness; the fullness of eternal life; union with God in heaven.

If we understand this, then we see that the demands spelled out in today's Gospel are actually consoling, rather than frightening. Because we want Jesus to be not just one feature in our life, taken more or less seriously, but truly our all. We want to belong to him totally; to have his life in us; to be filled with his Spirit; to share his relationship with his Father. And therefore we want also to die with Jesus to sin, and to self. We want to be perfectly conformed to the one who, although he was rich, became poor for our sake, in order that we might become rich through his poverty (2 Cor 8:9).

Today Jesus reminds us that the choice to follow him is the most radical decision we could take in our life. It touches us far more deeply than, for example, the decision to join a political party, or to emigrate, or to get married. Jesus must be more important to us than our family; more important to us even than those we love most in the world; certainly more important to us than anything we could ever possess. Yes, let us say it boldly and aloud: Jesus is more important to us than our

comfort, or status, or health, and even than life itself. And if we don't realize that, or if we hesitate to affirm it, then we are fools. If we think that we can be true disciples of Jesus, by going to Mass occasionally, and saying the odd prayer, maybe even wearing a cross, and making occasional donations to charity - while remaining radically selfish, and easily going along with the norms and patterns of our secular society - then we deceive ourselves, and our great need is to be jerked out of our spiritual torpor, and truly converted.

Today, thank God, in Rome, Mother Teresa of Calcutta is being held up to the whole Church, and the whole world, as an example of one who really did follow Jesus; who was his true disciple, and who as a result is now certainly in eternal glory. As the price for her own discipleship, Mother Teresa gave herself completely. Did she first sit down to estimate whether or not she would be able to give all that Jesus might ask of her, before she started? No: this tiny woman from the land of state atheism was well aware of her own radical incapacity. So she made no attempt whatever to trust in herself, but relied totally on the Lord, who promised to give her all she needed in order to be faithful to him. And so she was. Mother Teresa lived and bore witness to unconditional charity; she mediated the love of Christ for every human person, and especially for the poorest of the poor.



Mother Teresa embraced radical poverty, and became in a sense the richest and most powerful woman in the world. She renounced her own family and country, and landed up as a sort of universal mother. Have you noticed how her title of Mother still sticks? She could be Mother to anyone and everyone, after the model of the Blessed Virgin herself, because she herself knew and walked in the love of God for her.



At the heart of Mother Teresa's mysticism was the cry of Jesus on the Cross: I thirst. She understood that far from putting us off, or driving us away from himself, in some mysterious sense Jesus has a desperate thirst, even a desperate need for our response, for our love, for our generosity. So she set herself to slake that thirst, by loving Jesus to the end, and by loving people, especially the poorest, in the same way.

Through her example and intercession, may we all be encouraged and inspired to do the same.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**8:15 AM mass will be suspended  
Until Fall**

**Sunday Masses at CassaMaria will  
be postponed for the rest of the  
summer**

**Weekly adoration on Fridays will  
be postponed except during first  
Fridays until 2pm,**

All masses are  
transmitted on our  
Facebook page  
"St Leonard's Parish,  
North End, Boston"



Each day the friars of St. Christopher Friary pray for the intentions entrusted to them. If you would like your intention included in our prayers, please call the friary prayer request line: 617-742-4190 ext. 100. We are happy to keep you in our prayers.



**St Leonard Church will be closed for  
cleaning on Mondays 9:00 AM - 11:00AM  
& Thursdays 9:00 AM - 11:00AM  
Schedule subject to change**

## ST LEONARD PARISH AUGUST OFFERTORY

Week 1:	\$ 2,084
Week 2:	\$ 2,349
Week 3:	\$ 2,159
Week 4:	\$ 2,924
<b>August Monthly Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 8,567</b>

## ONLINE DONATIONS

For the convenience of our parishioners  
online donations are encouraged.

Use the following  
QR code for our  
website donations



**venmo**

Also Venmo is  
available for online  
donations

## Need a meal, or a place to donate clothes?

St. Leonard is partnering with **Haley House**, a soup kitchen and donation center in South Boston.

Currently, they are most in need of men's clothing. Please check the link [haleyhouse.org/goods](https://haleyhouse.org/goods) for list of accepted items.

Donations can be brought to our parish office.



**HALEY HOUSE**



# EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

## SAVE A LIFE HACKATHON!

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## Book Study Series

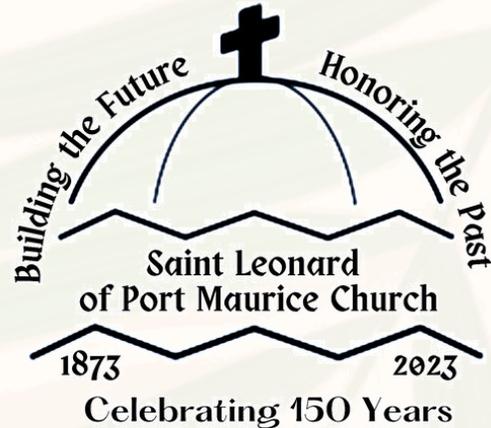
### MEN & WOMEN ARE FROM EDEN:

A STUDY GUIDE TO JOHN PAUL II'S  
THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

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8 PM, AFTER MASS

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St. Leonard's will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary beginning in January 2023. The goal of the 150<sup>th</sup> is to celebrate and unite the entire Church and community to honor the past and build the future. Paramount is evangelization and strengthening our faith and love of God. Following St. Leonard's devotion to the Way of the Cross, we will be using the Stations of the Cross as the centerpiece for the celebrations and monthly events.

We have received many great ideas for celebrating this historical milestone, and have organized some committees to help with planning. We need your help! Please consider joining a committee:

- Spiritual/Evangelization: Organizing the events and activities that will be transformative, using the Stations of the Cross as the focus
- Liturgical: Overseeing Masses and other liturgical offerings
- Historical: Researching and presenting the history of the Church, the Franciscans and the Italian immigrants in the North End
- Gala: Organizing the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration and fundraising event
- Dinner Dance: Offering the traditional dinner dance and sponsorship booklet
- Product Development and Marketing: Creating ways to promote the 150th events
- Program/Events: Organizing and hosting monthly programs and events
- Fundraising: Developing ways to raise money to ensure the future of the Church
- Social: Creating ways to welcome and celebrate with events such as coffee after Masses

If you are interested in joining with us, please contact [Celebrating150years@sleonard.org](mailto:Celebrating150years@sleonard.org).

We are also looking for historical photos and videos, if you have any, we would love to have copies for the living history of the Church we are putting together.

Thank you!





# Italiano a San Leonardo

The North End Italian language program will hold registrations on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>, at Saint John's School ( 10:00 -12:30)

We welcome children ages 3.5 to 16 years old and adults of all ages.

**Classes are held on Saturdays from 10:00am to 12:30pm for a total of 24 weeks.**

For over 48 years, our students have developed an appreciation of Italian culture while mastering basic oral and written skills in the Italian language.

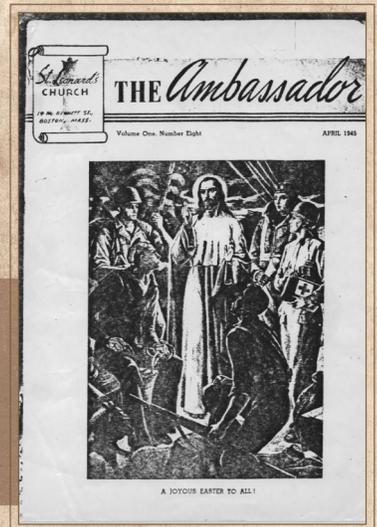
**Come and join us!!!**

**Be part of a collective effort to maintain the rich Italian cultural tradition!**

Contact: [pilcnorthend@gmail.com](mailto:pilcnorthend@gmail.com)  
You may register online at [www.learnitalianpilc.org](http://www.learnitalianpilc.org)

## FRIENDS OF THE NORTH END:

In preparation for its 150th anniversary, St Leonard's Parish is seeking all issues of its World War ii newsletter:



## "THE AMBASSADOR"

Please search your archives, attics, shoeboxes etc. If you have any of these, please email Fr. Michael Della Penna at [mdellapenna@sleonard.org](mailto:mdellapenna@sleonard.org) or contact Michael Marciello at [mickeyro@aol.com](mailto:mickeyro@aol.com).

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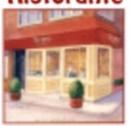
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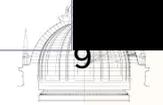
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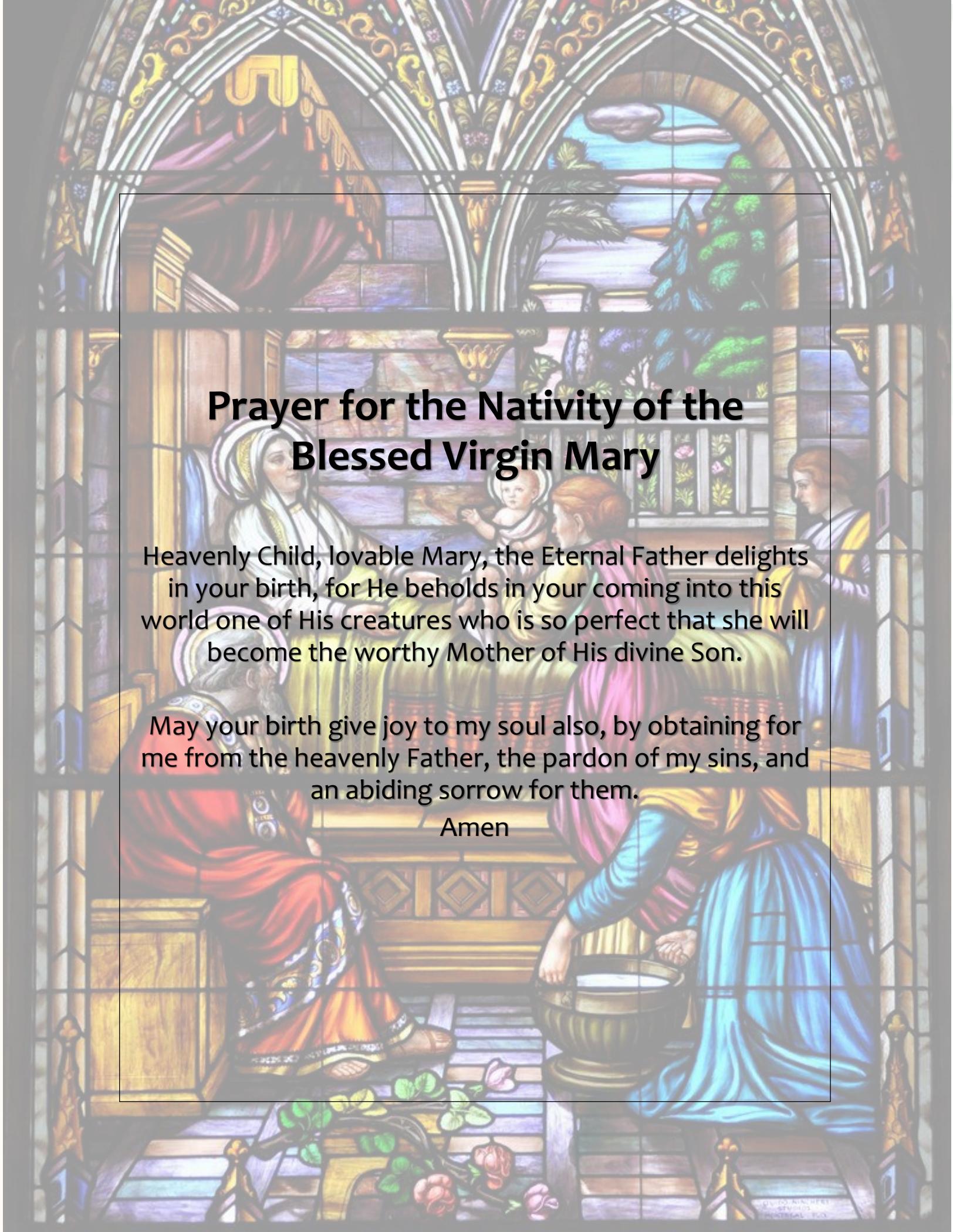
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## Prayer for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Heavenly Child, lovable Mary, the Eternal Father delights in your birth, for He beholds in your coming into this world one of His creatures who is so perfect that she will become the worthy Mother of His divine Son.

May your birth give joy to my soul also, by obtaining for me from the heavenly Father, the pardon of my sins, and an abiding sorrow for them.

Amen