



STATUE WALK AT ST. SEBASTIAN

CREATED BY
ST. SEBASTIAN'S SEVENTH GRADE CLASS OF 2019

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH CELEBRATION
OF THE CHURCH (2018) AND SCHOOL (2019)

INTRODUCTION

BY CLARE ROTHKOPF

DEAR PARISHIONER,

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH, THE SEVENTH GRADE CLASS CREATED A BOOKLET OF INFORMATION ON THE ARTWORK INSIDE THE CHURCH. EVERY STATUE AND STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN THE CHURCH HAS A PAGE CONTAINING INFORMATION ON THE BACKGROUND OF THE RELIGIOUS FIGURE AND THE ARTWORK SURROUNDING IT.

ENJOY!

SINCERELY,
THE SEVENTH GRADE CLASS



SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

BY LEO BATES

Not much is known about St. Joseph's early life, but when Joseph met Mary, he became engaged to her, and they would soon wed. He then learned of her pregnancy. Joseph was a good man who decided to divorce her quietly, so she did not get penalized for being pregnant while she was not married. It was not until Joseph was visited by Gabriel the Archangel that he called off the divorce because he knew then that Mary would give birth to the son of God.

After Jesus' birth, Joseph did many great things. He saved Mary and Jesus from Herod by moving to Egypt, taught Jesus carpentry, and worshipped regularly. We know that Joseph was poor because he could not offer a lamb at the temple; he had to offer two turtle doves or a pair of pigeons. In the Bible, the last we hear of Joseph is when he and Mary frantically search for Jesus after leaving the temple, only to find Jesus preaching at the temple. When Jesus noticed them, he said, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" In his role as foster father, Joseph provided support and guidance to Jesus and Mary until his death, which some historians place around A.D. 18.

The statue of St. Joseph in the church showcases him with a carpentry tool and a lily. The tool symbolizes his past occupation, while the lily symbolizes his purity and faithfulness.

PRAYER

St. Joseph, I aspire to be as good a Christian as you and to worship God as faithfully as you. St. Joseph, pray for us, so we may be united in our love for God. Amen.





SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

BY ABBEY MONAGHAN AND ZOIE BURNETTE

Saint Francis of Assisi was born in the year 1182 in Assisi, Italy. He was originally named Francesco. His father renamed him Francis, which means “Frenchman”. When he got older, he joined the army but was captured by the enemy. While in prison, Francis had a dream where God appeared to him and told him to go home because he was not called to be a knight. God also told Francis to fix his falling church.

When Francis began to preach about God, he gathered many followers who made vows of poverty. When Francis had a lot of followers, they went to Rome to get approval from the Pope for a new order. The Pope believed Francis was doing something good, so he approved him. Af-

ter his approval, Francis started the Franciscan Order. Later, a woman named Clare wanted to take similar vows, so they both started the Poor Clares. Francis then began another group for men and women who did not take vows but lived out the principles of the Franciscan Order in their daily lives. After the reception of the wounds of Christ, called Stigmata, Francis suffered pains throughout his body. In 1226, Saint Francis of Assisi died. He was canonized two years later.

As you see, there is a small bird by Francis’ feet to represent his love for animals. There is a rosary hanging from his habit to symbolize his love for God. Francis is holding his hands up as if he is blessing the people in front of him.

PRAYER

Saint Francis, let us care for others like you did. Let us care for the environment and nature like you did. Call us to share God’s word like you did. Help us inspire others to do as you did. Amen.

THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

BY JACK DOUCET

The Sacred Heart is often called the Heart of Christ. It is usually prayed to as an object of devotion, which stresses the importance of Jesus’ saving love and sacrifice for the world. It also includes acts of consecration and honor given to an image or statue of the Sacred Heart.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque was an important factor in spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart. In 1673, she saw visions of Christ and was told to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart across Europe. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque could not convince theologians that Jesus appeared to her, so Blessed Claude la Colombiere gave his support to her. She became Novice Mistress and saw that her convent observed the feast of the Sacred Heart, which spread to other convents. She died in 1690 and was canonized in 1920.

There is a statue and stained glass windows illustrating the Sacred Heart in our church. The statue of Jesus holding his heart obviously depicts the Sacred Heart. The stained glass window to the left is the Sacred Heart. However, the right stained glass window is a pelican tending to its young. Tradition tells that the pelican pierces its heart to feed its chicks. This kind of sacrifice definitely associates with the sacrifices made by Jesus.

The flame in the left window may symbolize a burnt offering, the highest form of sacrifice, or a sign of divinity. The rays of light may relate to John 8:12, that Christ is “the light of the world.” The crown of thorns “is pricking the heart of Jesus” from Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. The crown of thorns can also be referred to as “the crown of victory” in Revelation 9:12.



PRAYER

O Son of God, allow us to sacrifice like Your Sacred Heart. Let us repent for our wrongdoings, for we have turned our backs on you. We pray to the flame, the fire of your love and divinity. We pray to the wound of the spear, a sacrifice for the sins of all. We pray to the light, the savior of the world. For these symbols, we pray to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SAINT SEBASTIAN

BY EMILY PINZON, BROOKLYN BENTON AND MIA PETIT

St. Sebastian was born in Gaul, France, and he was a great influence on many people. He was educated in Milan, and he joined the Roman army in A.D. 283 for Emperor Diocletian, who favored him. He was later promoted to the Praetorian Guard to help protect Emperor Diocletian. While serving in the army, he supported God through his works and deeds. He converted many people to Christianity including his parents and his brothers. Diocletian soon discovered this and ordered him to be used as archery practice and left for dead. A widow nurse, named St. Irene, found and revived St. Sebastian. Once healthy, St. Sebastian returned to Diocletian and criticized his attack on Christians. After Diocletian got over the shock of St. Sebastian being alive, he ordered St. Sebastian to be beaten to death with clubs. St. Sebastian's dead body was found in the sewers by a Christian woman by the name of Lucina, and he was later buried on the Appian Way. He became a martyr for his faith in God.

In our Church, there is a statue that represents St. Sebastian, his death, and his achievements. He is tied up and pierced with arrows. On one side of his statue there is a stained glass window of a tree and a rope which represents him being tied to a tree. On the other side of the statue there is another stained glass window of an arrow, which represents Diocletian's order to kill him. Although the statue shows arrows piercing him, this is not how he dies. The cross you see in the middle represents the love that St. Sebastian had for Christ.



SAINT SEBASTIAN RELIC

Eighty years after the death of St. Sebastian in A.D. 367, his remains were moved to the Basilica built by Pope Damasus I. His body was shared with Monks in France, and his skull was sent to a monastery in Germany. San Sebastiano Fuori Le Mura received many paintings and the arrows that pierced him. Eventually, three of his relics made their way to Akron, Ohio, and currently reside at St. Sebastian Parish.

The relic holder above the tabernacle is the most famous general depiction of St. Sebastian. It depicts St. Sebastian pierced with arrows against a tree, and has a golden base, a circular symbol representing a crown of thorns, and a piece of one of Sebastian's bones. This piece was given to St. Anthony Church in A.D. 953 and eventually made its way to St. Sebastian. Although the exact bone from which the fragment came is unknown, it is still an amazing thing to have as a source of the past.

PRAYER

St. Sebastian, please help me to be like you. You chose to do something even though you knew you would die. Please help me to be strong, courageous, wise, and faithful like you. Give me the strength to stand up for my faith and be a good person in everything I do, including sports, school, and everyday life. Amen.



THE CURE OF ARS (SAINT JOHN VIANNEY)

BY STONE STROUD

St. John Vianney was born in Dardilly, France, on May 8, 1786. His name given at birth was Jean Baptiste Marie Vianney. He found learning very difficult, especially Latin. He was going to leave school to go to war with Spain, but he missed his departure because he was praying. He ended up with a group of deserters and went to jail, but his brother took his place. St. John Vianney was able to communicate with his family through the war by writing them letters. He later attended another school where he passed an exam for the Seminary. He continued to struggle with his studies, and when ordained, was placed in the tiny parish of Ars.



St. John was a very humble parish priest who trusted God more than his own learning. He had a devotion to the Blessed Mother and the Blessed Sacrament. Because of his piety and faith, he was a very good spiritual advisor and gave sermons that touched people's hearts. Eventually word spread of the humble priest (or cure) in Ars, and people came from all over Europe to see him and receive reconciliation, including other priests and bishops. He was the reason for many conversions to Christianity.

In the statue, St. John Vianney is holding up his hand in a priest's blessing and is wearing a priest's robe. The first stained glass window shows the stole he wore as a priest. It also shows the chalice with the flame coming out, which represents the Blessed Sacrament and the Holy Spirit. The statue looks as if St. John Vianney is welcoming people into Christianity.

PRAYER

St. John Vianney, help us to never give up, even when life is hard. As you helped so many people return to God during your life, intercede for us, so that we also may remain confident in God's endless mercy. Amen.

SAINT PIUS X

BY ANDREW HAGEY

Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto was born on June 2nd, 1835, in Riese, Italy. He was one of eight born to his two religious Italian parents. He was a very good student in school and ended up graduating at the age of fifteen. After graduating, he went straight into the seminary and was ordained a priest in 1858. After several years of being a priest, he became the bishop at Mantua on October 11th, 1884. In 1893, he left to serve the Apostolic Institute. In this same year, he was named cardinal by Leo XIII and patriarch of Venice. Pope Pius X then became the 259th pope in 1903.

Pope Pius X was a very kind and loving person. He used these gifts to do things like opening up weekly catechism classes in the backyard of the Vatican and allowing people who were homeless into the Vatican. He reformed the catechism, the teaching of young priests, and a variety of different churches and institutions. He died on August 20th, 1914. Pope Pius was canonized in 1954 by Pius XII.

The statue of St. Pius X symbolizes that he was a pope through his clothing. The window on the left has two keys, representing the keys to the kingdom that were given to the first Pope Peter and that Pius is his successor as the head of the Catholic Church. The crowns on the right also represent that he was the pope. The hands on the right with the Eucharist represent that he achieved the highest form of priesthood. Pope Pius X was named a saint due to his loving care and thoughtfulness towards other people.

PRAYER

St. Pius X, help me give alms to the poor. Help me sacrifice myself for others and put the needs of others before my own. Make me the best person I can possibly be. Pray for me to be selfless and have respect for everyone else around me. Amen.



SAINT ANTHONY OF PADUA

BY MIA ROSS AND JASPER LIGGINS

St. Anthony of Padua was born to a wealthy family in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1195. His original name was Fernando Martins. At the age of 15, he was given permission to receive an early education at the Cathedral School of Lisbon and sent to the Abbey of Saint Cruz in Coimbra, the capital of Portugal. When he grew older, he became a teacher at a school in Bologna. He then started studying the Augustinian theology. After his studying at the Cathedral School of Lisbon, he was ordained a priest around 1219 or 1220. Anthony was passionate about joining the Franciscan Friars and later received permission to do so. Upon joining the Franciscan Order, he officially changed his name to Anthony. He became a powerful Franciscan preacher and teacher.



Anthony made it his goal to spread God's word in Morocco. Unfortunately, Anthony became sick and went back to Portugal to recover from his illness. Anthony prayed, studied, and taught theology while recovering. The Franciscan leader told Anthony he could perform a special sermon. Through the instruction of the Holy Spirit, Anthony performed the homily for a joint meeting of the Dominicans and Franciscans. Eventually, Anthony became so popular that 30,000 people once gathered around Padua to listen to him. Anthony's health continued to decline, and his suffering only got worse. He died at age 36 on the way to Padua.

St. Anthony's body was found 336 years later in terrible condition. Though his body was in such awful condition, his tongue looked as if it hadn't decayed at all. It is believed by Catholics that his tongue is as clean as the words that were spoken from it. He was canonized in 1232 by Pope Gregory IX. In 1946, Pope Pius XII announced that St. Anthony was a Doctor of the Church.

St. Anthony is represented by a wooden statue located in the back left corner of the church. He has a Rosary dangling from his left hip because all members of the Franciscan Order wore these, and it represents his eight years of praying the rosary and studying theology. St. Anthony is also clutching a book, representing the Scripture, his knowledge, and his teachings when he would preach. The last symbol is his cloak (or habit), symbolizing his time in the Franciscan order.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to follow in your footsteps, as St. Anthony once did. Help us to defend others who are incapable of defending themselves, and follow St. Anthony's compassionate nature. Guide us on our mission to spread the good news, just as St. Anthony did. Amen.

MARY

BY NICK GRIZER

On September 8th, 18 B.C., in a town called Nazareth in Galilee, Mary was born to Anne and Joachim. She later became engaged to a man named Joseph. One day, the angel Gabriel came to her, but she did not cower in fear. She just listened to Gabriel. Gabriel asked her to be the mother of the Messiah, and she proudly accepted. After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph went to Simeon, in Jerusalem, who gave them a prophecy saying that many people will adore and follow Jesus, but others will try to hurt Him. He predicted that a sword would pierce her heart. She watched as Jesus grew and became a popular man, and she was proud.

As Jesus became a man, Mary supported Him in his public ministry—even when He was condemned to death. As He hung on the cross, Jesus gave her to John, meaning that Mary became the mother of all of us. No one knows for sure what Mary did after Jesus was crucified because the last recording of her was at the Pentecost. Some scholars speculate that she stayed at John's home for the rest of her life, while others say that she followed John to Ephesus and became a part of the churches in Asia Minor. Mary is the Queen of Heaven and Earth, and when her life ended, she was so pure that she was assumed into Heaven right away.

This statue of Mary is located at the front left corner of the church right beside the altar. She is painted with metallic gold paint, and she is holding a wooden rosary. Finally, she is always praying.

PRAYER

Mary, Mother of God, save us from sin and temptation. Bring us to the goodness of Jesus. Guide us and all those we love to heaven. Amen.



SAINT PATRICK

BY BRENNAN CHIVERS

St. Patrick was born in Scotland in the year 387. His family was highly ranked and very rich. He had a sister, Damerca of Ireland, and his parents' names were Conchessa and Calpurnius. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken by Irish pirates to be sold into slavery. He tended sheep for six years when suddenly, God came to Patrick in a dream and told him to go to the coast. When he arrived, there was a group of sailors who took him back to Britain.

When he arrived back in Britain, Patrick was ordained a priest by St. Germanus. He became a bishop and was sent on a missionary trip to Ireland, where he traveled for forty years, converting thousands of people and building hundreds of churches. Patrick is also credited with driving all of the snakes out of Ireland. He is the patron saint of engineers, Ireland, and Nigeria. Patrick is a great example of what we should be as followers of Christ and messengers of the Word of God.

Patrick is depicted with a shamrock in his hand because he used them to explain the Holy Trinity. He also holds a staff in the opposite hand, symbolizing that he was a bishop. The mitre on his head also symbolizes that he was a bishop.

PRAYER

St. Patrick, help us know who God is and to remember always His calm presence of love. Help us to spread His Word to others so that we may also be messengers of God. Pray that we are able to drive the sin out of our hearts just as you drove the snakes out of Ireland. St. Patrick, pray for us on this long journey to the Kingdom of God. Amen.



THE SORROWFUL MOTHER

BY CLARE ROTHKOPF

Mary, the Mother of God, has appeared in many forms. One of these forms is the Sorrowful Mother or Our Lady of Sorrows. The Sorrowful Mother is the title given to Mary during the passion and death of Jesus, her son. Her seven dolors, or sorrows, are the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, the loss of young Jesus in the temple, her encounter with Jesus on the way to Calvary, the vigil at the foot of the cross, the reception of the body of Jesus after He was taken down from the cross, and the burial of His body. The Sorrowful Mother is depicted with seven swords piercing her heart because of these sorrows.



Mary was told she would receive these sorrows by the Prophet Simeon when Jesus was presented at the temple. Rather than being afraid, Mary accepted these sorrows with strength that echoed her Fiat. The celebration of the feast of The Sorrowful Mother grew in popularity in the 12th century. Pope Pius X set the final date for September 15th. Tradition states that if you meditate on Mary's sorrows and pray a Hail Mary in between each sorrow every day, Mary promised that she will grant seven graces to the soul, as she told Saint Bridget when she appeared to her.

In the artwork, Mary is gazing mournfully upwards to her Son on the cross. Her skirt is clenched worriedly in her hands. One stained glass window is a pierced heart, representing her seven dolors. The other picture is a cross covered in a white cloth, representing Mary's presence at her son's death and burial.

PRAYER

O Sorrowful Mother, help me to accept my challenges and sorrows with the grace that you accepted yours. Please help me along the path to overcome them, so that I may join you in Heaven someday. Amen.

ST. ANNE BY ANNE REA

St. Anne was born in Bethlehem to Emerentia and Stollanus. When Anne was four years old, her parents sent her to live in a temple, which was a tradition of the Jews. Anne lived there for 12 years before returning home. Her mother died a year later. When Emerentia died, this left Anne as the household mistress, unmarried. Anne continued to pray for the coming Messiah and for a husband. At the same time, her future husband, Joachim, did the same. Gabriel was sent to both of them, because God chose them to be married. Anne was eighteen when she married Joachim. They lived together in Anne's father's house for seven years before they moved to Nazareth to live a happy life, childless for twenty years.

According to tradition, Jews made fun of Anne and Joachim because they did not have a child to carry on their lineage, but Anne and Joachim continued to pray and have faith. An angel came to Joachim and told him, "Anne will conceive an immaculate child from whom the redeemer of the world will be born." An angel also came to Anne to tell her, and her prayer for a child was answered. On the evening of Mary's birth, the whole world rejoiced. When Mary was born, Anne received the child in her arms and pressed her to her heart while praying. Anne dedicated her daughter's life to the service of God. When Mary was four years old, Anne and Joachim brought Mary to the temple, where she lived until she married Joseph. Anne and Joachim visited their daughter several times. Unfortunately, Joachim died soon after the presentation of Jesus in the temple. Anne lived alone for the rest of her life, still faithful, until she died in Mary's arms when Jesus was eight years old. Her feast day is July 26.

The statue of St. Anne depicts Anne teaching Mary how to read the Torah. The stained glass on the right represents the angel Gabriel, a manger to show that she is

the grandmother of Jesus, and a lily that symbolizes Anne's humility and devotion to God. The stained glass to the left depicts images of a crown for the coming king of Jesus, doves to show Anne's and Joachim's peacefulness in the world, and lilies again to represent Anne's love for God through her actions of faith to Him.



OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA

BY SYDNEY BORGES

Our Lady of Fátima is the title for Mary recalling her apparitions at in Fátima, Portugal. Mary appeared to Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto, three shepherd children. On May 13, 1917, in the midst of World War I, our Blessed Mother appeared to the three children, greatly influencing the history of Portugal and the Catholic religion.



While tending to their animals, the children saw a flash of lightning. When the children reached a holm oak tree, Our Lady appeared to them. The Lady told the children to pray the rosary every day to end the war. She told them that she would appear on the thirteenth day of the next five months, and then she disappeared. Our Lady followed her promise and appeared until her last visit, on October 13th, 1917. On this day, thousands of people had come to Fátima, where they witnessed the Miracle of the Sun. Some described this miracle as the sun dancing through the sky, others saw it fall to earth, still others saw colors spin through the sky, some saw Mary and St. Joseph, and a small number saw nothing at all. The miracles and apparitions at Fátima are still remembered today, especially in the Cova de Iria, Fátima, Portugal. Devoted Catholics make pilgrimages to the Sanctuary of Fátima, and devotion to the rosary has grown throughout the world.

This depiction of Our Lady of Fátima has several important symbols in it. The star on her dress symbolizes the star of Esther. In addition to this, Our Lady wears a necklace of the Miraculous Medal of Mary. The two stained glass windows show a holm oak (left) and a rosary (right). The holm oak is associated with Fátima because it is the tree that Our Lady appeared over. The rosary correlates with Fátima because Mary appeared to tell the world to pray the rosary. These symbols of Our Lady represent her connection to us here on Earth.

PRAYER

Our Lady of Fátima, guide us to Jesus' light and grace in Heaven. Help us to see God's goodness through the Rosary, and help us to know Jesus. Amen.

PRAYER

St. Anne, teach us to lead a virtuous, religious life of faith through our thoughts, words, and actions, so that we may receive our full reward in heaven and earth like you did in giving birth to our Mother Mary. Let us realize that no matter what we do, it should benefit Our Father. Help us to follow your model of faith and be with you and the rest of the saints in heaven. Amen.

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX (THE LITTLE FLOWER)

BY MADALEYNA BURGOYNE

St. Therese was born on January 2, 1873, in Alencon, France. St. Therese decided to be a missionary at the age of fourteen and wanted to join the convent, but she was too young. This was unacceptable to Therese, so she started on a pilgrimage to Rome to ask the Pope if she had his permission to join the convent. The Pope said she had to wait until she was older. She was diagnosed with tuberculosis at the age of fourteen.

She was eventually able to join a religious order, but she was not healthy enough to serve as a missionary. After ten years in the convent, her tuberculosis grew more severe. As her condition worsened, she often healed others by spreading lilies and roses on the ground as sacrifices to God. She also told others that doing small things with great love was like offering God a beautiful flower. As a result, she is called St. Therese, the Little Flower. St. Therese was only twenty-four years old when she died, but she is credited with many miracles and wonders after her death. A common saying is, "With a crucifix at her heart and roses at her side, she heals, she prays, and she is St. Therese of Lisieux."

St. Therese performed many of her miracles after her death on September 30, 1897. Although she healed many people before her death by spreading flowers, now she spreads her own love as well as God's love. From 1913 - 1925, Therese healed six people who were afflicted by tuberculosis, arthritis, or kidney issues. Many of the people healed by St. Therese prayed to her at the cemetery shortly before they were cured. After St. Therese was canonized on May 17, 1925, she was named a Doctor of the Church because she understood how God made people in his image and likeness. He made every being beautiful, like a rose.



In the statue, St. Therese is holding a bouquet of roses as well as a crucifix. The crucifix represents her love for God, and the rosary reminds us that she often prayed to Mother Mary in the act of intercession. The rose on the right hand side of St. Therese represents how she saw each small act as a rose for God. The stained glass on the left hand side represents the lilies, showing her devotion to God as a religious sister and her purity.

PRAYER

St. Therese, heal me not of my illnesses but of my sins. I ask you to pray for me and protect me. I am the one who separates myself from God. For God can only knock on the door of a soul, but I can open it. Amen.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

BY RAYMOND THOMPSON AND MICHAEL WALTER



St. John the Baptist was born in Judea to Zechariah and Elizabeth. In Scripture, the Angel Gabriel visited John's parents and told them they would have a son named John. Once, while John was still in the womb, Mary visited Elizabeth, and John leapt around with joy, predicting she would be the Mother of God. John grew up being very religious and lived during the same time as Jesus. He began all of his public ministry at around A.D. 30. The main idea of his ministry was proclaiming the coming of Jesus. His other ideas were preaching repentance and turning away from selfish pursuits.

During one of John's speeches, Jesus told John to baptize Him. John refused, saying, "It is I who needs to be baptized by you." Jesus then told John to just do it anyway. After the baptism, the heavens opened up, the Holy Spirit came down as a dove, and God the Father said, "This is my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." John later instructed his followers to turn to Christ and to call him the "Lamb of God." John's followers became known as the first Christians.

Because John baptized Jesus, he became very popular and was eventually captured by King Herod. John spoke to Herod on occasion and disapproved of his marriage to his half-brother's wife. While in prison, John wrote letters to other followers of Jesus to help them and check on their path to Christ. After a while, King Herod gave his new daughter a wish that could be anything she wanted. Since John had disapproved of the marriage of her mother, she decided she wanted John to be killed. King Herod reluctantly obliged, and John was beheaded.

There is a statue of St. John the Baptist in the back of the Church. He is holding a lamb and a staff with a cross. The lamb is a symbol of Jesus' suffering and his triumphant glory. It also symbolizes gentleness, innocence, and purity. The staff he is holding is the staff he held while baptizing Jesus. John the Baptist appears to be wearing clothes he made himself out of camel fur.

PRAYER

Lord, help us to be like St. John the Baptist, preaching the word and telling others about you, so when they die, they can be in heaven with you. Help us not to be selfish and to have John's wisdom. Assist us in our journey to Eternal Life. Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

BY EMILY WENTZ

The Lamb of God refers to Jesus as described in John 1:29. John sees Jesus and says, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.” He is called the Lamb of God because Jesus, who had a pure soul, was a sacrifice. In the Old Testament, the prophets would use the image of a lamb to represent the Messiah and the faithful would sacrifice lambs to God in reparation. They would sometimes tell the lamb their sins and set them free, instead of killing them. Through Jesus’ blood, He washes away sin. Jesus is referred to as The Lamb of God because He died on the cross for us.



The picture of The Lamb of God is located behind the main altar. This picture shows the lamb laying on the Book of Revelation, with the seven scrolls. The cross represents Jesus Christ, and is a reminder that The Lamb of God is Jesus. There is a halo around the Lamb’s head. It is another reminder that the Lamb of God is Jesus Christ.

PRAYER

Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, protect us from sin and temptation. Help us to become more like You in all ways. You saved us from sin, and for that we will forever praise you. Amen.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

BY TORI DEKATCH

Our Lady of the Rosary was very important to the Christian faith. It all started in the thirteenth century, when St. Dominic was not doing well with his speeches. He praised and called on Mary for help. Mary then heard St. Dominic pleading, and she went to him and told him to use her Psalter. A Psalter is a copy of biblical psalms. Through St. Dominic, the rosary was established in its modern form, and the Hail Mary became a common prayer like the Our Father and Glory Be.

Our Lady of the Rosary’s feast day is October 7th. Mary is also known as “Our Lady of Victory” because of the naval victory on October 7th in the sixteenth century. This battle secured Europe’s victory against the Turkish Invasion because Mary came down and told the people to pray the Rosary, and the war would end. The Pope, St. Pius V, attributed the victory to Mary and asked Christians to pray the Rosary in Europe. Mary saved us from many tragic events and has continued to intercede for those who pray the rosary.

The Our Lady of the Rosary statue outside of the church is one of the most beautiful pieces of artwork at St. Sebastian, and Mary is folding her hands. Surrounding the statue is a rosary of stones.

PRAYER

Our Lady of the Rosary, guide me through all the temptations of the world, help me to pray the Rosary and overcome temptations. Save me from all evil; with your help, the world can be at peace. Amen.



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