

Parish Week ❖ Sunday, 30 January 2022

Saturday, 29 Jan.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Mary Joyce Li Yan (family)
 5.00 pm Mass: † Michele Morra (Carol)

SUNDAY, 30 JAN. / 4-C

- *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*
- *2nd Collection: Maintenance*
- *Cardinal Thomas Collins: Installed as Archbishop of Toronto (2007)*

- 9.00 am Mass: Int. Biju Abraham (family)
 10.30 am Mass: † Hermenegildo Maulion (Maria Rodas)
 12.00 pm Mass: Int. Matteo Lombardi 101st birthday
 (Carol Morra & family)
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday, 31 Jan. / St. John Bosco, priest

- 8.00 am Mass: † Precilla & Francis Dualan (Corine Maulion)
 7.00 pm Mass: † Dionisio Alcantara Sr. (Janet Aguirre)

Tuesday, 1 Feb.

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. All Priests of the world (Christa Hahn)

Wednesday, 2 Feb. / Presentation of the Lord

- 8.00 am Mass: † Vincent Boila (Shoba Ryan)

Thursday, 3 Feb. / St. Blaise, bishop & martyr

- *Fr. Peter Francis Corless: death anniversary (2008)*
 - *Individual Blessing of Throats at Mass*
- 8.00 am Mass: † Pat Geoghegan (Chrislyn & Kelly)

Friday, 4 Feb.

- 8.00 am Mass: † Paul Desaulniers (Chrislyn)
 12.00 pm funeral Mass: † Alford Williams
 6.00 pm Holy Hour
 7.00 pm Mass: † Zewdi Gergsh (son)

Saturday, 5 Feb. / St. Agatha, virgin & martyr

- 8.00 am Mass: † Angela Sinclair (parents)
 11.30 am RCIC Baptism
 5.00 pm Mass: † Gabriel & Francis Andreas
 (Mary Thanarajan)

SUNDAY, 6 FEB. / 5-C

- *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*
- *General Blessing of Throats at all Masses*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)
 10.30 am Mass: † Eileen Tobin (Alice Larkin)
 12.00 pm Mass: Int. Rebecca Gomes
 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Blessing of St. Blaise: 3 February

The feast of **St. Blaise** is on 3 February. Parishioners will have the benefit of the traditional BLESSING OF THROATS *individually* at the 8.00 am Mass that morning, and *collectively* at the end of all Sunday Masses, 5 & 6 February:

“Through the prayers of St. Blaise, may God free you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Focus on the Word

4th Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C

Jeremiah 1.4-19; 1 Corinthians 12.31-13.13; Luke 4.21-30

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Amen.

Pray for the Deceased

**Leonor Canlas, Rico Matas Sr.,
 Barbara McLenaghan,
 Carlos Paulino, Rector Tomas Jr.**
 The **100** victims of the **December
 tornados in Kentucky**



Marriage Sunday

12/13 February 2022



Marriage Sunday highlights the importance of the Sacrament of **Matrimony**, affirms couples who strengthen our faith community through their witness, and complements *World Marriage Sunday* celebrations that take place across North America.

His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins has designated the weekend prior to the Family Day long weekend in Ontario as *Marriage Sunday*. This year, Marriage Sunday weekend will be celebrated on 12/13 February.

2nd Collection: 30 January, Maintenance

The 2nd collection on Sunday, 30 Jan., will be for the support of our major parish projects through the *Maintenance Collection*.

COMING UP

7004o22

- 7 Feb. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
 13 Feb. Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
 27 Feb. 2nd Collection: Maintenance

2 Mar. **Ash Wednesday;**
 - Lent begins; Day of Fast and Abstinence

6 Mar. **1st Sunday in Lent;**
 - Rite of Election for RCIA Catechumens (12 noon Mass)

- 7 Mar. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
 13 Mar. Infant Baptism (1.30 pm)
 20 Mar. 2nd Collection: Maintenance

27 Mar. **ShareLife Collection**

4 Apr. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)

10 Apr. **Palm Sunday: Holy Week** begins

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

All must sign in at arrival, and wear a face mask inside the Church. Hand sanitization is recommended. For more information on Parish activities, such as the schedule of upcoming **Sacramental** celebrations, check pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.

Sacramental Preparation

The celebration of **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION** for the Grade 3 & 8 students in our Parish Schools was completed in November and December 2021. Our Office Team is reviewing the information from these celebrations to enter them into our Sacramental Registers, and then prepare the proper Certificates.

The elevated restrictions in our pandemic management, due to the increasing prevalence of the omicron variant, have led to new delays in implementing our strategy for providing Sacramental celebrations. We will continue to work with the Schools and parents to find the best way forward, as circumstances permit.

In January, we hope to initiate the scheduling of the Sacrament of **1st Reconciliation** for all the students who made their First Communion in 2021.

We will also complete the *Presentations* on the Sacraments for the newly-Confirmed Grade 8 youth (November–December 2021), and the students who made their 1st Communion in Grade 4 (April 2021) and Grade 3 (November 2021).

We sincerely hope that the formal preparation for the Sacraments of **First Holy Communion** and **Confirmation** for the students currently in Grades 2 & 7 might start in February. This would be an important step in attending to the spiritual needs of our Youth.

A Special Gift HAND SANITIZER

Our Parish gratefully thanks **Juleeta Victorino**, for her donation of a supply of HAND SANITIZER. Your kindness is appreciated.

RCIA, RCIC

Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults & Children

The RCIA meets Friday evenings at 7.30 pm; their next meetings are on 4 & 18 February. The parallel RCIC process for the Youth meets Saturday mornings; their next meetings are on 5 & 19 February.

The current pandemic protocols require strict adherence to the basic safety measures: sign in, face mask, distancing, no food consumption in common areas, etc.



Stewardship

2021 Receipts, 2022 Envelopes

The Charitable *Tax Receipts* for all recorded donations during 2021 are in the Vestibule, for pick up after Mass.

Many thanks to all our faithful parishioners for your generous support of our wonderful parish through your weekly stewardship! This is an act of honour to God, our Creator.

Parishioners are invited to pick up their 2022 *Sunday Offertory Envelopes* in the Office Lobby after Mass. They are for registered parishioners only; if you are new to the parish and have not yet registered, *welcome to our neighbourhood!* Go to the Office window, introduce yourself, and complete a *registration form*.



February: principal feast days

The month of February has some significant feast days.

- 2 Presentation of the Lord
- 3 St. Blaise, *bishop & martyr*
- Fr. Peter Francis Corless, death anniversary (2008)
- 5 St. Agatha, *virgin & martyr*
- 6 St. Paul Miki & companions
- the Japanese martyrs
- 8 St. Josephine Bakhita, *virgin*
- 10 St. Scholastica, *virgin; and the sister of St. Benedict*
- 11 Our Lady of Lourdes, *the feast of the apparitions to Saint Bernadette Soubirous, and also the World Day of the Sick*
- 17 Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
- 21 St. Peter Damian, *bishop and doctor*
- 22 Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
- 23 St. Polycarp, *bishop and martyr*

Spiritual Reflection

Open eyes can see up to a distance.
An awakened mind can see beyond it.

Prayers for All Who Suffer with Addictions

*If you don't live for something,
you'll die for nothing.*

Prayer for the Addicted

Father of mercy, we bless You in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who ministered to all who came to Him. Give Your strength to (*names of person addicted*), Your children, enfold them in Your love and restore them to the freedom of God's children.

Lord, look with compassion on all those who have lost their health and freedom. Restore to them the assurance of Your mercy, strengthen them in the work of recovery, and help them to resist all temptation. To those who provide care for them, grant patience and a love that perseveres. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

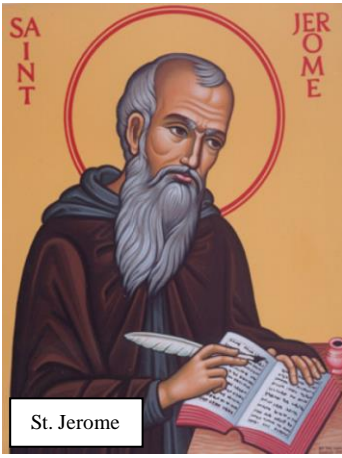
Prayer for Freedom from Addiction

Lord Jesus, You said, "I have come to set the captives free." We are captive and need Your healing touch. Free us, Lord, from our addictions, so that we will be:

- ✦ free from the cares and worries that stifle our happiness;
- ✦ free from sins that cling to us, and to which we cling;
- ✦ free from all compulsive behavior that prevents us from becoming what You, Lord, have planned for us.

Bring us, loving Saviour, to the experience of abundant life which You promise. Amen.





APERUIT ILLIS

APOSTOLIC LETTER
ISSUED *MOTU
PROPRIO* BY THE
SUPREME PONTIFF
FRANCIS INSTITUTING
THE SUNDAY OF
THE WORD OF GOD

1. “*He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.*” (Luke 24:45) This was one of the final acts of the risen Lord before his Ascension. Jesus appeared to the assembled disciples, broke bread with them and opened their minds to understand the sacred Scriptures. To them, amid their fear and bewilderment, he unveiled the meaning of the Paschal Mystery: that in accord with the Father’s eternal plan he had to suffer and rise from the dead, to bring repentance and the forgiveness of sins (cf. Luke 24:26.46-47). He then promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would give them strength to be witnesses of this saving mystery (cf. Luke 24:49).

The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: “Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” (*Commentary on the Book of Isaiah*, Prologue: PL 24,17B).

2. At the conclusion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, I proposed setting aside “a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people” (*Misericordia et Misera*, 7). Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.

With this Letter, I wish to respond to the many requests I have received from the people of God that the entire Church celebrate, in unity of purpose, a Sunday of the Word of God.

The Second Vatican Council gave great impulse to the rediscovery of the word of God, thanks to its Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*, a document that deserves to be read and appropriated ever anew. To advance this teaching, Pope Benedict XVI convoked an Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2008 on “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church”, and then issued the Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini*, whose teaching remains fundamental for our communities.

3. Consequently, I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. This Sunday of the Word of God will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity.

4. The return of the people of Israel to their homeland after the Babylonian exile was marked by the public reading of the book of the Law. In the book of Nehemiah, the Bible gives us a moving description of that moment. The people assembled in Jerusalem, in the square before the Water Gate, to listen to the Law. They had been scattered in exile, but now they found themselves gathered “as one” around the sacred Scripture (Neh 8:1). The people lent “attentive ears” (Neh 8:3) to the reading of the sacred book, realizing that in its words they would discover the meaning of their lived experience. The reaction to the proclamation of was one of great emotion and tears: “[*The Levites*] read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, ‘This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.’ For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to those with nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength’” (Neh 8:8-10).

These words contain a great teaching. The Bible is not just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people.

5. In this unity born of listening, pastors are primarily responsible for explaining sacred Scripture and helping everyone to understand it. Since it is the people’s book, those called to be ministers of the word must feel an urgent need to make it accessible to their community.

The homily, in particular, has a distinctive function, for it possesses “a quasi-sacramental character” (*Evangeli Gaudium*, 142). Helping people to enter more deeply into the word of God through simple and suitable language will allow priests themselves to discover the “beauty of the images used by the Lord to encourage the practice of the good” (*ibid.*). This is a pastoral opportunity that should not be wasted!

6. Before encountering his disciples, gathered behind closed doors, and opening their minds to the understanding of the Scriptures (cf. Luke 24:44-45), the risen Lord appeared to two of them on the road to Emmaus from Jerusalem. St. Luke’s account notes that this happened on the very day of his Resurrection, a Sunday. The two disciples were discussing the recent events concerning Jesus’ passion and death. Their journey was marked by sorrow and disappointment at his tragic death. They had hoped that he would be the Messiah who would set them free, but they found themselves instead

confronted with the scandal of the cross. The risen Lord himself gently draws near and walks with them, yet they do not recognize him (cf. v. 16). Along the way, he questions them, and, seeing that they have not grasped the meaning of his passion and death, he exclaims: “O foolish men, and slow of heart” (v. 25). Then, “beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the Scriptures” (v.27).

7. The Bible, as sacred Scripture, thus speaks of Christ and proclaims him as the one who had to endure suffering and then enter into his glory (cf. v. 26). Not simply a part, but the whole of Scripture speaks of Christ. Apart from the Scriptures, his death and resurrection cannot be understood.

8. The journey that the Risen Lord makes with the disciples of Emmaus ended with a meal. The mysterious wayfarer accepts their insistent request: “Stay with us, for it is almost evening and the day is now far spent” (Luke 24:29). They sit down at table, and Jesus takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and offers it to them. At that moment, their eyes are opened, and they recognize him (cf. v. 31). This scene clearly demonstrates the unbreakable bond between sacred Scripture and the Eucharist. As the Second Vatican Council teaches, “the Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures as she has venerated the Lord’s body, in that she never ceases, above all in the sacred liturgy, to partake of the bread of life and to offer it to the faithful from the one table of the word of God and the body of Christ” (*Dei Verbum*, 21).

9. In the Second Letter to Timothy, which is in some ways his spiritual testament, Saint Paul urges his faithful co-worker to have constant recourse to sacred Scripture. The Apostle is convinced that “all Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (3:16).

10. The work of the Holy Spirit has to do not only with the formation of sacred Scripture; it is also operative in those who hear the word of God. The words of the Council Fathers are instructive: sacred Scripture is to be “read and interpreted in the light of the same Spirit through whom it was written” (*Dei Verbum*, 12). God’s revelation attains its completion and fullness in Jesus Christ; nonetheless, the Holy Spirit does not cease to act. It would be reductive indeed to restrict the working of the Spirit to the divine inspiration of sacred Scripture and its various human authors. We need to have confidence in the working of the Holy Spirit as he continues in his own way to provide “inspiration” whenever the Church teaches the sacred Scriptures, whenever the Magisterium authentically interprets them (cf. *ibid.*, 10), and whenever each believer makes them the norm of his or her spiritual life.

11. Finally, *Dei Verbum* makes clear that “the words of God, expressed in human language, are in every way like human speech, just as the Word of the eternal Father, in taking upon himself the weak flesh of human beings, also took on their likeness” (No. 13). We can say that the incarnation of the eternal Word gives shape and meaning to the relationship

between God’s word and our human language, in all its historical and cultural contingency. This event gives rise to Tradition, which is also God’s word (cf. *ibid.*, 9).

12. When sacred Scripture is read in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written, it remains ever new. The Old Testament is never old once it is part of the New, since all has been transformed thanks to the one Spirit who inspired it. The sacred text as a whole serves a prophetic function regarding not the future but the present of whoever is nourished by this word. Jesus himself clearly stated this at the beginning of his ministry: “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:21).

13. Yet another challenge raised by sacred Scripture has to do with love. God’s word constantly reminds us of the merciful love of the Father who calls his children to live in love. The life of Jesus is the full and perfect expression of this divine love, which holds nothing back but offers itself to all without reserve. To listen to sacred Scripture and then to practise mercy: this is the great challenge before us in life. God’s word has the power to open our eyes and to enable us to renounce a stifling and barren individualism and instead to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity.

14. One of the most significant moments in Jesus’ relationship with his disciples is found in the account of the Transfiguration. He goes up the mountain with Peter, James and John to pray. The evangelists tell us that as Jesus’ face and clothing became dazzlingly white, two men conversed with him: Moses and Elijah, representing respectively the Law and the Prophets; in other words, sacred Scripture.

15. Along our path of welcoming God’s word into our hearts, the Mother of the Lord accompanies us. She is the one who was called *blessed* because she believed in the fulfilment of what the Lord had spoken to her (cf. Luke 1:45). Mary’s beatitude is prior to all the beatitudes proclaimed by Jesus about the poor and those who mourn, the meek, the peacemakers and the persecuted. It is the necessary condition for every other kind of beatitude. The poor are not blessed because they are poor; they become blessed if, like Mary, they believe in the fulfilment of God’s word.

May the Sunday of the Word of God help his people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures. For as the sacred author taught of old: “This word is very near to you: it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance” (Deuteronomy 30:14).

Given in Rome, at the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, on 30 September 2019, the liturgical Memorial of Saint Jerome, on the inauguration of the 1600th anniversary of his death.



2021 Heat Records

Here are some of the all-time heat Records set across the world in 2021:

All-time hottest temperature in Canada
Lytton, B.C.: 49.6°C – 29 June

All-time hottest temperatures in the United States
Peshastin, Washington: 48°C – 29 June

Salem, Portland: 47°C – 29 June

All-time hottest temperature in Northern Ireland
Armagh: 31.4°C – 22 July

All-time hottest temperature in Turkey
Cizre: 49.1°C – 20 July

All-time hottest temperature in Spain
Montoro: 47.4°C – 14 August

All-time hottest temperature in Europe
Siracusa, Italy: 48.8°C – 11 August

All-time hottest temperature worldwide
Death Valley, California: 54.4°C – 9 July



YOUR BEGINNING: What happens in the womb?



First 20 Days: Heart and eyes begin to form. Brain, spinal column, and nervous system quickly develop.

21 Days Heart begins to beat.

35 Days Mouth, ears, nose, and limbs are forming.

42 Days Skeleton is basically formed. Fingers begin to form.

43 Days Brains waves are detectable.

7 Weeks Elbows are visible, and eyelids form.

8 Weeks Except for the lungs, all organs are complete and functioning. Fingerprints begin to develop

10 Weeks Baby is sensitive to touch. Baby swallows and makes facial expressions.

12 Weeks Baby is active in the womb, moving his hands and feet.

13 Weeks Vocal chords are present and external sex organs are apparent.

18 Weeks Baby begins to hear, and his digestive system begins to function.

20 Weeks Eyebrows are visible.

23 Weeks Baby can dream (indicated by Rapid Eye Movements [REM]).

5 Months Baby will react negatively to loud noises and respond positively soft music.

6 Months Most babies are viable. Fine hair and eyelashes are present.

7 Months Baby's eyes can open and close. Baby can recognize his mother's voice.

8 Months Rapid growth. The body weight increases to over four pounds (1.8 kg)

9 Months Baby gains 1 oz. of weight daily. Hormones from the baby cause labor in his mother

The Nine First Fridays

“I promise you, in excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance, they shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving the sacraments: my divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in that last moment.”

- Our Lord to Saint Margaret Mary

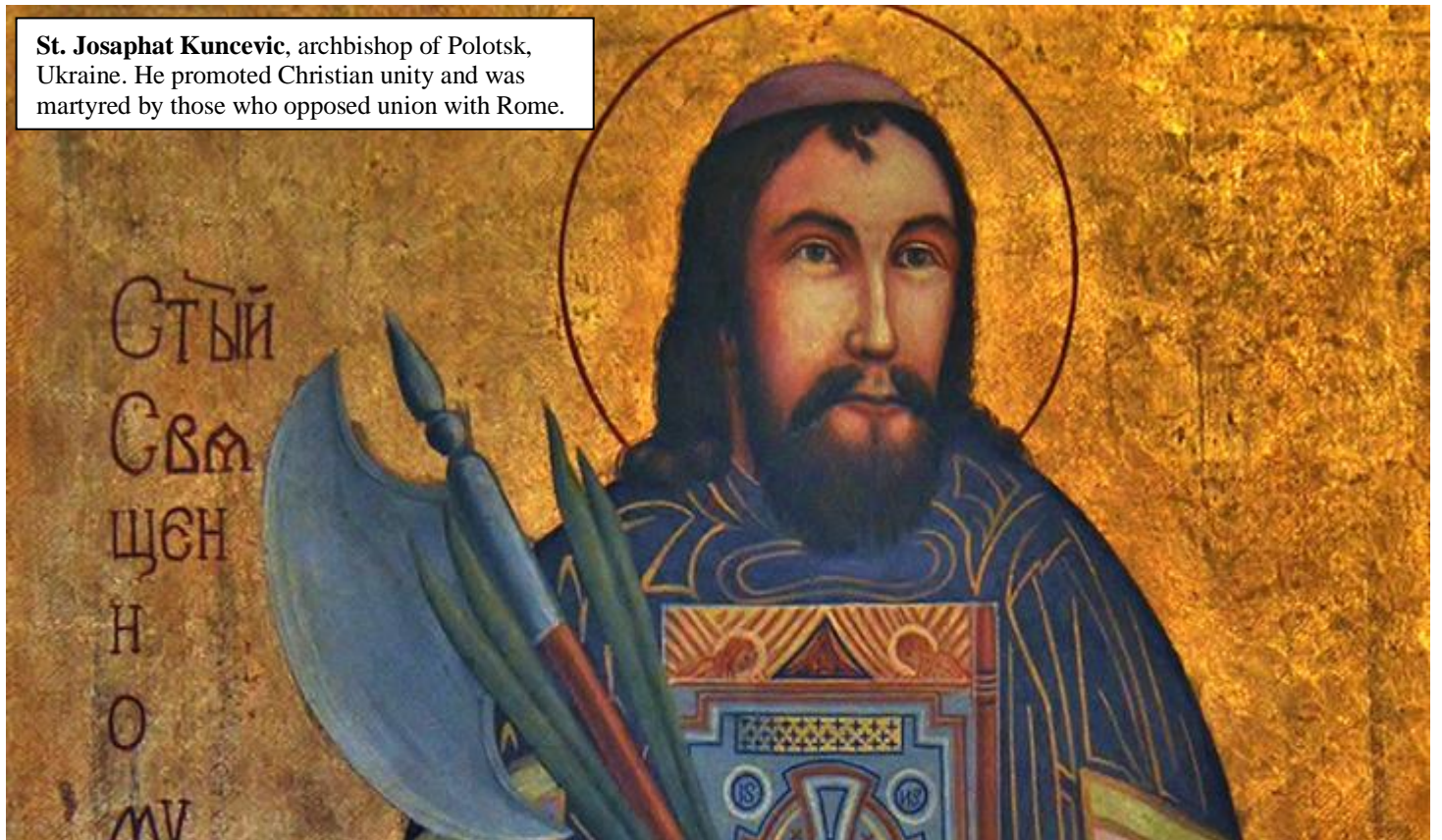


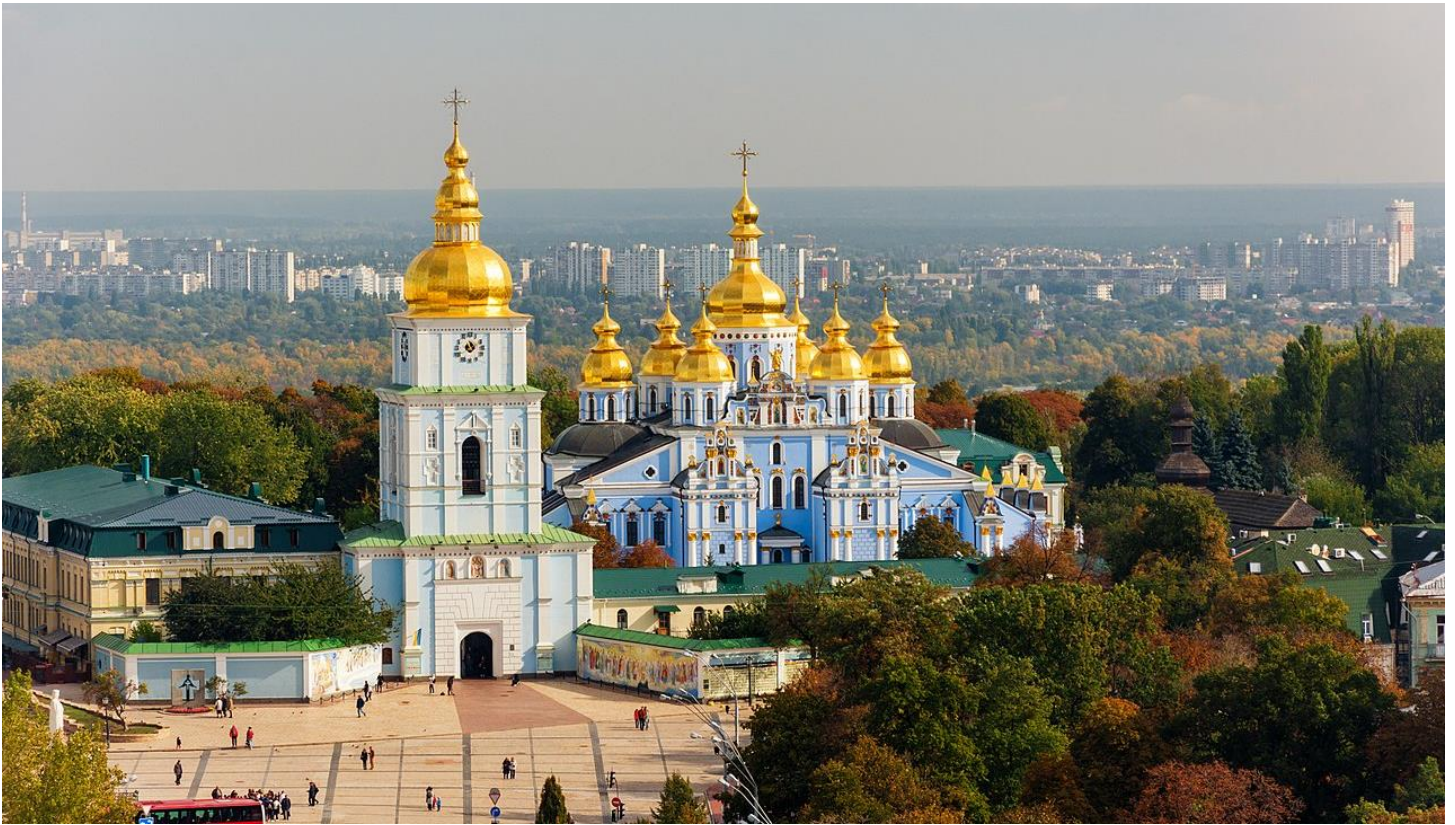




Ukrainian Easter eggs.

St. Josaphat Kuncevic, archbishop of Polotsk, Ukraine. He promoted Christian unity and was martyred by those who opposed union with Rome.





*Above: St. Michael Cathedral, Kyiv;
Below: St. Sophia Cathedral, Kyiv.*

