

Useful Resources

Scan the QR codes with your smart phone camera.



Catholicism 101 – Word on Fire
<https://wordonfire.institute/courses/catholicism-101/>



Catholic Education Resource Center
<https://catholiceducation.org/>



Amen: The Prayer App
<https://www.amenprayer.com/>

Alleluia!



Handel's Hallelujah Chorus by Baltimore Choral Arts Society

Alleluia! Jesus is risen! The words "alleluia" and "hallelujah" have their star turns at Easter. We hear and see those words everywhere. During Lent, we ceased singing the Alleluia before the reading of the Gospel. But, beginning with the Easter Vigil, the Alleluia makes a triumphant

return to the Liturgy, following the readings from the Old Testament recounting the great deeds that God has wrought, and preceding the Gospel message that Jesus is triumphantly resurrected. The Easter Vigil often ends with the playing of the *Hallelujah Chorus*, from Handel's masterwork, *The Messiah*. The word "alleluia" comes to us from the Latin *alleluja*,

which comes from the Greek *allelouia*, which comes from the combination of the Hebrew words הלל (*halal*), which means to shine or praise, and יהוה (*yah*), a shortening of the name of God, thus rendered *hallelujah* and meaning "give praise to God!" All too often, our prayers are focused on ourselves, asking God for what we think we need or want. But, first and foremost, our prayers should give praise to God for all that he had done for us, starting with the gifts of our lives and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. In the Lord's Prayer (*Pater Noster*), Jesus taught us to first pray, "Our Father, who are in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name." We hallow His Holy Name when we give praise to Him. Remember to start all your prayers with praise. Remember, too, that Jesus descends from the tribe of Judah,¹ and the name Judah means "let HIM be praised." Judah was the fourth son of Jacob (Israel) by his wife Leah. Jacob had been tricked into marrying Leah instead of her younger sister, Rachel. Leah had hoped to win Jacob's affection after she had borne him three sons. But nothing changed. So, when she conceived and bore a fourth son, she said, "'This time I will praise the LORD,' and she called his name "Judah," which comes from the Hebrew verb יָדָה (*yada*), which means "to praise."² When the time came for Jacob to die in Egypt, after the family was reunited with Joseph, Jacob passed over his first three sons, as well as the sons of his beloved wife Rachel, and gave his greatest blessing to Judah, foreshadowing Judah's royal descendants King David and Jesus.³



St. Casimir at Canton & Patterson Park Website
<https://stcasimir.org/>



St. Casimir at Canton & Patterson Park Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/stcasimircantonMD/>



St. Elizabeth of Hungary at Patterson Park Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/StLizBmore/>

Then, after the death of Joshua, Moses' successor, "the sons of Israel inquired of the LORD, 'Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?' The LORD said, 'Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand.'"⁴ Throughout the 40 forty years in the wilderness, and during the conquest of the Promised Land, it was the tribe of Judah that marched in front of the host of Israel, symbolizing that the first obligation of the people is to give praise to the LORD.

Singing

Speaking of giving praise, singing the hymns and sung parts of the Mass is not optional. The Apostle Paul repeatedly



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instructs the Christian faithful to sing together Psalms, hymns, and spiritual canticles with all their hearts. Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19. The General Instructions of the Roman Missal state that, "it is appropriate, in so far as possible, and especially on Sundays and Holy days of

Obligation, that the celebration [of the Mass] take place with singing" and "especially with the full participation of all members of the community." In particular, the General Instructions say that the Communion hymn is "a hymn in praise of Christ sung by the united voices of those who believe in him and share his life." For some, the singing of the hymns may be perceived as optional, or even an intrusion on their own private prayer. In fact, the General Instructions emphasize that when we come together to participate in the Eucharistic celebration we come, not as

individuals, but as united members of Christ's Body. Put another way, we seem to have no problem raising our voices together and cheering for the Orioles and the Ravens. What does it say about us if we do not sing full-throatedly for the Lord?

Saints of the Week

Scan the QR codes with your phone to read and listen about the lives of the Saints.



April 9 – Saint Casilda (d. 1050). Muslim convert miraculously healed at San Vincenzo shrine.



April 10 – St. Magdalene of Canossa (1774-1835). Founded Canossian Sisters to serve poor.



April 11 – Saint Stanislaus (1030–1079). Bishop of Krakow martyred at the hands of King of Poland.



April 12 -Saint Teresa of Los Andes (1900 –1920). Chilean Carmelite nun,



April 13 – Saint Martin I (d. 655) Last of the early popes to be venerated as a martyr.



April 14 – Blessed Peter Gonzalez (1190–1246). Dominican priest and chaplain to King of Spain.



April 15 – Saint Caesar de Bus (1544 –1607). Founded Fathers of the Christian Doctrine.

¹ Matthew 1:1-3

² Genesis 29:35.

³ Genesis, 49:8-17 ("Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons

shall bow down before you. *** The scepter shall not depart from Judah nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs....")

⁴ Judges, 1:1-2.